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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024	L\$180.1495/US\$1.00	L\$182.0221/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.

The New Dawn
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French Version Inside

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P11

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-Embattled Speaker Koffa dares rebel lawmakers



P11

Unity Party under fire

-Aggrieved auxiliaries cry neglect

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Continental News

Police vow to arrest South African miners as standoff continues

South African police say they will continue to arrest any illegal miners who emerge from a disused gold mine where hundreds, possibly thousands, of people

undocumented migrants who also fear deportation. Some South Africans have heavily criticised the government's hardline policy and, in recent days, the police have been allowing volunteers to

have resorted to eating vinegar and toothpaste to survive. Volunteers said they pulled a body from the mine on Thursday. Police have called in experts to assess the integrity of the mine shafts, to inform a decision as to whether they would conduct a forced evacuation, according to the AFP news agency. Yasmin Omar, an attorney who helped bring the court case, told state broadcaster SABC that the ruling was a temporary order "that will at least allow us to get emergency relief to the people [who] need it". She said a full hearing on the matter would take place on Tuesday. "These people underground are dying," Ms Omar said, adding that the ruling means officials "must do all that is reasonable to give medical care to the people who are underground".

In a statement, the South African Police Service (SAPS) welcomed the court order, which it stressed did not prevent officers from making arrests.

It said: "All those who resurface will continue to be assessed by emergency medical personnel on site, as has been the case.

"Those that are in a good health will be processed and detained. Those that require further medical care will be taken to hospital under police guard. BBC



are in hiding.

This follows a court order which said the mine-shaft in Stilfontein, around 90 miles (145km) south-west of Johannesburg, should not be blocked.

Emergency services have been at the site, for several days. Police have been preventing food and water entering the mine to, as one government minister put it, "smoke them out".

The miners - who have been underground for a month - have so far refused to exit the mine over fears of being arrested. Among them are

go down to see the miners and some have been taking small amounts of food and water. On Saturday, a court in Pretoria ordered that the mine "shall be unblocked and may not be blocked by any person or institution whether government or private".

It also said that any person in the mine should be allowed to exit, and that "no non-emergency personnel may enter the mine shaft". Three of the miners surfaced on Saturday, one of whom was taken to hospital for medical treatment. The two others were arrested.

Some reports suggest the miners

Rescuers send water through holes to building collapse trapped

Rescue teams in Tanzania say they have managed to reestablish contact with people who are still trapped a day after a four-storey building collapsed in the biggest city, Dar es Salaam. They are managing to send them supplies of water, glucose and oxygen through small gaps in the debris. Tapping sounds have been heard from inside the building in the city's busy Kariakoo market area. Thirteen people are known to have died, while 84 have so far been brought out alive, according to the latest figures from President Samia Suluhu Hassan. She said the prime minister would now lead a "thorough inspection" of all buildings in the Kariakoo area.

The president added that the police would collect full details of the collapsed building from its owner. Large crowds of bystanders applauded as rescue teams ferried survivors on stretchers past huge piles of concrete debris to take them to hospital.

Seven people were rescued on Sunday from the building's basement, Dar es Salaam's regional commissioner Albert Chalamila told The Citizen newspaper.

"We are hopeful that more survivors will be found," he said. It is not clear how many people remain trapped. Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said the authorities "won't rest until we have made sure we have been able to rescue each and every person or soul who is trapped in the rubble".

After the building first gave way at

about 09:00 local time (06:00 GMT) on Saturday morning, hundreds of first responders used sledgehammers and their bare hands to pull away the debris, reports the AFP news agency. Cranes and other heavy machinery were later brought in to help.

Fortunately, the building came down before the market area had become too busy.

Authorities are yet to determine the cause of the collapse, but investigations are expected to begin once rescue efforts are complete. BBC



The authorities are hopeful of finding more survivors

Who wins when Nigeria's richest man takes on the 'oil mafia'?

Petrol production at Nigerian business tycoon Aliko Dangote's \$20bn (£15.5bn) state-of-the-art oil refinery ought to be some of the best business news Nigeria has had in years.

But many Nigerians will judge its success on two key questions - firstly: "Will I get cheaper petrol?"

Sorry, but probably no - unless the international price of crude drops.

And secondly: "Will I still have to spend hours watching my hair turn grey in a hypertension-inducing fuel queue?" Hopefully those days are gone but it might partly depend on the behaviour of what Mr Dangote calls "the oil mafia". For much of the time since oil was first discovered in Nigeria in 1956, the downstream sector, which includes the stage when crude is refined into petrol and other products, has been a cesspit of shady deals with successive governments heavily involved.

It has always been impossible to follow the money, but you know there is something

sector with multiple players who will be more efficient, profit making and they'll pay taxes."

To put it bluntly, the population of this oil-rich nation has been conned on a colossal scale for many years.

Oil revenue accounts for nearly 90% of Nigeria's export earnings but a relatively small number of business people and politicians have gorged themselves on the oil wealth.

Aspects of the business model have been baffling, including that of Nigeria's four previously existing oil refineries. Built in the 1960s, 70s and 80s, they have fallen into disrepair.

Last year Nigeria's parliament reported that over the previous decade the state had spent a staggering \$25bn trying and failing to fix the moribund facilities.

So Africa's largest oil producer has been exporting its crude which is then refined abroad, much to the delight of some well-connected traders. It would be like a bakery with a broken oven. But rather than fix it, the owner sends balls of dough to another firm that shoves them in a working oven and sells the loaves back to the baker. The NNPC swaps Nigeria's crude oil for the refined products, including petrol,



Aliko Dangote made his money through sugar and cement

dreadfully wrong when the headline "Nigeria's state-owned oil firm fails to pay \$16bn in oil revenues", pops up on your news feed, as it did in 2016. It is only in the last five years that the state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) has been publishing accounts.

The Africa head at the Eurasia Group think-tank, Amaka Anku, hails the Dangote refinery, in which the NNPC has a 7% stake, as "a very significant moment" for the West African state.

"What you had in the downstream sector was an inefficient, corrupt monopoly," she says.

"What the local refinery allows you to do is have a truly competitive downstream

which are shipped back home. Exactly how much money changes hands and who benefits from these "oil swaps" is just one of the unknowns in these deals. "No-one has been able to nail down who exactly has benefited. It's almost like a beer parlour gossip about who is getting what," says Toyin Akinosho of the Africa Oil+Gas Report.

The NNPC began subsidising the price of petrol in the 1970s to cushion the blow when global prices soared. Every year it clawed this money back by depositing lower royalty payments - the money it received for every barrel pumped out of the ground - with the Nigerian treasury.

In 2022 the subsidy cost the government \$10bn, more than 40% of the total money it collected in taxes.

EDITORIAL

Giving coins to children is dangerous

Children in homes across Liberia are not safe enough. Not least with newly minted 5 and 10 Liberian Dollar coins in their reach. This is because most kids take these coins as toys and usually placed them in their mouths, and eventually swallow them with health implications.

Children are exposed to coins both in homes, school campuses and outside where the metals are given as change when they go buy bread, juice, candy, biscuit and other snacks during recess.

