



CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA **MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES**

LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024	L\$179.5487/US\$1.00	L\$181.2888/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

French Version Inside

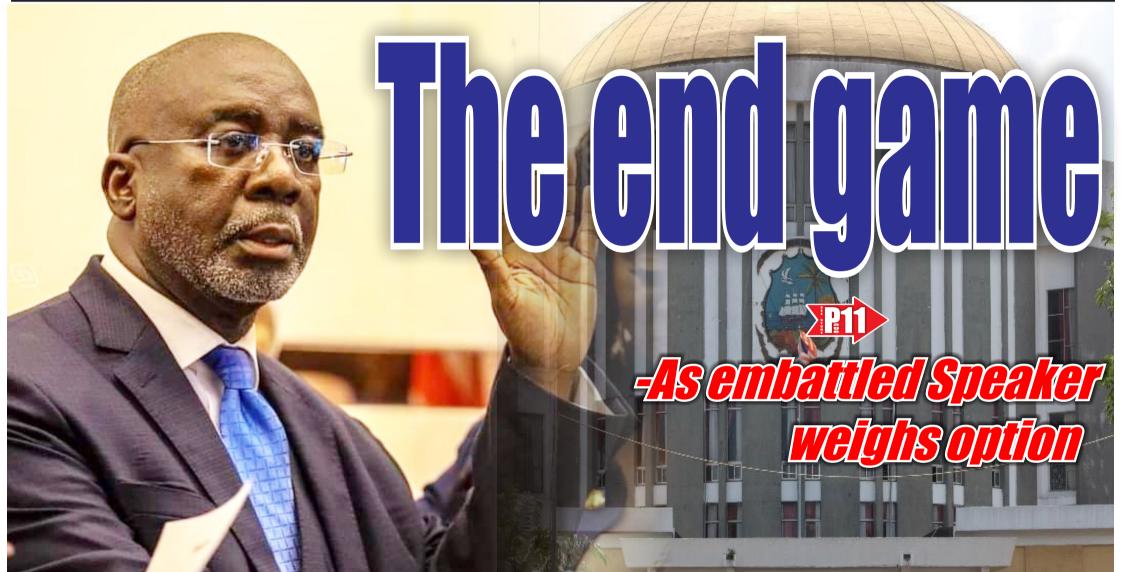
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Continental News

Ugandan opposition figure taken to 'Bigger cause' of civil war military court after Kenya expulsion The four counts they face

Kizza Besigye, who has been held incommunicado for days, waved to his supporters as he arrived at the military court

rominent Ugandan a book launch event - and she Besigye has appeared government free him. before a military court in the Besigye was told during the

opposition figure Kizza demanded the Ugandan

capital, Kampala, where he has military court hearing, held amid denied charges that include heavy security, that he would the illegal possession of remain in custody until 2

include being found with two pistols and ammunition in a hotel in the Kenyan capital and negotiating for arms with foreigners in the Swiss city of Geneva, the Greek capital, Athens, and Nairobi. The BBC asked the Ugandan

government for comment following the overnight tweet from Ms Byanyima, who is a respected human rights advocate and executive director of UNAids - the joint UN programme set up to eradicate.

The government did not respond, but Uganda's military spokesman Felix Kulayigye then told a local media agency that Besige would be arraigned at a military court on Wednesday afternoon, without expressly stating if the military was holding him.

On his arrival at the Makindye military court - after being incommunicado for days, Besigye waved to the gathered journalists and senior members of his Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) party.

As the hearing got under way, Besigye objected to being tried in a court martial, saying that if there were any charges against him he would like to be tried in a civilian court.

But he was overruled and the hearing continued.-BBC



firearms and negotiating to buy December. arms abroad.

His appearance comes after his wife said he was kidnapped in neighbouring Kenya last Saturday and sent back home where was being held in a military jail.

In a post on X, Winnie Byanyima wrote that her 68-year-old husband had been seized in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, during

'We live in fear' - forced expulsions taint Kenya's safe haven image

Besigye - who has contested and lost four presidential elections politician Obedi Lutale, who also denied the charges.

Who is Kizza Besigye?

against President Yoweri Museveni - appeared along with his co-accused, opposition

drives Sudan's Afcon dream

Sudan have hosted their 2025 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers in neighboring South Sudan and Libya

country's footballers have offered a glimmer of hope to their compatriots thanks to their unlikely Nations (Afcon).

Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces militia began in April last year and has forced over 11 million people from their homes.

Aid workers say it has created the world's worst humanitarian crisis - with the leading cause of death across the country being

With no end in sight to the to play their home ties outside of civil war in Sudan, the Sudan and the suspension of the domestic league, the Falcons of Jediane will represent their nation at the 2025 Afcon in Morocco.

qualification for next "It's something that's year's Africa Cup of consistently in our minds. Our families are still affected by the The conflict between the war," forward Abobakar Eisa told Newsday on the BBC World Service.

> "The manager always says: 'When you're putting on the shirt, you don't just do it for your family and yourselves. You do it for everyone else's family, and everyone in Sudan - for your whole country - to lift their spirits up.'

"We're doing that through



Former al-Qaida-linked police chief sentenced to 10 years for war crimes under Ansar Dine's rule, the he International

Criminal Court (ICC) has sentenced Al-Hassan Ag Abdoul Aziz Ag Mohamed Ag Mahmoud, the former head of the Islamic police in Timbuktu, Mali, to 10 years in prison for war crimes. Prosecutors accused Al-Hassan, 47, of leading a "reign of terror" after the al-Qaedalinked Ansar Dine group seized the historic city in 2012. He was found guilty of torture, overseeing public amputations, and organizing

brutal floggings, including of children. Presiding judge Kimberly Prost described the sentence as "proportionate to the gravity of the crimes," acknowledging the harm

Al-Hassan was acquitted of charges of rape, sexual slavery, and the destruction of Timbuktu's ancient mausoleums. While the ICC recognized that crimes of sexual violence occurred

caused to victims.

court ruled he was not directly responsible.

Rights groups expressed disappointment over his acquittal on gender-based crimes, noting testimonies of women being raped in detention.

Al-Hassan, who was handed over to the ICC in 2018 by Malian 2016 for destroying the city's authorities, has 30 days to appeal. Reparations for victims

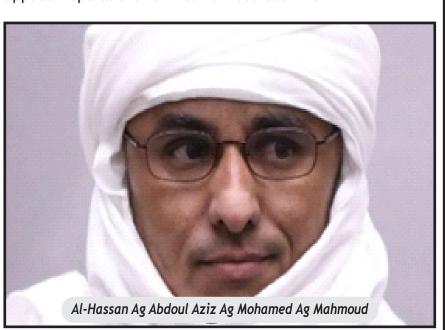
will be addressed later.

Timbuktu, a UNESCO World Heritage site and center of Islamic learning from the 13th to 17th centuries, suffered significant damage during the 2012 Islamist occupation. Another Ansar Dine member, Ahmad al-Faqi al-Mahdi, was sentenced to nine years in ancient shrines. Additional sources BBC

starvation.

Yet despite that backdrop, coupled with being forced

preventable disease and football, which is a beautiful thing. We know we're playing for a much bigger cause."-BBC





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 stonethrowing 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

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 I 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.

n 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.

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by Ricardo Hausmann

A Better Approach to Climate Finance

fulfilled their 2009 pledge to mobilize of other development goals. milestone.

is bound to falter.

developing countries are near their burden-sharing. external debts.

the world's population - are responsible all of which rely on critical minerals. shift more attractive, rich-country "powershoring."

creates value.

capacity for climate-related projects development. instead of other development goals like At Harvard's Growth Lab, we have been borrowing capacity.

borrowing capacity.

But neither of these options is currently breaching their debt ceilings. In the the clean-energy transition.