The situation is scaring, leaving a health practitioner in Monrovia to alarm recently, alerting the public especially, parents. A concerned X-ray technician, Jackson Coleman, revealed that he has handled 28 cases, and 12 of them were children requiring surgery after swallowing coins.

The alarming discovery is sparking growing concern among medical professionals and parents alike, as the ingestion of coins might lead to serious health risks, including choking, internal injury, or damage to the digestive system and other organs of the body.

As a parent, imagine yourself one day returning home from work or from business activity and being confronted with situation involving your little kid swallowing pieces of coins that could lead to unforeseen consequences. Surely this is not an experience you want to have.

The 5 and 10 Liberian dollar coins are part of a new family of currency issued by the Central Bank of Liberia, as part of a currency reform. The coins are made of nickel-plated steel and feature a latent image security feature.

Parents are being advised to be extra vigilant and ensure that these coins, which have become more common in daily transactions, are kept out of reach of children. This means they should not be kept or placed loosely in homes that children can easily access.

The Central Bank of Liberia is yet to comment on the situation, but we think there is a need for public education on radio, in communities and schools about keeping coins from reach of children to minimize risks.

All hands should be brought on deck to advert a potential health problem for our children. Remember, ‘a stitch in time saves nine.’

The coins are necessary to make daily transactions easier especially in market places and when riding taxi or commercial tricycles. But keeping them away from children especially minors, is safer.

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COMMENTARY

By Gordon Brown

Crunch Time for the WHO

EDINBURGH - At this month’s G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, chaired by Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, global leaders are expected to discuss the World Health Organization’s call for long-term investment in public health. Through its new Investment Round, the WHO aims to raise at least \$7.1 billion to support essential initiatives over the next four years, reducing the need to rely on emergency funding whenever a crisis erupts.

A recent report by the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board underscores the importance of this Investment Round. The GPMB, an independent body established by the WHO and the World Bank to enhance global readiness for public-health crises, issued a stark warning: a new mpox variant spreading rapidly across Central Africa has the potential to become a pandemic. Meanwhile, H5N1 bird flu continues to jump from infected livestock to humans in the United States, and an outbreak of Marburg - a virus related to Ebola with a fatality rate of up to 88% - has erupted in Rwanda, prompting international efforts to contain its spread.

The risk of new pandemics is driven not only by factors like mass travel, urban population density, and human encroachment on wildlife habitats, but also by widening inequalities within countries and an alarming rise in extreme poverty. Together, these forces do more than strain local health systems; they are reshaping the global health landscape in ways that make the emergence of novel pathogens increasingly likely.

In theory, our ability to contain outbreaks has improved, thanks to the significant scientific and technological advances made during the fight against COVID-19. But as the GPMB report warns, without “the readiness plans primed for implementation from day one,” there is “every likelihood that the next pandemic will again catch the world napping.”

Given the stakes, improving pandemic preparedness is essential. To this end, the GPMB report highlights 15 drivers of pandemic risks, such as unprecedented levels of global travel and a rapid increase in livestock production, both of which accelerate the spread of H5N1. Emerging threats also include widespread misinformation and distrust of public institutions - evident in the controversies over COVID-19 lockdowns, quarantines, and vaccination mandates - that weaken our collective ability to respond to health emergencies and hinder multilateral cooperation.

The report also outlines several steps that policymakers could take to mitigate these threats and improve pandemic preparedness, including regular risk assessments and bolstering health-system resilience. First, however, significant funding is needed to meet the “basic needs of vulnerable populations,” provide access to “medical countermeasures” like vaccines and treatments, and foster cross-sector collaboration.

Beyond pandemic preparedness, the WHO urgently needs funding to provide basic care to more than four billion people who currently lack access, to curb the spread of communicable diseases, and to address a surge in unvaccinated children.

Most critically, more than 360 million people in crisis-stricken countries like Afghanistan, Ukraine, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Yemen require immediate assistance and specialized medical supplies to deal with the devastating effects of conflicts, famines, droughts, and floods. To avert a global health catastrophe, the international community must ensure they receive the resources they desperately need.

Fifty-four chronic health crises are currently unfolding worldwide, 11 of them classified as severe. Despite this, a recent study by the research group Airfinity reveals that support for health projects in low- and middle-income countries has declined, with these initiatives receiving only about 10% of humanitarian funding and just 5% of the necessary resources. To reduce preventable deaths from treatable diseases, we must empower the WHO to fulfill its mandate as the world’s leading emergency health responder.

Recognizing the urgency and value of investing in public health, 18 of Africa’s and Asia’s poorest countries have pledged more than \$345 million to the WHO’s Investment Round. If developing economies can rise to the occasion despite their limited resources, it is imperative that developed countries contribute their fair share.

But the WHO’s Investment Round is more than just a fundraising campaign; what we raise this year to combat diseases like malaria, measles, diabetes, dysentery, and Ebola will profoundly affect the health and well-being of millions of people around the world. Failing to provide the WHO with the funds it needs to deliver equitable vaccination, treatment, and care would leave an indelible scar on humanity. We can - and must - do better.

OP-ED

By Raila Amolo Odinga

The G20 Must Help Africa Close the Climate-Finance Gap

NAIROBI - In a world grappling with unprecedented climate challenges, the addition of a permanent seat in the G20 for the African Union represents a critical opportunity. As the continent faces increasingly frequent and severe floods, droughts, and heat waves - bearing the brunt of a crisis it did not create - it urgently needs financial support to escape the cycle of debt and disaster that impedes climate resilience and sustainable development.

The path forward is clear: wealthy G20 economies must move beyond rhetoric and provide sustainable, long-term climate financing and concessional loans to help Africa close the current funding gap. As the group's leaders gather in Rio de Janeiro for the G20 summit on November 18-19, the world - and especially African countries - will be watching closely.

Africa's seat in the G20 is long overdue, reflecting both its growing importance and the severity of the crises it faces. But representation alone is not enough. Africa's inclusion must lead to real support and tangible benefits for local communities grappling with economic, environmental, and energy challenges.

For too long, Africa has been relegated to the periphery of the global economy. Now that it is represented in the G20, the world's largest economies have a responsibility to dismantle the entrenched structures that keep the continent and other developing regions impoverished.

The energy sector is a prime example. Despite decades of promises by political leaders, fossil fuels have failed to deliver electricity to vast swaths of the continent. With 600 million Africans still living without power, Africa's energy "transition" is less about moving from dirty to clean energy and more about moving from no energy to sustainable sources.

The stakes could not be higher. Africa's future growth and prosperity hinges on its ability to provide universal, affordable, and reliable access to energy. Fortunately, the continent possesses abundant renewable-energy resources, with experts projecting that solar power will be the continent's cheapest electricity source by 2030.

Morocco's Noor Ouarzazate solar complex, the world's largest solar farm, demonstrates what African countries can achieve with adequate funding and support. Similarly, projects like Kenya's Olkaria geothermal power plants, funded by the Japanese government, and Ethiopia's Adama wind farms, backed by Chinese concessional loans, show that Africa's energy goals are well within reach.