AMBRIDGE - Two years behind absence of such subsidies, which private schedule, in 2022 the world's finance does not include, countries are left developed countries finally to pursue climate projects at the expense

\$100 billion annually to support Multilateral development banks illustrate developing countries' climate efforts. But this dynamic. While MDBs increased their now it is time to look beyond this total annual financing, nearly all of the additional lending capacity has been The clean-energy transition represents a directed toward climate finance, which profound macroeconomic issue, yet we reached a record-high \$125 billion in 2023, continue to approach it as a leaving other essential development needs microeconomic problem. Without a unmet. Consequently, developing course correction, support for countries have been forced to shoulder the decarbonization in developing countries macroeconomic costs of decarbonization on their own, despite the 2015 Paris One reason for this is that most agreement's assurances of meaningful

external debt ceiling, limiting their Increased exports, on the other hand, ability to borrow. The ceiling is low could significantly raise developing because of the high interest rates they countries' debt ceilings, making the face and their insufficient export climate effort far more beneficial. After capacity, which is too weak to generate all, carbon neutrality requires not only a the foreign exchange required to service commitment to reducing emissions but also access to the necessary tools for The original rationale for climate finance achieving that goal. This means scaling up was straightforward: climate change is global supply chains for clean-energy driven by carbon dioxide emissions. technologies such as solar panels, wind Wealthy countries - home to just 16% of turbines, electric vehicles, and batteries,

for most of the CO2 released into the Since it is much more expensive to atmosphere since the Industrial transport green energy than fossil fuels, it Revolution and still account for about 25% is more efficient to use it where it is of annual emissions. To avert climate produced. An effective global catastrophe, we must achieve net-zero decarbonization effort would thus seek to emissions, which requires the remaining relocate energy-intensive industries to 84% of the global population to forgo the regions with ample, affordable clean benefits of fossil-fuel use. To make this energy - a strategy known as

governments committed to providing To facilitate a more effective climate developing economies with cheap agreement, developing countries must financing as an incentive to decarbonize. play a much larger role in global mitigation Now that the \$100 billion target has efforts. There are two ways to achieve finally been met, can we truly say this this. The first is to enhance these promise has been fulfilled? The answer countries' ability to produce and export depends on how we understand the cost decarbonization enablers and their of finance. A microeconomic perspective components. The second is to improve would examine each project individually, their green-energy infrastructure, thereby assessing its costs and benefits. If the encouraging major emitters to relocate to benefits outweigh the costs, the project newly established green industrial parks. Together, these steps could position By contrast, a macroeconomic approach developing countries as key suppliers in would consider the opportunity cost of the clean-energy transition, fostering both countries using their limited borrowing economic growth and sustainable

economic growth, education, and health studying green value chains to identify the care. The more a country borrows for most feasible and promising clean-energy climate initiatives, the less flexibility it products and components, tailored to each has to address other priorities - unless country's existing capabilities. With the climate finance can somehow expand its support of Azerbaijan's government, the host of this year's United Nations Climate In theory, this should be possible. By Change Conference (COP29), we have reducing the cost of debt or boosting created a green growth website called exports - thereby saving or generating the Greenplexity. Together with our Atlas of foreign exchange needed to support a Economic Complexity, which now covers higher debt ceiling - climate finance green products, this tool allows countries could increase developing countries to chart their own unique growth paths in a decarbonizing global economy.

By harnessing the capabilities of on the table. Regrettably, the focus developing countries, we can accelerate remains on the total amount of climate global decarbonization while creating new finance committed rather than the size of growth opportunities. This approach would the subsidy component that - barring a not only advance crucial climate goals but boost in exports - could enable countries also ensure that a larger share of the to secure additional financing without world's population can enjoy the fruits of

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THURSDAY

By: Anthony Ohemeng-Boamah UNDP Liberia Resident Representative a.i.

Liberia: A pitstop along <u>the journey at COP 29</u>

onrovia, Liberia; November 20, 2024: At the Conference of the Parties-COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, global climate negotiations reached a critical juncture. Temperature records are being breached, and climate impacts are more widespread and devastatingly intertwined with other crises on biodiversity, food, finance, and increasing global conflicts.

Along Liberia's coast, communities are being devastated by erosion and floods, and key agricultural regions are shattered by irregular temperatures and rain patterns. The world must take rapid, sustained, and large-scale action to limit global warming.

One year before the Paris Agreement's 10th anniversary, COP29 represents a pivotal moment in global climate action. Liberia, as a party to the Agreement is expected to submit its revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) which outline the nation's ambition and sovereign commitment to climate actions.

UNDP will coordinate UN System-wide support for NDC preparations. With an NDC stocktaking process underway, the UN System extensively supports Liberia's climate actions and preparation for NDC 3.0.

At COP29, the "finance COP" Liberia emerges as a key player, aiming to leverage its 6.6 million hectares of forest, which comprise 153.45 tons/hectare of carbon as one of the few bastions of hope for the good of the world.

Delegates seek a new funding mechanism to support developing countries' emissions reduction and climate adaptation, with Liberia actively advocating for climate finance.

On the opening day of COP29, Article 6 of the Paris Agreement was adopted. This mechanism paves the way for a UN-backed global carbon market. This market will facilitate the trading of carbon credits, incentivizing countries to reduce emissions and invest in climate-friendly projects.

On Tuesday, 12 November, Liberia's Vice President Jeremiah Koung addressed world leaders at the COP29 climate summit emphasizing the importance of the Loss and Damages Fund which experts say would help third-world nations, including those in Africa, better address climate change and pollution.

Vice President Koon informed the Summit that Liberia will further increase its climate ambition at the time of the country's third generation NDC, considering biodiversity protection, conservation of mangroves, freshwater ecosystem services, child rights, and human mobility.

He advocated for stronger cooperative actions and decisions on Articles 6.2, 6.4, and 6.8 at COP29 consistent with the Africa Group's position in operationalizing carbon-market and non-carbon market mechanisms.

Dr. Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo, Executive Director of the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), leading the Liberian delegation side event on 16 November announced that Liberia intends to engage in the global carbon market. Harnessing carbon trading initiatives could benefit local communities and support essential national development goals, including the expansion of renewable energy and road infrastructure critical to the country's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Liberia advocates for greater and fair climate finance mechanisms that are predictable and accessible with ambitious commitments from developed nations. The need for climate finance is critical, particularly for countries like Liberia which are highly vulnerable to climate change effects but have limited resources to fund adaptation initiatives.

In its 2021 NDC Financing Strategy, Liberia estimated \$490 million to achieve its climate and green growth ambitions through 2025. However, Liberia faces a funding gap of \$460 million, including zero from the private sector.

At COP29, Liberia is actively negotiating a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for climate finance that starts at \$100 billion annually with the specific needs of developing nations at the forefront.

UNDP supported Liberia's pre-COP event that brought together national and local leaders, civil society, youth and women representatives, and other stakeholders to explore key political aspects of negotiations, find solutions to outstanding issues, and set the tone for the country's participation.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the Club of Rome's Transformational Economics Commission and Co-Chair of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

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By Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

re Tariffs Worth

EW HAVEN - US President-elect Donald Trump's promise to impose a 60% tariff on imports from China, and a 10-20% tariff on all other imports has triggered a public debate about whether such policies are really so bad. After all, a tariff is a consumption tax, and most economists favor taxes on consumption over income taxes, since the former are more efficient and easier to administer.

But tariffs have significant drawbacks. Since they tax only imported products, they distort markets by shifting resources from more efficient foreign producers to less efficient domestic firms. This inefficiency comes at the expense of consumers, and like most consumption taxes, tariffs are regressive, placing a heavier burden on lowincome households that spend a larger share of their income on consumer goods.

Still, tariffs do have political appeal. Critics of globalization in advanced economies have long argued that the efficiency gains from recent decades of trade liberalization have been modest, relative to the disruptions caused. While US consumers benefited from lower prices on imported goods, particularly from China, these widely dispersed gains were less salient than the concentrated pain of factory closures and job losses in regions exposed to import competition.

Against this backdrop, higher tariffs might not look so bad. Perhaps reversing globalization's modest efficiency gains could redirect income toward domestic producers and workers. Perhaps tariffs' regressive effects can be addressed with policies like exemptions for de minimis imports (valued under \$800). Besides, while prices of taxed imports would increase, American consumers in the past did not seem especially appreciative of trade's role in making the goods they consumed more affordable.

The problem with such arguments is that they ignore the current macroeconomic context. Inflation over the last three years has increased consumer sensitivity to price changes. Voters today will be far more attuned to the inflationary pressures of tariffs than they were in the past. While proponents of new tariffs claim that China would bear the brunt of the financial burden, the evidence from the 2018-19 tariffs shows otherwise: US consumers bore most of the cost. Considering that the previous tariffs were 10-25%, a 60% levy might shift some costs to China, but American consumers would still feel the sting.

Even if US prices remained unchanged, unintended consequences could follow. If broad-based tariffs led to a sharp depreciation of China's currency, the stronger dollar would make Chinese imports relatively cheaper. This may partly offset the higher prices caused by tariffs, but it would undermine the original goal of making US manufacturing more competitive. Meanwhile, the stronger dollar would hurt US exports, worsening the trade deficit.

This suggests that the multiple goals currently advertised for tariffs - reshoring manufacturing, reducing the trade deficit, generating revenue, lessening America's reliance on China, and forcing China into negotiations, all while minimizing the impact on consumers - often conflict with one another. This is because tariffs affect the US economy through prices. To boost US competitiveness or reduce the deficit, tariffs must raise import prices - a politically toxic outcome today.

Reducing America's reliance on China is also complex, given that Chinese-made intermediates are embedded in many goods exported to the US from third countries. Since 2018-19, China and several "bystander" countries have registered robust export growth despite tariffs. The proposed new tariffs might affect only direct Chinese exports to the US, not to other countries. Broadening them to more countries to curb China's reach would exacerbate price pressures, because there would be fewer substitution possibilities for US consumers and businesses.

The argument for tariffs as a revenue-generating mechanism is interesting and novel (in the sense that it has not been used for many centuries). But it does not hold up. Tariffs cannot possibly replace income taxes as a source of revenue: the scale of the income tax base is roughly an order of magnitude larger than the scale of imports. Still, tariffs could generate some government revenue, with China potentially bearing part of the cost. If used as a short-term negotiating tactic, they could apply some economic pressure on China.

Strengthening the United States' negotiating leverage is the most compelling argument for tariffs. The 2018-19 tariffs led to the "phase one" agreement, a planned de-escalation in exchange for Chinese commitments to import more from the US and address concerns about intellectual property and technology transfers. Though the earlier tariffs marked the biggest departure from free trade since the 1930 Smoot-Hawley Act, their economic impact was modest, and the agreement allowed the US to save face.

But the 2018-19 tariffs were far from cost-free. They poisoned US-China relations, escalated tensions, pushed China into an alliance with Russia and Iran, and fueled anti-Asian sentiment domestically. They eroded America's relationships with allies who were not consulted, and who found themselves also targeted by specific tariffs. And when all was said and done, the phase one deal's full impact was never realized. The disruption to trade from the pandemic meant that China fell far short of its commitments to purchase goods from the US.

ARTICLE ARTICLE

Decades of failure to end TB and tobacco use

Shobha Shukla - CNS

Despite strong scientific and community-based evidence to support tobacco and TB control, 1.1 million people died of TB in 2023 and over 8 million died of tobacco use in the same year. "Tobacco is an entirely preventable epidemic," rightly said Dr Tara Singh Bam who is a force for change when it comes to stronger actions to prevent avoidable diseases and save lives in low- and middle-income countries.

TB too is preventable, and no one needs to die of it. We have the tools to find all TB, treat all and prevent all TB but the ground reality is that TB is neither preventable, not treatable for millions of people every year. In 2023, over 10.8 million people got infected with TB worldwide (and 1.1 million died of TB), said Dr Tara Singh Bam citing the recently released WHO Global TB Report 2024.

Dr Bam serves as Board Director of Asia Pacific Cities Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT), Asia Pacific Director for Tobacco Control at Vital Strategies, and till very recently served as Asia Pacific Director of International Union Against TB and Lung Disease (The Union). The Indonesian Ministry of Health had awarded Dr Bam in recognition of his nearly two decades of contribution to public health earlier this year.

TB and tobacco: dual pandemics Tobacco smoking increases the risk of developing TB and makes TB treatment less effective - and - heightens risk of many other deadly diseases too. Extensive scientific research underlines tobacco smoking's substantial role in TB, amplifying the risk of infection, death, treatment relapse, heightened clinical

severity, and delays in both: diagnosis and treatment, said Dr Tara Singh Bam. He was speaking at 'Meet the Expert' special session at the World Conference on Lung Health 2024 that was recently held in Bali, Indonesia.

Delayed diagnosis and treatment also mean that the person with TB suffers more, has a higher risk of TB death. while the infection spreads to potentially more people - all of this is so avoidable. WHO lists tobacco use among the top 5risk factors for TB - almost one in six TB deaths occur because of tobacco smoking. Tobacco use is also directly linked to dangerously increasing the risk of a range of life-threatening conditions, such as heart diseases and stroke, cancers, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, among others.

"Every single disease caused by tobacco is entirely preventable. Even one death is a death too many when it comes to tobacco and TB

-because we have a range of evidence-based tools to save lives," said Dr Bam.

As per the WHO Global TB Report 2024, globally 702,000 people suffered from active TB disease in 2023 because of tobacco use (out of 8 million). Almost half of them came from South-East Asian region (328,000). 191,000 people in Western Pacific region, and 89,000 people in Africa got TB disease due to tobacco use in 2023.

Dr Bam cited data from the latest Tobacco Atlas and said: "One in four TB deaths in China was because of tobacco use (25%). Nepal followed closely with 19.4% TB deaths occurring due to tobacco use. Next in line were Vietnam (17.8%), Philippines (17.5%), Indonesia (17%), Malaysia (16.7%), Myanmar (16.3%), Bangladesh (15.2%), Thailand (14.2%), and India (13%).

Tobacco delayed TB diagnosis and treatment in Nepal Dr. Donald Enarson who made lifetime and game-changing contribution to lung health worldwide, Dr Dirgha Singh Bam (former head of Nepal's TB programme and former Health Secretary of Nepal government) and Dr Tara Singh Bam among others, did a study published in International Journal of TB and Lung Disease in 2016.

This study showed that delay in health seeking behaviour as well as TB diagnostic delay was alarmingly higher in those with tobacco use history.

Current smokers had the highest risk of long TB diagnostic delays (average: 133 days), followed by ex-smokers (103 days). Average delay in those who never smoked was 80 days

There should be no delay in TB diagnosis. Early and accurate TB diagnosis is an entry-gate towards TB treatment, care pathway, reduces avoidable human suffering and risk of TB death. Early and accurate diagnosis of TB also stops the spread of infection.

Better TB treatment outcomes in those who quit tobacco use A study published in 2022 in the reputed journal Thorax showed that TB treatment outcomes were significantly better among those patients who had quit tobacco use during the TB treatment in Pakistan and Bangladesh. More than 91% of TB patients who had quit tobacco use during TB treatment were successful in completing the therapy (compared to 80% who did not

quit tobacco use).

TB relapse rates were also higher among those who did not quit tobacco use during TB treatment- 6% among those who had quit tobacco use and 14% among those who had not quit tobacco use during the treatment reported TB relapse.

Local actions for global goal to end TB and tobacco our leaders need to walk the talk on making health a fundamental human right for everyone. Dr Tara Singh Bam calls for national laws that support this so that everyone is protected from the deadly impact of tobacco products as well as from TB.

"Break the siloes," said Dr Bam as there is an urgent need for a range of health and development programmes to join forces at all levels - especially at sub-national level, so that the benefits of this convergence can reach the people most in need.

Once TB, tobacco and other programmes join hands to enhance public health outcomes and resource maximisation, we need to train healthcare workers on both: TB and tobacco. For example, everyone should get screened for TB in healthcare facilities and those with history of tobacco use, must be offered effective evidence-based tobacco quitting programmes and support. Quitting tobacco will help reduce burden of so many diseases, said Dr Bam.

Local leadership of sub-national leaders in advancing health and accountability has proven to make a major difference in over 80 cities of 12 countries where the Asia Pacific regional network consisting of Mayors, Members of Parliament, Governors, and other

sub-national leaders and experts is active. This network is formally known as APCAT (Asia Pacific Cities Alliance for Health and Development). In the context of addressing the dual pandemics of TB and tobacco, APCAT has made a huge difference in protecting the people from both - and more (such as NCDs).

There are a lot of doable science and evidence-based actions that must get implemented locally. Some of these are - raising awareness about "saying no to all forms of tobacco use", screening people for both (tobacco use and TB), early and accurate TB detection and linkage to care, treatment adherence support, ending all forms of TB related stigma, engaging TB survivors meaningfully to make a difference, implementing the full package of evidence-based tobacco control interventions recommended by the WHO

Hold tobacco industry accountable and protect all from tobacco use

Dr Tara Singh Bam
Expert at the world's largest TB and lung disease conference in 2024 (Union World Conference on Lung Health): Board Director APCAT; Asia Pacific Director (Tobacco Control), Vital Strategies; former Asia Pacific Director, The Union

(including raising taxes and smokefree policies), ensuring that effective tobacco cessation services are functional across the healthcare facilities, and, most importantly, protecting public health from tobacco industry interference.