But to unlock its vast potential in renewables, Africa needs substantial financial investment and technical support. To this end, the continent's development must be central to the global push to triple renewable-energy production by 2030. Creating meaningful economic opportunities for Africans requires rooting these efforts in secure, self-sustaining frameworks that serve the needs of local communities, rather than perpetuating the exploitative model of resource extraction that has characterized fossil fuels. With expanded energy capacity, Africa could foster industries that produce green, value-added goods, reducing the continent's reliance on raw-material exports. Achieving this, however, requires more than energy security; it calls for comprehensive reforms to the global trade systems that stifle economic growth in developing countries and undermine their competitiveness. The G20's support is crucial to achieving this transformation.

The moment has come to turn promises into concrete action. The United Nations' annual climate change conferences (COPs), long characterized by lofty rhetoric, can no longer serve as forums for symbolic gestures. G20 countries must urgently make and honor the proposed pledge to provide developing countries with \$1 trillion annually in long-term, grant-based climate financing. This is not an arbitrary figure; for the world's least developed economies, it is the difference between stagnation and genuine progress. The G20 summit in Brazil - coinciding with COP29 in Azerbaijan - could help secure the necessary funds by creating reliable and innovative financing mechanisms, from taxes on the ultra-rich to levies on airplane tickets, financial transactions, and fossil-fuel production.

As the climate crisis intensifies, the global financial system must evolve to support those most affected by its devastating effects. To make development financing more accessible and equitable, the G20 must advance vital reforms, such as providing multilateral development banks with more capital and streamlining cumbersome bureaucratic processes.

Earlier this year, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, a vocal champion of the Global South, addressed the African Union summit in Addis Ababa and pledged to use Brazil's G20 presidency to advocate for Africa's interests. This act of solidarity set the stage for the G20 summit, where leaders must address the pressing need for climate financing. For African countries, these funds are more than just financial assistance; they represent hope for meaningful change, economic resilience, and sustainable development in a world shaped by deepening inequality, environmental fragility, and social crises.

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OPINION

By Glenda Gray

The World's Babies Need Antibiotics, Not Just Vaccines

CAPE TOWN - Over the last half-century, the number of children who die before reaching the age of five has fallen dramatically, from around 20 million in 1960 to 4.9 million in 2022, largely owing to the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI). Established by the World Health Organization in 1974, the EPI has been extraordinarily successful in providing the youngest people with access to vaccines, saving more than 150 million lives. But while such progress is worthy of celebration, there is still much work to do, because newborns comprise half of all deaths in children under five each year, many of which are caused by infection.

Progress on reducing neonatal mortality has historically been much slower than for children under five, and has begun to stall in recent decades, despite significant reductions in mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis. That is because many of these deaths are caused by treatable -but untreated - bacterial infections. To reverse this trend, the international community must ensure that all children - especially in the African countries where most of these deaths occur - can access antibiotics, much like the EPI has done for vaccines.

Infants are particularly susceptible to infections in the first 28 days of life. As a pediatrician, I saw this firsthand when I was younger, working in the neonatal ICU at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto. It is possible to ward off some kinds through infection prevention and control; access to water, sanitation, and hygiene; and vaccines. But for those that cannot be prevented, antibiotics are needed to avert further complications such as sepsis, which affects up to three million newborns per year.

Unfortunately, most African countries lack access to existing and new antibiotics, putting already-vulnerable babies at a much higher risk of dying from treatable infections. Shortages of generic versions can be largely attributed to the steady exit of pharmaceutical companies from the antibiotic market in recent decades, owing to low returns. Similarly, new antibiotics are often sold in only the wealthiest countries or priced out of reach for most African governments and citizens.

For example, less than half of the new antibiotics approved between 1999 and 2014 were registered in more than ten countries. Worse, only four of the 40 new antibiotics approved since 2000 are labeled for pediatric use. When drug development is driven primarily by profitability, rather than public-health needs, infants in poorer countries - one of the world's most vulnerable populations - get the short end of the stick.

If clinicians cannot access the right first-line antibiotics or use them because of a drug-resistant infection, they often turn to those that are specialized or kept in reserve as a last resort. These substitutes can be less effective, and reliance on them increases the risk of drug resistance developing, making infections more difficult to treat in the long term (although African countries are often priced out of these last-resort antibiotics, too).

As a result, children under five account for one in five deaths caused by drug-resistant infections, with 99.7% of them living in low- and middle-income countries. At the same time, the failure to treat these infections in newborns is fueling the rise and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which is already associated with 4.7 million deaths annually.

No country can tackle this problem alone. To ensure that all infants are protected from infection requires an EPI-scale global initiative to help developing countries build their capacity and surveillance, identify the necessary antibiotics, and bolster their health systems. Equally important, we must dramatically increase the availability of existing antibiotics and spur the development of new ones that are safe and effective for children. Both imperatives require prioritizing public health over profit.

The United Nations High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance recently produced a political declaration committing countries to reduce global AMR-associated deaths by 10% per year until 2030. Donor governments can begin doing this - and saving the lives of newborns - by supporting organizations like mine, the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership, which are working to improve access to and encourage the development of antibiotics.

The WHO's Pediatric Drug Optimization exercises have made a shortlist of antibiotics that should be prioritized above all others for pediatric use. But stakeholders, including the WHO, regulatory agencies, the pharmaceutical industry, non-profit developers, and pediatric experts, must collaborate to shepherd such treatments through development and approval. Preventing infant deaths from treatable infections would go a long way toward stopping the spread of AMR and safeguarding our future.

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NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY

GATEWAY TO LIBERIA'S ECONOMY

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

The National Ports Authority (NPA) announces a Public Auction scheduled for Saturday, November 23, 2024. The auction will involve the disposal of assets in two categories: Scraps and Marine Equipment.

Auction Details

1. The Public Disposal Booklet, which contains a list of all auction lots, will be available for purchase from Monday, November 18, 2024, to Saturday, November 23, 2024, at a non-refundable cost of US\$100.00 at the cashier section-finance department.
2. The booklet will be sold in two categories: Scraps and Marine Equipment.

Important Requirements

For Heavy Scrap Bidders: You must provide proof of authorization to buy scrap materials and demonstrate your ability to remove the scraps from NPA's premises within the stipulated time frame. Required documents include:

- Business Registration
- Tax Clearance Certificate
- Scrap Broker License or Dealership License

Forms/Letters of Intent: Must be individually enclosed in an envelope and addressed to the Disposal Committee with the specific Lot # (number) of interest clearly indicated. These forms will be provided by the Auction Committee.

Auction Process

1. The auction will be conducted via sealed bid. Bids will be evaluated by the Disposal Committee, and the highest bidder for each lot will be declared the winner.
2. No sharing of booklets will be allowed. Only one bidder per booklet.
3. Sealed Bids: All sealed bids must be submitted into the appropriate boxes at the designated location. Incorrectly submitted bids will be disqualified.

Important Notes

1. Tie Bids: If two or more bidders offer the same amount for an item, the tie will be broken by alphabetical order of first names.
2. Late Bidders: Late submissions (after 11:15 AM on Saturday, November 23, 2024) will not be accepted.
3. Complaint Process: Any complaints must be submitted in writing to the Disposal Committee within 2 hours after the announcement of the winning bid.

Auction Date: Saturday, November 23, 2024

Bidders are not required to be present at the bid opening event.