Tobacco industry interference in public health policy is the biggest obstacle in implementing tobacco control policies. That is why the legally binding global tobacco treaty, formally called the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, has an important Article 5.3 that was adopted by governments in 2008. Preamble of WHO FCTC Article 5.3 clearly states to protect public health policy from tobacco industry interference because there is a direct and irreconcilable conflict of interest between the two. WHO FCTC Article 19 calls to hold tobacco industries liable for the harm they

"Break the chain of TB transmission and protect all people from tobacco use," emphasises Dr Bam.

Science has proven that it is critically important to screen everyone in high TB burden settings (not just those with symptoms) for TB with WHO recommended tools and offer them upfront molecular testing and linkage to treatment, care and support. Not doing so is among the factors responsible for decades of failure in TB response. Same goes for tobacco control. No one needs to suffer from diseases caused by tobacco use or die of them. Not implementing tobacco control policies effectively and protecting everyone from tobacco use worldwide is another major failure.

It is high time we course-correct and prioritise people over profits. \\

Shobha Shukla - CNS (Citizen News Service)

(Shobha Shukla is the award-winning founding Managing Editor and Executive Director of CNS (Citizen News Service) and is a feminist, health and development justice advocate. She is a former senior Physics faculty of prestigious Loreto Convent College and current Coordinator of Asia Pacific Regional Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media) and Chairperson of Global AMR Media Alliance (GAMA). She coordinates SHE & Rights Media Initiative (Sexual health with equity and rights). Follow her on Twitter @shobha1shukla or read her writings here www.bit.ly/ShobhaShukla)

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ECOWAS to launch the National Coordination Center for Early **Warning Mechanism and Response to Security Risks in Guinea**

onday, 18th November 2024/ COWAS Commission Vice President Mrs. Damtien TCHINTCHIBIDJA, arrived in Guinea on Monday, accompanied by a delegation from the Directorate of Early Warning to launch the

The delegation includes Mrs. the National Coordination Warning, Mr Marcel Komi Systems Management and Planning Division, and Mrs. Nanténé COULIBALY, Senior Analyst in charge of crime and criminality issues.

The delegation was received by the ECOWAS Resident



National Coordinating Center for Early Warning Mechanism and response to security risks.

Representative to Guinea, His Excellency Mr. Louis-Blaise AKA-BROU. The primary objective of this visit is to officially launch

Onyinye Nkechi ONWUKA, Center for the Early Warning Acting Director of Early Mechanism and Response to Security Risks in Guinea and BOSSOU, Acting Head of the to participate in the statutory council meeting of the center on Wednesday, 20th November 2024.

> The Vice President of the ECOWAS Commission is scheduled to hold a one-onone meeting with the Prime Minister of Guinea, Mr Amadou Oury BAH, on Tuesday, 19th November, ahead of the center's launch. As part of the launch activities, Her Excellency Mrs. Damtien TCHINTCHIBIDJA will also sign a grant agreement with Guinea's Minister of Planning and International Cooperation. This agreement focuses on the Integrated Human Capital Development Strategy, reaffirming ECOWAS's commitment to strengthening the capacities and resilience of its Member States.-Press Release.

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 Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

ontserrado, Liberia, November 20, 2024 -**V** Dozens of workers at a Chinese company, Dongxin Machinery in Bernard's Farm, Mount Barclay, along the Monrovia-Kakata highway are apprehensive of losing their jobs, having been with the company for nearly two years without employment status. Dongxin Machinery is a giant

dealer in agricultural machinery and mining equipment.

The worried workers, who asked for anonymity, say as contractors, they are in a dilemma, because all of their contracts with the firm expired almost a year now without renewal or opportunity for gainful employment, lamenting that management seems bent on playing deaf ears to their plight.

Voicing their concerns to the NEW DAWN, they also

staffer in the office of Madam MacDella Cooper, Senior Political Advisor to President Boakai, who referenced himself as Business Consultant to Dongxin Machinery Liberia, denied said allegations. "These reports are baseless, are

not true, and there's no invalid contract of a worker here", Mr. Flomo says.

Reports reveal that Dongxin Machinery Liberia does not have a Human Resource personnel to serve as liaison between Management and the workers, thereby allowing ill-treatment of Liberian workers by the Chinese.

Investigation further reveals that Mr. Flomo is apparently using his influence from the office of the Senior Political Advisor to the President to protect the company.

But he denied such influence and instead, reiterates that workers' faith and commitment has been preserved and protected by Management.

According to him, no worker of the Dongxin Machinery has an invalid contract, but confirms

LRA starts Annual Taxpayers Appreciation a vards Ceremony

Monrovia, November 20. 2024 The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) is today. Wednesday, November 20, kicking off a series of events in commemoration of its Annual Taxpayers Appreciation and Awards Ceremony, under the theme: Moving to Billions, Celebrating Taxpayers' Impact.

According to a press release, the event, held annually, recognizes taxpayers for their invaluable contributions to the national growth and development of Liberia.

"While paying taxes is a civic duty, the LRA acknowledges that taxes play a crucial role in supporting public sector investments and development across all spheres of government. Those who consistently meet their tax obligations deserve recognition and encouragement," says Commissioner General James Dorbor Jallah.

This year's ceremony, the 5th in LRA's 10-year history, and supported by USAID, will feature awardees from both 2022 and 2023.

The release says it is worth noting that the LRA did not hold the program in those vears due to electoral activities.

As part of this year's Taxpayer Appreciation Week, the LRA,

led by Commissioner General Jallah, will make a charitable donation of assorted items to the Peter W. Sonkorlon Orphanage Home in Bong Mines, Margibi County, on Wednesday, November 20th. The donation, as part of the LRA's corporate social responsibility efforts, will highlight the importance of tax payments and demonstrate how taxes can be reinvested to positively impact lives of ordinary people in society.

On Thursday, November 21st, the LRA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and USAID LEAD partner, InfoQuest, will host the first-ever National Student Tax Day Parade, followed by an Indoor Program at the EJS Ministerial Complex in Congo Town.

The event is intended to sow a seed of tax consciousness among Liberia's student population and underscores the long-term partnership between the LRA and the Ministry of Education to

integrate tax education into the national curriculum.

On Friday, November 22nd, over 100 taxpayers will be honored with plaques, certificates, and other attractive benefits for their outstanding contributions as the highest and most compliant taxpayers. These awards will recognize businesses and individuals from all 15 counties of Liberia.

To conclude the taxpayer appreciation events, the LRA will hold a Sports Day at the Invincible Park in Sinkor on Saturday, November 23rd.

The LRA's Taxpayer Appreciation and Awards Ceremony aims to motivate and encourage both taxpayers and non-taxpayers to actively support the country's domestic resource mobilization efforts and contribute to the ongoing development of Liberia.



contracts.

from expatriates.

Copy of a contract sheet Employment. obtained by this paper Mr. Flomo explains that Definite contracts at the company.

contract duration is six months July 2024, but the company has failed to revisit these agreements.

workers' contracts and claims lifelong employment. of unfair treatments at the **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

entity. Thomas Karbell Flomo, a

complained bitterly of unfair that a total of 9 Liberians treatment, low salary, and working with the company are all constant turmoil due to the unemployed, defending that this prevalence of temporary is in accordance with Liberian Labor Standard.

According to them, there is He says under the Labor lack of salary structure, unfair Standard, there are two types of wages and marginalization employments: Definite Employment and Indefinite

indicates expiration of all Employment has to do with exact time and date an individual The documents reveal gets employed with an entity and the day his or her contracts gets from 6th January 2024 to 6th expired, while Indefinite Employment has no specific date and time and individual contract or agreement with a company, But Dongxin Machinery refutes and there is no expiration, report of the expiration of something he describes as



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NOVEMBER 21

ds Commission calls for political commitment

The National Aids Commission is calling for political and the donor community commitment and resource allocation to support national response amid global funding challenges.

By Bridgett Milton onrovia, Liberia, November 21, 2024 - The Chairperson of the National Aids Commission, Dr. Cecelia J. Nuta calls for bold political commitment and increased domestic resource

national theme, "One Goal, One Fight: Ending AIDS Together in Liberia." The NAC boss emphasizes a need for collective efforts in tackling HIV and sustaining progress.

She explains that this year's



allocation to support the country's HIV response amid global donor funding challenges.

"The fight against the spread of HIV remains a national priority that requires our collective efforts, partnership, and collaboration; we call for a united front to address structural barriers such as stigma and discrimination that impede access to HIV testing and treatment services", Chairperson Nuta says.

She notes that inadequate domestic resource allocation for HIV response in Liberia continues to undermine efforts to sustain gains beyond 2030, stressing that it is time now to own and sustain these achievements as a country. She was speaking here Wednesday, November 20, at the launch of activities to commemorate the 36th World AIDS Day under the

World AIDS Day is globally themed, "Collective Action, and Sustain and Accelerate HIV progress" aligns with Liberia's commitment to ending AIDS as a public behind the national theme. health threat by 2030.

Dr. Nuta announces that

NAC, with support from UNAID has initiated the development of a National HIV Sustainability Roadmap to transform Liberia's HIV response to a more selfreliant system. The roadmap will prioritize increased domestic financing, as outlined in the updated National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan (2021-2026). She acknowledges contributions of partners', including PEPFAR, the Global Fund, UN agencies, and civil society organizations, for their unwavering support in combating HIV in Liberia.

"We also recognize the efforts of civil society organizations that continue to stand up for the voiceless for their commitment to the national HIV response."

At the same time she appeals to policymakers, private sector actors, and community leaders to play active roles in sustaining gains made over the years.

Ahead of the main event on December 2, 2024 at the Invincible Park in Sinkor, NAC unveils a series of preactivities aimed at raising awareness and addressing stigma. These include mass media campaigns, community outreach in schools, markets, churches, and mosques, and stakeholder engagements to establish a National Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program.

"Community outreach will engage opinion leaders to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination, while creating demand for HIV testing," Dr. Nuta adds.

The week-long commemoration will culminate in an indoor program, featuring a crosssection of stakeholders.

She urges Liberians to rally reiterating the importance of collective action. "We want to humbly appeal to all state actors, policymakers, and the private sector to get involved."

Every year, Liberia joins the rest of the world to commemorate World AIDS Day. The day was set aside by the Joint United Nations Program on AIDS (UNAIDS) in 1988 to provide an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show support for people living with HIV, and to remember those who have died of AIDSrelated complications. Since then, World AIDS Day has been commemorated on

December 1 annually.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Liberia's National Commission on Disabilities to **Celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

(Monrovia, Liberia - 21 policies and programs that November 2024). The National support people with disabilities. Commission on Disabilities has announced the celebration of Multipurpose Complex in Ganta, of persons with disabilities. Nimba County.

importance of inclusive communities where every individual's unique abilities and Speaking on the occasion, potential are recognized and valued.

Sunday, December 1, 2024, with an inspiring Sports Day at the Ganta Sports Pitch. Participants will take part in a series of adapted sporting events, including wheelchair basketball, kickball, and amputee football matches. These activities aim to showcase the talents and capabilities of persons with disabilities, breaking down stereotypes and encouraging sports.

The celebration will culminate on

Tuesday, December 3, 2024, the the International Day of Persons official International Day of with Disabilities, taking place Persons with Disabilities, with a from November 30 to December special event honouring the 3, 2024, at Jackie's achievements and contributions

Renowned Liberian musician King This year's theme, "Strength in Caro is scheduled to perform, Inclusivity - Every Ability adding to the spirit and Counts," highlights the significance of the day's festivities s along with artists from Nimba County.

National Commission on Disabilities Executive Director The celebration kicks off on Samuel Dean emphasised the importance of fostering an inclusive environment for persons with disabilities:

"Our commitment to inclusion is unwavering. 'Strength in Inclusivity' means recognizing that every individual, regardless of ability, has a valuable role to play in our society. This celebration is a reminder that every ability counts, and that true progress is achieved when we uplift all members of our community. This participation in community is the foundation of the ARREST Agenda," he said.

On Monday, December 2, The National Commission on attendees will gather at Jackie's Disabilities extends an open Guest House for a Dialogue on invitation to community Disabilities and the ARREST members, advocates, and allies to



Agenda. This discussion will join in celebrating this important explore the intersection of event. disability inclusion and national Mr. Dean believes that the strengthened through inclusive all.

development priorities, country can build a future that focusing on now Liberia's prioritizes accessibility, ARREST Agenda can be acceptance, and opportunity for

LCC refutes claims of leadership crisis legitimate until the next

-Reiterates confidence in General Secretary Toe he Liberia Council of Churches says there is no conflict among its ranks and file despite a group calling itself concerned member churches of the LCC calling for an emergency assembly new leadership.

(Monrovia, Liberia, November 19, 2024) - The Liberia Council of Churches (LCC) firmly rejects media reports of a leadership crisis in the Council that questions the authority of its General Secretary Rev. Dr.

Christopher Wleh Toe, I. The LCC in a press release says these claims are baseless and aim to undermine the unity and integrity of the Council, noting that General Secretary Toe, who continues to serve under the mandate of the 34th General Assembly, and the current leadership, headed by President Rev. Dr. Samuel B. Reeves, Jr., remains

biennial assembly in May, 2025. "Any calls for an early assembly are unconstitutional and disruptive", the release says.

The Leadership of the Council headed by Dr. Reeves emphatically states that it still enjoys the confidence of Rev. Toe as its General Secretary. The LCC calls for transparency from those spreading these falsehoods and urges the media to uphold balanced in its quest for accuracy.

remain committed to upholding

The Council calls on the Lutheran Church of Liberia to

constitutional provisions of the for any illegal activities against Council by rejecting actions the LCC." intended to undermine the The release continues that the of the Council.

Liberian Council of Churches Gospel of Jesus Christ. and has provided presidential "We urge the Christian not expect the Lutheran Church Press Release of Liberia to succumb to any

illegal group to use its facility

legitimate governance process Council remains focused on its mission of fostering peace, "We want to remind the reconciliation, and national Lutheran Church of Liberia that dialogue and urges its members it is a full member of the to follow suit in preaching the

leadership of the LCC on several community to avoid actions occasions to include Bishop that could create unnecessary Roland Diggs, Bishop Sumuward division and instead, uphold the Harris and Bishop D. Jensen Church's role in promoting Senyenkulo. Therefore, we do harmony", the release appeals.

L'armée guinéenne dément les tensions à la frontière avec le Liberia

guinéennes ont « Il n'y a eu absolument aucun formellement démenti les rumeurs faisant état de tensions militaires croissantes à la frontière entre la Guinée et le Liberia, affirmant qu'aucun incident récent ne vient perturber la stabilité dans cette région.

Toumany Sangaré, porte-parole de l'armée guinéenne, a déclaré

es autorités militaires reste calme et sous contrôle.

incident. Au contraire, le commandant des casernes vient d'achever une tournée des frontières guinéennes. Ces visites permettent de maintenir des échanges réguliers avec les autorités libériennes et sierraléonaises. Les relations entre nos pays sont cordiales, et il n'y a aucun problème à signaler », a assuré M. Sangaré.

ville frontalière libérienne pour abaisser le drapeau libérien, un acte perçu comme provocateur.

Des images récentes montrant des troupes libériennes stationnées dans la ville de Sefudu, dans le comté de Lofa, ont alimenté ces spéculations. Par ailleurs, des habitants ont rapporté des cas d'intimidation présumée de la part de patrouilles guinéennes dans la région.

Sangaré, civil nommé par décret par le colonel Mamady Doumbouya, chef de la junte



au *New Dawn*, par l'intermédiaire d'un journaliste local, que la situation frontalière

Cette mise au point intervient à la suite de rumeurs accusant une patrouille guinéenne d'avoir pénétré dans une

guinéenne, a rejeté ces accusations, les qualifiant d'infondées.

e gouvernement libérien a annoncé une allocation de ■52,9 millions de dollars, don't 37,6 millions prévus dans le projet de budget 2025, pour la construction et la réhabilitation des infrastructures routières à travers le pays.

Le ministre des Finances, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, a présenté cette initiative lors d'une conférence de presse tenue le 19 novembre 2024 au ministère de l'Information, à Capitol Hill. Selon lui, les routes constituent un pilier essentiel pour dynamiser l'économie nationale et relier efficacement les différentes régions du Liberia. « Pour atteindre cet objectif, nous avons alloué 52,9 millions de dollars, don't 37,6 millions destinés spécifiquement à la réhabilitation des principaux axes routiers », a-t-il déclaré.

Ce financement, une fois approuvé par le Parlement, permettra non seulement de réhabiliter les routes rurales, mais aussi de construire des ponts métalliques, appelés ponts Bailey, dans plusieurs localités. Le ministre Ngafuan a également révélé un financement complémentaire pour des travaux en cours sur des corridors stratégiques, notamment le tronçon Saclepea-Zwedru dans le cadre du projet SECRAMP, la route Sanniquellie-Loguatuo, et la section Salayea-

Beyan Town de l'autoroute

Gbarnga-Mendikorma. Par ailleurs, 15 millions de dollars supplémentaires ont été alloués au programme *Pliable Roads*, lancé plus tôt cette année.