Note: the items to be auctioned are at the Freeport, Buchanan Port, and Greenville Port.

For more information, please contact the Disposal Committee at:
0777403838/0775210421/0880347277/0776955129



Signed:

Varmuyan K. Bayart

Chairman, Disposal Committee
National Ports Authority (NPA)

October 2024
Volume 3

»»» EMPOWERING CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES TO FOSTER
SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN
GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC SERVICE



OCTOBER BULLETIN -CORRUPTION CASES

The Details of the cases tracked below are from 2023 - 2024.

1. Total # of Corruption Cases tracked in the 15 counties: 7
2. Types of alleged crimes:



MISUSE OF PUBLIC MONEY
RECORD & PROPERTY



THEFT OF PROPERTY
COUNTERFEITING



ECONOMIC SABOTAGE



CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY

CRIMINAL FACILITATION



FORGERY
BRIBERY

3. Number of Accused Officials: 2
4. Number of Accused Civil Servants: 5
5. Sex of Accused Persons: 6 **Males**, 1 **Female**
6. Name of Public Sectors of accused persons: **Internal Affairs, Agriculture Research & Finance**
7. Name of Court: **7th, 15th, 16th Judicial Circuit Court, and Monrovia City Court**
8. Total Money Allegedly Stolen: **\$133,617.00 USD**



October 2024
Volume 3

»»» EMPOWERING CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES TO FOSTER
SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN
GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC SERVICE

OCTOBER BULLETIN -PUBLIC CONTRACTS

The Details of the cases tracked below are from 2021- 2023.

1. Total # of Public Contracts tracked in the 15 counties: 20
2. Total Number of Contracts tracked with legal Documents seen: **FIVE (5)**
3. Total Number of Contracts Awarded with completed PPCC processes documented & followed: **Three (3)**
4. Beneficiary Ownership Issues: —
5. Number of Completed Public Projects: **Two (2)**
6. Number of Abandoned Public Projects: **Two (2)**
7. Number of Uncompleted Public Projects: 16
8. Projects by Public Sector: **Internal Affairs, Public Works, Health, and Education**
9. Total Volume Public Contract Money tracked: **\$1,658,894.9 USD**



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Gender Ministry begins 5-day training

The Gender Ministry in Monrovia begins a five-day training in Gender Responsive and Participatory Budgeting.

Monrovia, Liberia, November 19, 2024 - The Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection commences a five-day Gender Responsive

Women Empowerment Project (LWEP), seeks to enhance the capacity of participants in gender-based analysis (GBA) and the equitable evaluation of resources, including



and Participatory Budgeting (GRPB) training in Monrovia. The exercise seeks to equip public officials with tools and knowledge to promote gender equity in resource planning and allocation. According to a press release, the training kicked off on Monday, November 18, to Friday, November 22, 2024. It brings together staff of the Gender and Social Inclusion Units (GSIUs) and various divisions within government spending entities. "This initiative, implemented under Component 4 of the Liberia

financial investments, time, and labor," the release says. The Liberia Women Empowerment Project is a US\$44.6 Million World Bank funded project, which focuses on advancing gender equality and women and girls' empowerment across six of Liberia's 15 counties, including Montserrado, Bomi, Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh and Rivercess. It is aimed at supporting efforts to mainstream gender considerations into government programs, policies, and plans, ensuring that public budgets address

the needs of all genders fairly. The Ministry aims to identify and address existing knowledge gaps within GSIUs and participating entities while fostering a more inclusive approach to governance through the project. By building the capacity of public officials, the release says the training marks a significant step toward achieving a gender-equal distribution of resources and advancing Liberia's broader commitment to gender equality and empowerment. At the same time, the statement indicates that the GRPB training represents a critical step in Liberia's journey towards achieving gender equality. "By empowering key government staff with the tools to design and implement gender-sensitive budgets, the Ministry of Gender is ensuring that public resources are utilized to create opportunities and reduce disparities."

It notes participants will be required to lead transformative changes, ensuring that gender equality becomes a cornerstone of Liberia's development agenda following days of intensive training. "This initiative is a testament to the government's commitment to building a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future for all Liberians," the release concludes. Press Release

Create mindset & clear vision for Liberia's transformation

-Speaker urges TVET graduates

Graduate of TVET training have been told to cultivate strong mindset and clear vision to contribute to the transformation of Liberia's.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, November 19, 2024 - A Liberian Journalist and President of the Association of Judicial Reporters of Liberia urges graduates of the 4th Circle of the Marion's Culinary School of Technical Vocational Education to establish a strong mindset and clear vision for contributing to the transforming of Liberia's. Delivering the keynote address over the weekend, Ms. Yassah Natasha Wright curved the graduates to walk through the walls of the vocational school to fully make use of the knowledge given them after months of training. "Walk out of here with a strong mind set and a clear

vision of how you can put your ideas into businesses and succeed for the betterment of you and your family and country. Do not leave this program and just to sit home and complain that you do not have the resources to start a small business for you and your family to survive." Ms. Wright challenges the graduates.

According to her, graduates should be aware that for them to achieve greatness, they must make all of the sacrifices for themselves because if they can't be brave enough to step forward, nobody will help them. The African Methodist Episcopal University graduate further reminds the graduates to imagine themselves being an owner of bakery and renowned restaurants, adding that their beginning will be very small but they should make sure the ending is big.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



AJURA President charges TVET graduates

Leadership crisis emerges in LCC

-Concerned churches call for election

The Liberia Council of Churches appears to be in a leadership crisis, as some member churches are calling for election.

Monrovia, Liberia, November 18, 2024 - What appears to be a potential crisis has hit the Liberia Council of Churches, with some concerned member churches of the LCC calling for an emergency assembly on November 26, 2024, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church Compound in Monrovia, to elect new leadership for the Council. A press statement issued here says all heads of member churches, including incumbent churches in leadership, are to send delegates for the pending election. The concerned churches have decreed, resolved, affirmed, and covenanted that they will no longer consider Rev. Christopher W. Toe as Secretary General of the LCC effective Friday, November 8, 2024, and will cease to do any and all business with him. The press release notes that five delegates for full members, three delegates for associate members, and two delegates for fraternal members have been asked to attend the emergency assembly. It continues that because the assembly is an emergency, all

these concerns, was not addressed. This is a continued violation of the LCC constitution by not holding a General Assembly and conducting unconstitutional executive board meetings. They claim that if the new LCC constitution was adopted in May 2021 at an assembly held with the current leadership presiding, it would be a 'Conflict of Interest breach' and mediocre on the part of the incumbent leadership to insist on its implementation, secondly, they argue that the intent is overshadowed prejudicially by an increment in LCC assessment dues by 400%, from \$300 to \$1200, that has made several member Churches stay away. "Again, some of the constitutional violations surround the expired tenure of the General Secretary, which the leadership has ignored because of the implementation of the new Constitution, which gives him a new indefinite tenure," the statement reads. They point out that the Secretary-General disrespected members and heads of churches of the Council (Concerned) by locking the Council's doors in an attempt to prevent them from meeting to seek