Le budget national pour l'exercice fiscal 2025 s'élève à 851,8 millions de dollars, soit une augmentation de 15,3 % par rapport au budget révisé de 2024 (738,9 millions). Cette enveloppe se compose de revenus internes à hauteur de 791,76 millions de dollars (93 % du total), don't 633,72 millions proviennent des recettes fiscales et 138,5 millions des recettes non fiscales. Les ressources externes, s'élevant à 60 millions de dollars, proviendront de la Banque mondiale (40 millions) et de l'Union européenne (20 millions), marquant une hausse de 50 % par rapport à l'exercice précédent. Cette augmentation est attribuée à l'amélioration continue (2025-2029), les dépenses

celles liées aux revenus, à la consommation de biens et services, ainsi qu'au commerce international.

Le Liberia prévoit une croissance économique de 5,8 % en 2025, contre 5,1 % en 2024. Les secteurs moteurs de cette croissance incluent les mines et carrières (+8,5 %), l'Industrie manufacturière (+6,9 %), l'agriculture et la pêche (+5,2 %), et les services (+5 %). En 2025, les services (38 %) et l'agriculture et la pêche (29 %) seront les principaux contributeurs au PIB, suivis des mines et carrières (19,2 %), de la foresterie (8 %), et de l'industrie manufacturière (6%).

Dans le cadre de l'Agenda ARREST pour le développement inclusif des recettes fiscales, notamment d'investissement public (PSIP)



Éditorial

Les dangers des pièces de monnaie pour les enfants, un problème à ne pas sous-estimer

es enfants dans les foyers libériens sont exposés à des risques sanitaires accrus, en particulier avec la ■disponibilité des nouvelles pièces de 5 et 10 dollars libériens. Souvent perçues comme des jouets, ces pièces finissent fréquemment dans la bouche des enfants, augmentant ainsi le risque de les avaler, ce qui peut entraîner des complications de santé graves.

Les enfants sont en contact avec ces pièces non seulement à la maison, mais aussi à l'école et dans les lieux publics, où elles leur sont souvent remises lors de petits achats : pain, bonbons, jus, biscuits, ou autres en-cas pendant les récréations. Cette situation inquiète de plus en plus les professionnels de santé, après les révélations de Jackson Coleman, technicien en radiologie à Monrovia, qui a pris en charge 28 cas d'ingestion de pièces, dont 12 ont nécessité une intervention chirurgicale.

L'ingestion de pièces peut entraîner des risques majeurs pour la santé des enfants, tels que l'étouffement, des blessures internes, voire des lésions permanentes au niveau du système digestif et des autres organes vitaux. Ces dangers, bien qu'évidents, sont encore trop souvent sousestimés, ce qui nécessite une prise de conscience collective.

En tant que parent, il est difficile d'imaginer l'angoisse que pourrait provoquer la découverte qu'un enfant a avalé une pièce. Si un tel incident survient, les conséquences peuvent être imprévisibles et graves. Il est donc impératif de prendre des mesures pour prévenir ce type d'accident.

Les pièces de 5 et 10 dollars libériens font partie d'une nouvelle série de monnaie lancée par la Banque centrale du Liberia dans le cadre d'une réforme monétaire. Composées d'acier plaqué nickel et dotées de caractéristiques de sécurité, elles sont désormais couramment utilisées pour les petites transactions quotidiennes dans le pays. Toutefois, leur omniprésence dans les échanges implique également un accès plus facile pour les enfants.

Face à cette situation préoccupante, il est crucial que les parents redoublent de vigilance et prennent des mesures pour garder ces pièces hors de portée des enfants. Elles ne doivent pas être laissées dans des endroits facilement accessibles, comme les poches ou les tiroirs non sécurisés.

La Banque centrale du Liberia n'a pas encore réagi officiellement à cette problématique, mais il semble nécessaire de mettre en place une campagne de sensibilisation à l'échelle nationale. Des programmes de communication, notamment à travers les radios, les écoles et dans les communautés, pourraient aider à mieux informer le public sur les risques liés à l'accessibilité des pièces de monnaie pour les enfants.

Il est essentiel que la société toute entière prenne des mesures pour éviter un problème de santé publique qui pourrait affecter gravement nos enfants. Comme le dit l'adage : « Un mal évité en vaut deux. »

Bien que ces pièces soient nécessaires pour faciliter les transactions, en particulier dans les marchés et les transports en commun, leur gestion doit être plus rigoureuse afin de prévenir les accidents. Garder ces pièces hors de portée des enfants est une précaution essentielle pour leur sécurité.

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Français

Start from page 8 L'armée guinéenne dément les

« C'est totalement faux. Comment pourrions-nous entrer sur le territoire libérien pour abaisser leur drapeau ? Ces allégations ne reposent sur aucune preuve. L'armée guinéenne n'est pas une armée de conquête. Sa mission se limite à la protection de notre territoire national », a-t-il déclaré dans un entretien avec Guinee160.com et le *New Dawn*.

Du côté libérien, le ministère de la Défense n'a pas encore publié de déclaration officielle. Cependant, un porte-parole a annoncé qu'une communication serait faite ce mercredi 20 novembre.

Cette controverse survient alors que le gouvernement libérien a récemment exprimé des préoccupations concernant un prétendu recrutement d'anciens combattants libériens pour des activités subversives en Guinée.

Le 12 novembre, lors d'une conférence de presse à Monrovia, le ministre de l'Information, Jerolinmek Piah, a affirmé que des recruteurs ciblaient d'ex-combattants libériens dans ce qu'il a qualifié « d'opérations subversives en Guinée ».

Bien que le ministre n'ait pas précisé où ces activités auraient lieu, il a révélé que, grâce à l'assistance d'INTERPOL, deux ressortissants guinéens – Abraham Sheriff et Zayzay Fassou Touray – avaient été arrêtés. Sheriff est accusé de financer ces opérations présumées.

L'affaire reste en cours et suscite des préoccupations croissantes dans une région historiquement fragile. Les autorités des deux pays sont appelées à redoubler de vigilance pour préserver la stabilité et la paix dans cette zone frontalière stratégique.

Le gouvernement fixe le salaire minimum à 150 USD



e gouvernement libérien a annoncé que, dès janvier 2025, le salaire mensuel minimum des fonctionnaires sera fixé à 150 USD.

Conformément à la Loi sur le travail décent de 2015 et tel qu'indiqué dans le projet de budget pour l'exercice 2025, le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai a autorisé le Ministère des Finances à allouer plus de 16 millions de dollars américains pour ajuster les salaires dans la fonction publique et répondre aux défis du secteur public.

Cette allocation comprend également des augmentations salariales pour les travailleurs de la santé, notamment les infirmiers, sagesfemmes et assistants médicaux, don't les salaires verront des majorations mensuelles allant de 25 à 50 USD. En particulier, les travailleurs de la santé recevront une augmentation de 50 USD, tandis que d'autres bénéficieront de majorations variant entre 25 et 40 USD, selon leur fonction. Les fonctionnaires des secteurs de l'agriculture et de la sécurité, y compris les membres des Forces armées libériennes (AFL), les policiers, le personnel des services d'extension agricole et les agents de la sécurité publique, bénéficieront également de d'approbation.

En outre, le gouvernement mettra en œuvre une mesure inédite concernant l'assurance des policiers en service actif. Conformément à la Loi sur la sécurité nationale de 2015, l'État prendra en charge l'assurance de plus de 5 000 membres de la Police nationale du Libéria, qui bénéficieront de cette couverture entièrement financée par l'État, à compter de janvier 2025. Cette initiative vise à soutenir ces fonctionnaires, qui assurent la sécurité publique dans des conditions difficiles.

Lors d'une conférence de presse le 19 novembre 2024, le ministre des Finances et du Plan de développement, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, a précisé que quelque 28 200 fonctionnaires, soit 45 % de la main-d'œuvre gouvernementale, profiteront des augmentations salariales prévues pour l'exercice 2025.

Cependant, sous l'administration de l'ex-président George Weah, plusieurs fonctionnaires percevaient des salaires inférieurs à 40 USD, ce qui contrevenait à la Loi sur le travail décent. À l'époque, l'ancien président Weah avait nié être au courant de cette situation.

Sous son mandat, des manifestations avaient eu lieu dans plusieurs ministères, don't le Ministère de l'Information, de la Culture et du Tourisme et le Ministère des Transports, où les syndicats des travailleurs dénonçaient des salaires jugés insuffisants et inéquitables.

Pour remédier à cette situation, le ministre Ngafuan a annoncé que des mesures ont été prises dans le budget 2025. Un montant de 2,6 millions de dollars sera alloué aux ministères de la Santé et de l'Éducation pour commencer un processus pluriannuel de

régularisation des bénévoles, après une évaluation complète de leur situation.

"Nous sommes conscients que l'intégration complète des bénévoles dans le système de rémunération représenterait un coût d'environ 15 millions de dollars, ce qui est au-delà des capacités financières du gouvernement pour l'exercice 2025, en raison des autres priorités fiscales", a déclaré Ngafuan.

Le ministre a également annoncé que près de 3 millions de dollars ont été réservés dans le projet de budget 2025 pour garantir que, dès janvier, près de 2 000 enseignants titulaires de diplômes C, B, ou de niveaux associés et bacheliers, qui sont actuellement rémunérés en dessous de leur grade, toucheront un salaire en adéquation avec leurs qualifications.

De plus, une augmentation de 225 USD sera ajoutée aux salaires des médecins spécialistes du secteur de la santé, afin de régulariser leurs rémunérations à partir de janvier 2025

Le 18 novembre 2024, le président Joseph Boakai a soumis le projet de budget national pour l'exercice 2025 à la 55e législature, entamant ainsi la procédure d'examen et d'approbation

Le projet de budget, conformément à l'article 17.1 de l'amendement de 2019 de la Loi sur la gestion des finances publiques de 2009, prévoit une enveloppe totale de 851,8 millions de dollars, soit une augmentation par rapport aux 625,57 millions de dollars du budget de l'exercice 2024.

Bien que cette augmentation puisse paraître significative, le ministre Ngafuan a souligné que ces fonds ne suffisent pas à répondre à toutes les ambitions de développement du pays. En effet, les demandes des entités publiques pour 2025 s'élèvent à près de 2 milliards de dollars.

"Les allocations du budget 2025 doivent être perçues comme une étape importante dans un processus pluriannuel visant à répondre aux défis de développement du Libéria. Le gouvernement s'engage à continuer de faire des progrès chaque année, afin de garantir un avenir meilleur pour tous nos citoyens", a conclu le ministre.

Start from page 8 53 millions alloués aux

passeront de 67,4 millions de dollars en 2024 à 98 millions en 2025, soit une augmentation de 54 %. Près de 87 millions de cette enveloppe financeront des projets multisectoriels alignés s u r c e t a g e n d a d e développement.

En matière d'éducation, près de 7 millions de dollars seront investis dans la rénovation et l'agrandissement des infrastructures scolaires, notamment celles sous la tutelle du ministère de l'Éducation et du Monrovia Consolidated School System. Dans le secteur de la santé, 14 millions de dollars ont été alloués à des projets majeurs tels que l'approvisionnement en médicaments dans les pharmacies communautaires, l'amélioration des capacités de

l'hôpital John F. Kennedy, ainsi que la reconstruction des hôpitaux C.H. Rennie (Margibi) et Jackson F. Doe (Nimba), ce dernier devenant un hôpital national de référence.

Le secteur touristique bénéficiera, quant à lui, d'une enveloppe de 500 000 dollars destinée à la création d'un conseil autonome du tourisme et au développement de stratégies marketing visant à valoriser le potentiel touristique du pays.

Pour le ministre Ngafuan, ces investissements traduisent l'engagement du gouvernement à mettre en œuvre des politiques publiques inclusives et durables. « En augmentant la proportion des dépenses d'investissement public, nous posons les bases d'une croissance économique inclusive et pérenne », a-t-il conclu.

Trois députés suspendus par le bloc majoritaire de la Chambre des représentants

e bloc majoritaire de la 55 législature de la C h a m b r e d e s représentants a suspendu, avec effet immédiat, trois députés pour une période de 30 sessions législatives. Ces sanctions, qui incluent la suppression de leurs indemnités et de toute participation aux activités parlementaires, sont motivées par des accusations de conduite inappropriée.

Les députés concernés sont J. Marvin Cole (3 district du comté de Bong), Abu Kamara (15 district du comté de Montserrado) et Edward P. Flomo (13 district du comté de Montserrado).

Le bloc majoritaire, constitué principalement de parlementaires ayant boycotté les sessions plénières, cherche depuis plus d'un mois à réunir les 49 voix nécessaires pour

destituer le président de la Chambre, Fonati Koffa. Toutefois, cette tentative n'a pas encore abouti.

La suspension des trois députés a été décidée après leur refus de comparaître devant un comité d'enquête interne formé par le bloc majoritaire. Ce comité a pour mission d'examiner des accusations de comportement jugé irrespectueux et préjudiciable à l'image publique du groupe.

Selon le bloc majoritaire, cette décision repose sur la règle 48.1 du règlement intérieur de la Chambre des représentants.

Par ailleurs, des enquêtes sont en cours à l'encontre de trois autres députés: Frank Saah Foko (9 district du comté de Montserrado), Zinnah Norman (1 district du comté de Gbarpolu) et Alex S. Noah (3 district du comté de Sinoe). Une décision finale concernant leur cas est attendue pour le jeudi 21 novembre 2024.

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LIBERIANS

Topic: Koffa Resign or Not

By: Naneka A. Hoffman



"Yes, there's a need that speaker Koffa should resign the reason is very clear if you cannot contain the 37 to have meeting meaning you cannot do business so for speaker Koffa to mean his own disgrace let speaker Koffa resigned because article 31 make it clear that the

Abraham Nyei

"Speaker Koffa shouldn't

resign he was legal

elected so if for any

reason that he shouldn't

be there are laws lets

them go through it those

that called themselves

my majority, there are

constitution

requirement, Liberia is a

country of laws not a

presiding isn't only speaker but the chief clerk."

"And the chief clerk is the

one that give oak to speaker Koffa and the rest of the guys that won the seats, the chief clerk is the presiding officer so when someone coming up to say the presiding is speaker Koffa, presiding Boakai did bad by giving the draft budget to the majority Bloc, I am saying they don't understand legislative politics because we aren't in the house there but the politics that there is different from out."

"There are lot of things going on in this country wrongly that why we aren't moving anywhere you see the western countries are developed not because criminals aren't in those countries, criminals are there the countries are developing because of rule of laws in Liberia we don't believe in rule and laws what is why we aren't going anywhere."

"I am not for speaker Koffa, or so-called majority I am for the laws, if they have interest in the speaker let the, do it with due process have, they

"No, Speaker Koffa shouldn't resign it have given no ground for he to resign the issue is that we have been told by our constitution in this country all individuals in this country deserve due process."

"Koffa been a high codea n d professional and



international speaker resigning under pressure we don't think it will be good for us."



Speaker Koffa, shouldn't resign, he is protected by the constitution look this must stop in this country these bad ways of removing people must stop."

"These bad ways of moving people from position will undermine survival of development in this country."

"You can't use an illegal process to removed constitution elected speaker.

"The desire for speaker Koffa to resign is left with his conscience Kromah, will not be the one to tell he but himself need t o understand that of no confident in his day of being he." speaker is over."

majority now; have declare vote



"Koffa, should save "He doesn't need his integrity and to think that he is resigned because if still speaker of the he waits for the house the thing is majority Bloc to get very sample that number and before Koffa put, he out, he will become speaker, have not prestige he wasn't elected and he will lose by minority group integrity, so for he it was the majority to save his integrity that elected he to that he builds over be speaker, that years let he resign."

Titus Sackor

"As for me, I think that speaker Koffa, should resign the reason is that for he to save his images that he builds over that years and maintain his integrity, if he resigns it doesn't mean that we will not get job again if the people don't want, he anymore let he turn the people job over to them."

"He should also remember that it is a moral lesson for he that not everyone that laugh with you is your friends, I wasn't even expecting CDC candidates to joined the majority Bloc to go against he.

"Let the speaker forget about this speakership and listen to the Liberian and maintain his integrity, he will still live his better live even when leave this speakership it isn't that you be somewhere noise be behind you so let he go the speakership position, and resign."







Court rejects prosecution's

informs the court.

He also references Article 21(d)(1) of the Liberian Constitution, which guarantees that all accused persons are entitled to bail, noting that excessive bail must not be imposed, in accordance with Article 21(d)(2).

provided," Judge Dixon The judge stresses that the arguments before the court. due process under the law.