dues and registration for delegates will be suspended, but the Ecumenical Women Organization will lead a fundraising effort to support emerging new officers who will be elected for immediate induction. The concerned churches: "The resolution from the concerned churches to the President of LCC July 18, 2024, on counts of Constitutional violations that we recommended to him that the new Constitution that was adopted and still in a draft form should not be used and should be silenced." According to the concerned churches, the LCC has allegedly ignored this and continues implementation, setting up an executive board chatroom where decisions are made and circulated. They maintain that the outcome of a meeting with Bishop Samuel Quire, Jr., the 1st VP of the LCC, which was with the approval of the President of the LCC to discuss the resolution of

redress on these matters, thereby brewing continued disunity among the LCC members. They called to attention all LCC Members on these deliberate violations, which threaten the smooth operations of the Council, especially the officers' deliberate attempt not to hold an assembly, which grossly violates the LCC Constitution and indirectly undermines the entire peace and democratic process of Liberia because of the role LCC plays in it. Consequently, given the fact that the tenure of the present leadership expired with no assembly held in May 2024, the Constitutional month for the LCC assembly, and the gross violations of the LCC constitution, we hereby evoke Article (V) 3.11 and Section 5 of the LCC Constitution to host an emergency General Assembly on November 26, 2024, at the Lutheran Compound for the election of officers for 2024-2026, the concerned churches announced. Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CPJ, partners urge Guinea-Bissau to improve press freedom ahead of UN review



Guinea-Bissau President Umaro Sissoco Embaló speaks during the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly at the United Nations headquarters in New York City on September 25, 2024. (Photo: AFP/Timothy A. Clary)

The Committee to Protect Journalists joined two other press freedom organizations in calling on authorities in Guinea-Bissau to accept and implement recommendations to improve its press freedom record at the country's January 2025 Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UPR is a peer review mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights

Council, through which the human rights records of the Council's member states are reviewed every 4.5 years, and recommendations are made for improvement. Since January 2020, authorities in Guinea-Bissau have undermined press freedom through physical and verbal attacks, arbitrary detention of journalists, and legal harassment, according to the October 2024 submission by CPJ, the local

journalists' union (Sinjotecs), and the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA). The three organizations recommend that Guinea-Bissau improve its press freedom record by investigating and ensuring accountability for past attacks on the press, ending arbitrary detentions and media shutdowns, repealing laws that criminalize journalism, and allowing the press to establish self-regulatory mechanisms.

Starts from page 6 **Create mindset & clear vision for**

She recommends they keep their eyes on their goals and work towards them by using skills they have acquired, while admonishing women among the graduates to set a great example for other women to follow by empowering themselves to gain their place in society. "As the saying goes, if you don't wash your front, nobody will wash your back. Even if it is small, start it and have a mindset of growth and development. Think big, don't

have a small mindset of just acquiring this skill maybe in baking or catering just to sell doughnuts in buckets in the streets of Monrovia or operate cook shop we commonly refer to as lappa be door" she cautions. Over the weekend, 4th circle of the Marion's Culinary School graduated several students in technical vocational education skills after completion of skills such as, pastry, interior design, cake making and design, cosmetology, construction,

computer science, among others. The transformative vocational education school is established by Mr. Lawrence Chea and Mrs. Chea with the aims of making Liberian youths, especially women, productive and self-reliance citizens in order to contribute to nation building. Since the establishment of the school, it has graduated dozens of youths with women topping the participants in several technical and vocational skills. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Unity Party under fire

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government ministries and agencies as well as within the party itself. Unity Party Secretary General Amos Tweh, in a press conference says President Boakai's leadership, as demonstrated by his election on January 22, 2024, must be fully supported by all UP members and government officials. He stresses a need to place national interests above personal or partisan agendas, in order to effectively realize the President's vision for the country. The NEC also highlights the importance of transparency and accountability in

governance, particularly in the fight against corruption. In a resolution, the call on public officials to act with integrity and prioritize the well-being of the nation. A direct appeal was made to the Boakai administration, urging swift completion of audits and prosecution of any officials found guilty of corruption, as a way to restore the public's trust in the government. It calls on Cabinet Ministers and heads of agencies to seek prior approval from the Cabinet before making decisions that could significantly impact the country, ensuring more

coordinated and accountable governance. National Chairman Rev. J. Luther Tarpeh, says the meeting focused on strengthening internal cohesion within the party, noting that there is a strong commitment among party officials to work together in solidarity for the nation's betterment. The resolution emphasizes that the Unity Party is not just an ally to President Boakai, but also a driving force behind Liberia's future growth and transformation. Editing By Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

AfDB to join world leaders at G-20 Summit

African Development Bank to join world leaders at the G20 Leaders' Summit prioritizing global solutions to end hunger

Rio de Janeiro, 18 November 2024 - African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina is in Rio de Janeiro where he will reaffirm his commitment to ending hunger and malnutrition. The theme of the G20 Rio Summit is "Building a just world and a sustainable planet". It will be held from 18-19 November, and a major focus here will be the G20's Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, an ambitious initiative led by the current G20 Chair Brazil, which seeks to unite developed and developing nations in eradicating hunger and addressing inequalities. The Alliance will launch a range of coordinated actions which include expanding the production of healthy food and developing sustainable agriculture. Africa, which accounts for more than a third of the world's hungry people is central to that. According to the 2024 State of Food security

strips away human dignity," he said. The African Development Bank, along with the World Bank and several other development institutions have affirmed support for the new Global Alliance initiative. Specifically, the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank have launched a campaign to use IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) channelled through multilateral development banks under a hybrid financing mechanism, to scale up financing to back the effort. The African Development Bank's Feed Africa strategy under its High Five priority blueprint, steadfastly continues to bolster its objective of food security and resilience in Africa. The Brazilian Presidency is building upon the progress achieved under the Indonesian and Indian G20 Presidencies in strengthening multilateral development Banks to become bigger, better and more effective



and Nutrition in the world 20.4% of Africa's population are facing hunger. "In Africa over 280 million people suffer from hunger, some 38% of the hungry people in the world" African Development Bank President Adesina stated at the 2024 World Food Prize Norman Borlaug Dialogue in Iowa last month. "Hunger is the worst form of deprivation. The mind, the body, and the soul are shrivelled by hunger. Hunger

institutions. Brazil will hand over the baton of the chair of the G20 to South Africa at the end of the Rio summit. The Group of Twenty or G20, comprises 19 countries and two regional bodies: the European Union and the African Union. The G20 members represent around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population. -Press release

Français

Joseph Boakai affirme son autorité avec fermeté

- Licenciements, suspensions et démissions en cascade

Le président Joseph N. Boakai imprime un style de gouvernance résolument ferme. En seulement dix mois de mandat, pas moins de treize hauts responsables ont été licenciés, suspendus ou poussés à la démission, un

été remplacé par l'avocat Nyekeh Y. Forkpa, marquant le début d'une série de décisions tranchantes. Peu après, le président s'est tourné vers le ministère des Finances et du Développement, où le ministre Boimah Kamara, absent depuis longtemps pour raisons de

budget national de 2024. Ce scandale, réalisé en collaboration avec le commissaire général de l'Autorité fiscale du Liberia (LRA), Dorbor Jallah, a suscité un tollé. M. Jallah a tenté de justifier cet achat en invoquant les pratiques de ses prédécesseurs, mais l'opinion publique n'a pas été convaincue.



bilan inédit dans l'histoire récente du Liberia, surtout si tôt dans un nouveau mandat présidentiel. Les premières sanctions sont tombées sept mois après son investiture, lorsque M. James Armah Massaquoi, alors ministre adjoint chargé de l'administration au ministère de l'Éducation, a été démis de ses fonctions pour des "raisons administratives". Il a

santé, a été invité à démissionner. Selon des sources proches de l'exécutif, le chef de l'État estimait que son état de santé ne lui permettait plus d'assumer ses responsabilités. Un autre épisode marquant a impliqué l'ancien ministre du Commerce, Amin Modad, qui s'est retrouvé au cœur d'une controverse après l'acquisition d'un véhicule de luxe d'une valeur de 98 000 dollars, en violation du

L'affaire a pris de l'ampleur lorsque des informations contradictoires ont émergé, accusant M. Modad d'avoir acquis un SUV de luxe d'une valeur de 150 000 dollars, présenté initialement comme un don d'une société basée à Dubaï. Sous la pression, M. Modad a présenté sa démission après une critique publique virulente du président Boakai, ▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09

Nekotech cède sous la pression publique et promet de rembourser les étudiants

Confrontée à une vive controverse, la présidente exécutive de Nekotech, Rév. Dr. Princess Asie Kabuki Ocansey, a annoncé le remboursement intégral des frais de 236 dollars américains payés par les étudiants libériens dans le cadre des frais de « redline ». Initialement instaurés pour financer des services liés aux candidatures à des bourses d'études, ces frais ont été annulés pour les étudiants au Liberia, mais restent applicables dans d'autres pays.

La Rév. Dr. Ocansey a précisé que ces frais couvraient des services essentiels, tels que l'élaboration de CV, de lettres de motivation et de plans de développement économique sur cinq ans. « Nous formons également les étudiants à la rédaction de déclarations d'intention et à la préparation aux tests de compétence linguistique en anglais », a-t-elle déclaré.

Pour réduire les coûts, Nekotech propose une alternative économique au test IELTS, facturé 300 dollars, en offrant une préparation au test d'anglais Duolingo, qui coûte 65 dollars. Cette initiative vise à rendre le processus accessible aux étudiants libériens souhaitant poursuivre leurs études aux États-Unis.

Un programme vivement critiqué Depuis son lancement, le programme de Nekotech a suscité une vague de critiques. Certains Libériens ont dénoncé le partenariat avec le gouvernement comme une

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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

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Joseph Boakai affirme son

qui a déclaré qu’il était prêt à se rendre au travail en brouette, si nécessaire. Contrairement aux administrations passées, où les responsables accusés de corruption bénéficiaient souvent d’une impunité présidentielle, ces décisions témoignent d’une rupture claire avec les pratiques traditionnelles. La fermeté du président s’est poursuivie récemment avec la suspension, sans salaire et pour une durée indéterminée, de M. Matthew Nyanplu, ministre assistant à l’Information, à la Culture et au Tourisme. Cette décision, liée à ses commentaires sur le programme de bourses NEKOTECH, a conduit M. Nyanplu à démissionner immédiatement. Par ailleurs, trois cadres du ministère des Affaires présidentielles ont également été licenciés après une enquête de la Commission anticorruption du Liberia (LACC). M. Lamine Sharpe, directeur du budget ; l’avocat Harry B. Sando, contrôleur financier ; et M. Mohammed S. Kromah, ministre assistant chargé des ressources

humaines, ont été accusés de fraude sur les salaires. Des sanctions similaires ont frappé la Commission pour le rapatriement et la réinstallation des réfugiés libériens (LRRC). Son directeur exécutif, M. Patrick Worzie, ainsi que ses adjoints, M. Richard Hoff et M. AJ Armah Karneh, ont été suspendus et transférés à la LACC pour enquête. Ils sont soupçonnés d’avoir détourné des fonds destinés aux réfugiés. Enfin, à l’Agence libérienne de lutte contre la drogue (LDEA), le directeur exécutif, le colonel Abraham Kromah, et ses deux adjoints, M. Hassan Fadiga et M. Gbawou Kowou, ont été relevés de leurs fonctions. Accusés d’être impliqués dans des querelles liées à des fonds issus du trafic de drogue, leur sort reste en suspens, une enquête étant toujours en cours. En imposant ces mesures sans précédent, le président Boakai envoie un message clair : la discipline et l’intégrité seront désormais les piliers de sa gouvernance. Une approche qui pourrait redéfinir les standards de la gestion publique au Liberia.

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Le Liberia n'a jamais rompu ses relations

erreur majeure. L’annonce d’un accord de bourses d’une valeur de 25 millions de dollars a amplifié les accusations, certains qualifiant l’initiative de « honte nationale ». Matthew Nyanplu, ancien ministre assistant à l’Information, a vivement critiqué l’accord sur les réseaux sociaux, le qualifiant de « terrible erreur ». Ces remarques traduisent une méfiance généralisée quant à la légitimité du programme et à ses retombées potentielles. En réponse, lors d’une réunion au complexe ministériel EJS, la Rév. Dr. Ocansey a confirmé que les huit étudiants ayant déjà payé les frais seraient intégralement remboursés. Elle a également réaffirmé l’annulation des frais pour tous les étudiants libériens, soulignant l’engagement de Nekotech à respecter ses promesses. Un soutien éducatif pour les études en master Le programme de Nekotech cible les titulaires de licence âgés de 25 à 40 ans, avec une moyenne académique d’au moins 3.0. Il leur permet de poursuivre des études de master dans des domaines stratégiques tels que les STEM (sciences, technologie, ingénierie et mathématiques), l’intelligence artificielle et l’administration des affaires, grâce à des partenariats avec des universités américaines. Le gouvernement libérien, impressionné par les résultats

obtenus par Nekotech dans d’autres pays africains comme le Ghana, le Malawi et la Zambie, a apporté son soutien à cette initiative. Le partenariat ambitionne de positionner le Liberia comme un modèle de réussite éducative et économique en Afrique. Un partenariat pour l’avenir du Liberia Le 6 novembre 2024, le président Joseph N. Boakai a officiellement lancé un programme de prêts étudiants sans garantie d’un montant de 25 millions de dollars lors d’une cérémonie à la Maison exécutive. Ce projet vise à financer les études de plus de 250 étudiants libériens dans des secteurs stratégiques, conformément à l’agenda ARREST du gouvernement, qui se concentre sur le développement des capacités humaines. « Aujourd’hui marque un moment historique pour le Liberia », a déclaré le président Boakai, en encourageant les bénéficiaires à saisir pleinement cette opportunité, à travailler avec diligence et à contribuer au développement du pays à leur retour. Ce programme, en éliminant les barrières financières liées aux garanties traditionnelles, offre une opportunité transformative pour les jeunes Libériens, leur permettant d’accéder à une éducation supérieure de qualité et de renforcer les secteurs clés du pays.

Le rapprochement avec la Russie suscite des inquiétudes : La société civile libérienne avertit des risques pour la stabilité nationale



Une organisation de la société civile libérienne, Solidarity and Trust for a New Day (STAND), a exprimé de profondes préoccupations concernant le récent rapprochement diplomatique entre le Liberia et la Russie, le qualifiant de potentiellement dangereux à long terme. Dans un communiqué publié à Monrovia le 13 novembre 2024, STAND a mis en garde contre l’influence croissante de la Russie en Afrique, soulignant que ses intérêts stratégiques pourraient introduire des complexités géopolitiques susceptibles de compromettre la sécurité nationale et le développement économique du Liberia. Ces inquiétudes font suite aux déclarations de la délégation libérienne, conduite par le vice-ministre de la Coopération internationale et de l’Intégration économique, le Dr Ibrahim Nyei, lors de la Conférence ministérielle inaugurale du Forum de partenariat Russie-Afrique à Sotchi. Selon STAND, cette délégation aurait exprimé l’intention du Liberia de renforcer ses relations diplomatiques avec la Russie, un geste perçu comme un changement majeur et inattendu de la politique étrangère libérienne. L’organisation a souligné que ce réalignment pourrait compromettre les alliances historiques du Liberia avec les États-Unis et leurs partenaires européens. Ces alliances ont été essentielles pour fournir au Liberia des milliards de dollars d’aide et garantir sa sécurité et son développement pendant des décennies. « Ce virage diplomatique inattendu soulève des questions fondamentales sur l’impact à long terme sur la sécurité et l’économie de notre pays », a déclaré STAND. STAND a également critiqué la demande de coopération en matière de sécurité adressée à la Russie, notant que

l’implication de Moscou dans le Sahel avait été largement condamnée pour son soutien à des régimes militaires et ses effets déstabilisateurs sur la gouvernance démocratique en Afrique de l’Ouest. Par ailleurs, STAND a rappelé que le Liberia avait récemment rompu ses relations avec la Russie et condamné fermement l’invasion de l’Ukraine. Le rétablissement soudain de relations diplomatiques est perçu comme un revirement stratégique majeur qui nécessite des clarifications immédiates quant à ses répercussions possibles sur la stabilité et la souveraineté du pays. L’organisation a appelé le gouvernement libérien, par l’intermédiaire du ministère des Affaires étrangères, à fournir des explications claires et transparentes sur les engagements pris récemment en Russie. STAND a insisté sur la nécessité de démontrer en quoi ce partenariat sert les objectifs stratégiques à long terme du Liberia en matière de sécurité et de développement économique. « Le Liberia doit éviter de devenir un pion dans les rivalités géopolitiques des grandes puissances », a averti STAND, insistant sur la priorité à accorder aux intérêts nationaux. Enfin, STAND a exprimé sa préoccupation face aux allégations persistantes de violations des droits humains associées à la Russie. L’organisation a exhorté le gouvernement libérien à adopter une approche prudente et responsable pour préserver la stabilité, la souveraineté et la prospérité démocratique du pays.

Les survivants des massacres au Liberia réclament la création d’un tribunal des crimes de guerre

L’Association des survivants des massacres du Liberia a lancé un appel urgent à la justice, avertissant qu’elle pourrait envisager des représailles si le Tribunal des crimes de guerre et économiques (WECC) n’est pas établi. Cette organisation, qui rassemble des victimes des conflits armés ayant ravagé le Liberia entre 1981 et 2003, insiste sur la nécessité d’enquêter et de poursuivre les responsables des crimes de guerre et des abus économiques. Selon elle, l’absence de justice alimente un profond sentiment de frustration et de désespoir. Peterson Sonyah, président de l’association et lui-même survivant du massacre de l’église luthérienne de 1990, a vu sept membres de sa famille périr lors de cet événement tragique. Lors d’un entretien téléphonique avec The New Dawn, il a exprimé son

impatience face à l’inaction des autorités : « Beaucoup des auteurs de ces atrocités sont âgés ou décèdent. Quant à nous, les survivants, nous vieillissons aussi. Si justice n’est pas rendue de notre vivant, qui restera pour témoigner ? » Il a mis en garde contre le risque de vengeance de la part des générations futures, qui pourraient chercher à apaiser une douleur non reconnue.



LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: The resignation of Assistant Minister Matthew Nyanplu *By Naneka Hoffman*
The resignation of Assistant Information Minister Matthew Nyanplu is receiving mixed reactions from the public, as you may read below in views expressed.



Daniel S. Wamah

“I think for me, Assistant Minster for Ministry of Information Matthew Nyanplu sent in his resignation letter to President

“Assistant Minister Matthew Nyanplu resigned from his position. As for me, I think he was in error, because President Boakai suspending him doesn’t mean that he is guilty. I think he should have waited for the President to carry on the investigation to see what he said, if it were wrong or right but, he didn’t do it; he sent in his resignation. Mine you, don’t keep the public in doubt, because sending in his resignation doesn’t prove that he is wrong or right.”



Sekou Massalay

“Matthew Nyanplu was right to resign. This government came to power with the mind to fight corruption, so if this

Boakai isn’t a bad thing. In my own view, he thinks that President Boakai suspended him for a wrong reason; this is the reason he resigned from his post. But I think he should have waited for the investigation to go on; he shouldn’t have resigned. Matthew wasn’t right to resign without waiting on investigation to know if he was coming to be guilty or not. The UP-led government told us that they were coming to fight corruption, so anywhere government officials find corruption smelling, they have to say it out.”



Maflah T. Velemee

government is doing the wrong things, the ministers need to speak out, because they came with the agenda to fight corruption, so why corruption should be smelling all over the various ministries? This government told the Liberian people that they came to recuse us, but now it is worse than before. What are they waiting for to solve the bread and butter issues? The only thing we are hearing is corruption and misplace of government officials.”



Joseph Sherman

“I think Matthew Nyanplu was wrong to go on Facebook to make

“As for me, I think Matthew’s resigning from his position is not a strange thing to me. I’ve been following him from high school days. He is a man with integrity and a very kind being. He doesn’t encourage corruption in anything he does. Matthew is a straight-forward person, and when I heard that he is an Assistant Minister to Ministry of Information, I was very excited when I heard President Boakai selected him, because I know that he is a qualified man and person like him President Boakai needs to bring in his government. But on the other hand, I knew that he wasn’t going to still in that position because he is one of the few people I know

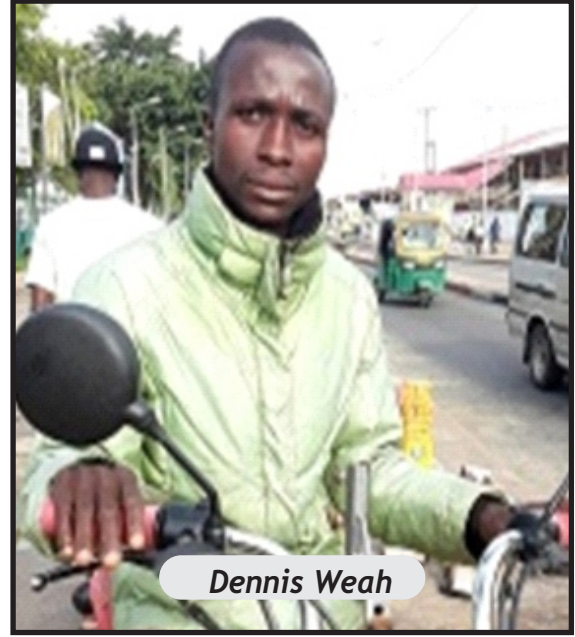
such a statement about the ministry or minister. The reason is that you cannot be working in the regime and criticize the same regime that is putting food on your table. It doesn’t make sense. Let me tell you; when you are working in government, you close your mouth because you are part of them, so it is not you will be criticizing. It is the opposition’s work to do that; his work is to promote the government out there, not to criticize, so he was very wrong for that.”

that don’t encourage corruption in anything, so he was right to send in his resignation.”



Alex Jaivey

“I think he was right to resign from his position even though President Boakai, didn’t sack Matthew. President Boakai only suspended



Dennis Weah

him. Matthew waiting for investigation to see if he was going to be found guilty or not, it’s just a waste. President Boakai said no business as usual, so he shouldn’t be suspending people if they are smelling corruption in any of the ministries and try to speak it out. Government work is for you to protect and defend, not to criticize, so he made a very big mistake on Facebook, and said bad things about the good. As long you accept the position to be an assistant minister for the Ministry of Information, you are a watchdog for the government. You are there to protect, promote and defend the government, so he was wronged for the decision he took to resign.”

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Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa, currently facing staff opposition defies those seeking his removal to garner the requisite number and remove him.

By Bridgett Milton

Monrovia, Liberia, November 19, 2024 - Embattled Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa

make it clear that a minimum of 37 members are required to elect a Speaker and 49 to remove a Speaker, noting that anything other than what the

business in Joint Chambers, but says what they are having there is mere meeting, as such gathering has no standing under the 1986 Constitution of Liberia and laws governing the House of Representatives.

The embattled Speaker himself has failed to get 39 lawmakers on his side to attain quorum for business.

He adds that the ECOWAS Parliament, headed by its Speaker, Hadja Memounatou Ibrahim and some members of the Parliament was in Liberia to have a discussion with both parties of the House of Representatives on the current power struggle. "We were pleased to welcome our Friends from the ECOWAS Parliament who had come to help solve the current problem and up to now, they were not able to settle the issues because both parties were not able to come to a common ground", he explains.

The impasse is gradually crippling daily operation of the government

Meanwhile, the leadership of the House of Representatives through the embattle Speaker has presented a 36-seated bus and three new vehicles to three departments at the House, including Press and Public Affairs, Finance and Human Resource Department to enable them to effectively report to work. Editing By Jonathan Browne



throws out a challenge to rebel lawmakers seeking to oust him here to gather constitutionally-required 49 signatures to remove him as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Members of the House opting to get the Speaker out have not been able to obtain 49 signatures of their colleagues to achieve their objective since September.

Addressing a news conference on Monday, November 18, at the Capitol, Speaker Koffa said the constitution and standing rules of the House

constitution says, he will not give in to members of the House calling themselves majority block.

He notes that it is time to put an end to group of lawmakers, who just sit at a hotel and pressure an elected leadership to step down. He calls on them to instead, redirect their attention to doing the Liberian people's work and stop wasting time on something that is not in the interest of the people.

Embattled Speaker Koffa continues that some of his colleagues in the House had decided to meet and do

Starts from back page

Boakai finally submits draft nat'l budget

Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID) as well as addressing debt service and other obligations of the government. President Boakai urges lawmakers to exert their best efforts towards ensuring timely consideration and approval of the budget to ensure effective and efficient

execution of the budget beginning January, 2025.

The submission of the draft national budget is in compliance with Section 17.1 of the 2019 Amendment and Restatement of the Public Financial Management Act of 2009. Meanwhile, the Minister of Finance and Development

Planning, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, is expected to address the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism's regular press briefing today, November 19, 2024 at 12 mid-day to provide detailed information o of the draft budget to the public. Editing By Jonathan Browne

Unity Party under fire

The ruling Unity Party face fire from its members and auxiliaries over neglect.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

The governing Unity Party (UP) comes under fire here from its auxiliaries Monrovia, Liberia, November 19, 2024 -that are crying neglect by the party leadership. The aggrieved groups gathered at Golden Key Hotel in Paynesville, blocking the hotel's main entrance and demanding attention to their grievances. They allege that the UP leadership has "forgotten the sacrifices they made", a sentiment that echoes a broader discontent within their ranks. The auxiliaries, often considered backbone of political parties, feel marginalized and abandoned, leading to an outpouring of anger during this protest.

The event highlights growing tensions within the ruling establishment, as the leadership faces pressure to address concerns from its grassroots members, who are vital to the party's success in future political

frustrations clear with powerful chants and battle cries, demanding that the leadership acknowledges their sacrifices, saying, "We were dancing in pupu water when you guys were in cars," referencing the difficult and often thankless work they put in during the party's struggle. The protestors think the leadership has forgotten these efforts, fueling their anger and sense of betrayal. By publicly voicing their frustrations, aggrieved partisans are sending a strong message to the party leadership that to maintain unity and long-term success, concerns of all party members, particularly those who were foundational to the party's rise, must be heard and addressed.

The demonstration serves as a stark reminder that a political party's strength lies not only in its leadership but also in the commitment and sacrifices of its base. Ignoring this could risk alienating loyal supporters and fracturing the party's unity in the face of future challenges.



endeavors. The protest may signal a turning point for the party if leaders fail to acknowledge and address growing discontent among their supporters.

They accused executive committee members of prioritizing issues that do not reflect the interests of the grassroots supporters. Their concerns culminated in a protest during a National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting held at the Golden Key hotel in Paynesville.

The protest is a direct challenge to the leadership, signaling a growing divide between the party's upper echelons and its loyal members who feel sidelined. This internal unrest within the Unity Party underscores the need for leaders to better address the concerns of their rank-and-file members, particularly as the party navigates future political challenges. The disenchanted group of partisans made their

Meanwhile, on November 17, 2024, the Unity Party's National Executive Committee (NEC) wrapped up a two-day strategic governance meeting at the Golden Key Hotel in Paynesville, with a strong call for unity, transparency, and accountability within government. The meeting, which took place from November 16-17, 2024, brought together key members of the party leadership, senior officials, and representatives from various government sectors, all focused on supporting President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's ARREST Agenda and strengthening Liberia's governance framework. The central message of the meeting is the need for collaboration and unity among government officials and Unity Party members to ensure the success of the ARREST Agenda. The NEC emphasizes that Liberia's development goals can only be achieved through collective action from all sectors of society, stressing the importance of unity both within

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-To majority lawmaker

Legislature received the FY 2025 draft budget on behalf of the Chief Clerk, who is on sick leave, and submitted it to the

The draft national budget for 2025 represents 15.3% increase over the 2024 Recast Budget with total appropriation of US\$738.9 million. The draft budget captures appropriations aimed at delivering on key priorities of the ARREST



office of Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah, now Presiding Officer of the Majority. President Joseph Nyuma Boakai suspended submission of the draft National Budget for (FY-2025) for the second time this year. President Boakai, who left the country for working visits to neighboring Sierra Leone, informed the Clerk of the House of

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