> He denies the prosecution's writs and granted the defense's bond, allowing the accused to remain on bail, while giving the prosecution 72 hours to present any further evidence or Editing by Jonathan Browne

defendants, as former The case, involving prominent officials, are entitled to figures from the previous constitutional protection and administration, has drawn significant public attention, highlighting the balance between justice and the constitutional rights of the accused. The trial continues at Criminal Court "C" in Monrovia.

e ena

-As embattled Speaker weighs option

Sources within the corridors of the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill have hinted to this paper that embattled Speaker Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa is expected to backtrack on his earlier decision and resign.

By Lewis S. Teh

onrovia, November 21, 2024/ House Speaker Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa and his minority bloc were locked up in consultation meetings on

Since September, lawmakers opting to remove the Speaker have not been able to obtain 49 signatures from their colleagues to achieve their objective.

On Monday, November 19, the embattled Speaker challenged

ass dismissal i

Maryland County descends in outcry following dismissal line with the Decent Work Act of of 87 persons by two concession companies in the county, investment citing loses.

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

aryland, Liberia, November 21, 2024 -Cavalla Rubber Corporation (CRC) and Maryland Oil Palm Plantation (MOPP) both operating in Maryland County, Southeast Liberia, have redundant scores of employees, barely days

Rep. Williams emphasizes that a resurvey would've been better because those who may have applied for voluntary redundancy in 2022 might not have been interested and would've reconsidered their decision to be redundant.

The communication continues

2015. He recalls a similar redundancy

crisis faced by the company in the past, noting that during the tenure of former Speaker Bhofal Chambers, a redundancy crisis of such was managed effectively; something that Dweh notes, current Representative Anthony F. Williams, has failed to do.

"Bhofal Chambers worked with the administration and resolved a similar issue when he was the representative of Pleebo-Sodoken District. Unfortunately, we have not seen that kind of intervention from the current representative," Dweh observes.

He explains that the redundancy process at CRC is being carried out in accordance with the Decent Work Act, specifically Section 14.5, which covers employment termination.

This provision allows for the reduction of staff in situations such as business reorganization, closures, or financial crises.

According to Dewh, the Minister of Labor, Cooper Cllr. Kruah, was briefed on the matter and has given his consent to the redundancy plan on behalf of the Government of Liberia.

Despite these efforts, he expresses frustration over lack of support from the local leadership.

He criticizes Rep. Anthony F. Williams, for not reaching out to the union at the Cavalla Rubber Corporation to address concerns of the workers', adding that it's the duty of the district representative to engage with workers and address their concerns.

Meanwhile, the NEW DAWN gathers that such huge number of redundancies never happened during the Weah administration, but under Ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (2008-2009) when more than 150 workers were laid off without provoking such a strong public reaction like in this case. member of the Maryland Legislative Caucus; Mr. John Lootvoet, Executive Director, CRC, MOPP, GSI; Mr. John Y. Barkamine, Consultant, CRC, MOPP, GSI, amongst other top managers and legal counselors of the concessions. Editing by Jonathan Browne



after holding dialogue with the Maryland Legislative Caucus in Monrovia. The situation has sparked concerns among citizens and workers in the country.

There are outcries due to the Caucus' recent dialogue with managers of these companies during which the concessions complained of losses and disclosed plan to downsize their workforce.

A communication from the office of Representative Anthony F. Williams of Pleebo District, Maryland, posted on his official Facebook page, notified the people of Pleebo Sodoken District, especially employees of both concessions and the general public that Sifca Group of Companies' management (MOPP/CRC) unanimously agreed during the November 5 & 6, 2024 Consultative dialogue in Monrovia that management would've abandoned its previous redundancy plan that was initiated since 2022, on grounds that it cannot use the 2022 statistics and redundant employees in 2024.

that due to such agreement with top Managements, a call was recently placed to the Cavalla Workers Union (GAWU Local #12) through its grievance officer Mr. Taylor Collins, to present a catalogue of those employees to be redundant, especially those who have since applied for redundancy, based on personal reasons.

But despite these engagements and dialogues, the companies have finally redundant 37 employees from the Cavalla Rubber Corporation (CRC) and about 50 employees from the Maryland Oil Palm Plantation (MOPP), bringing to 87, the number of employees affected.

The President of GAAWUL Local 3, Paul W. Dweh, terms the action as regretting, because management had initially planned to lay off 59 employees, as early as October 2022, a measure aimed at addressing financial challenges.

Mr. Dweh notes that the workers' union got the information from the management in August 2024, prior to their engagement with the Caucus. However, he acknowledges that the move is in

November 21. As of 4:30 PM on Wednesday, no decision had been reached on the Speaker's future and resignation

plan. However, Speaker Koffa confirmed in a chat with this paper that there were ongoing consultations, but no decision had been reached yet.

Wednesday amidst reports of his

imminent resignation today,

Unconfirmed reports say Speaker Koffa will agree to step down only if the body elects Nimba County Rep. Musa Bility as his successor.

The dramatic twist of events

The dramatic twist in the ongoing crisis at the House of Representatives, which has lasted more than two months, follows the defection of two pro-Koffa lawmakers to the majority bloc on Tuesday, November 19, seeking the Speaker's removal.

The lawmakers who announced their defection on Tuesday are Montserrado County 17th District Representative Bernard Benson and Gbarpolu County District 1st District Representative Zinnah Normam, bringing the majority bloc number to 45.

National Budget by the Executive, under President Boakai Majority

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai suspended the 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 Representatives that the budget suspension was due to a recent court decision in the ongoing attempts by lawmakers to remove the embattled House Speaker.

The magic number requires to remove the speaker.

To remove Speaker Koffa, the majority bloc needs 49 House members to sign a resolution.

lawmakers seeking to oust him to gather that constitutionally required 49 signatures to remove him as Speaker.

The turn in events on Wednesday appears to indicate that the anti-Koffa group is edging closer to that number, as few of the Speakers lovalists have either announced their defections or are considering doing so.

More withdraw supports

On Wednesday, November 20, Bong County District #6 Representative Moima Briggs Mensah announced her decision to withdraw her support from the Speaker's bloc, leaving the Speaker with only 26 lawmakers out of 73.

Rep. Briggs blamed former President George Weah for being the mastermind behind the Speaker's removal.

The former ruling party has a large number of lawmakers among the 73 members of the House of Representatives, with both the embattled Speaker and his deputy, who is now the presiding officer for the majority bloc, being members.

Rep. Mensah, in her briefing Wednesday, vowed to remain It also followed Monday's neutral, adding that her decision is submission of the 2025 draft based on Speaker Koffa's failure to reunite his colleagues.

> "Being a second-term Lawmaker and for what "I have observed the past weeks, "I think in my mind, Speaker Koffa has failed to unite our colleagues to come back to work, and in this light, since it can not happen,"

I have decided to stay neutral in this process and will not go to the Chamber, which will not form a quorum. I will also not be going to the other end, where my colleagues are meeting, until they see the need and come to our Chamber, where we were elected as lawmakers, to do the Liberian people's jobs, Rep. Mensah added. -Writes Othello B. Garblah with additional files from Emmanuel Jipoh.

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parate writ

Grants Samuel Tweh. others defense hond

Criminal Court 'C' in Monrovia denies prosecution's writs in the ongoing trial involving former officials.

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, Liberia, November 21, 2024 -Judge Blamo A. Dixon of Criminal Court "C" denies two separate writs filed by government prosecutors in the ongoing trial involving

accused challenge.

During argument, Montserrado County Attorney representing the prosecution, requested writs of subpoena duces tecum and subpoena ad testificandum for Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) Commissioner General

However, defense lead lawyer, Cllr. Arthur Johnson, 13 of the Criminal Procedure Law.

Following arguments from both sides, Judge Dixon rules in favor of the defense, as he denies the prosecution's writs and upheld the defense's

He clarifies that under Liberian law, the prosecution three days of the bond's

opposes the motion, citing Chapter 63 of Liberia's Civil Procedure Law and Chapter

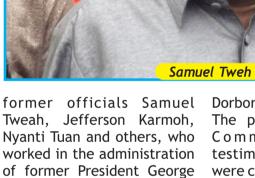
He further argues that the validity of a surety bond is a matter for the court to decide, not a subject requiring third-party testimony. Johnson emphasizes that such a determination falls under the jurisdiction of the presiding judge.

surety bond.

may challenge the sufficiency of the surety bond by filing a notice of exceptions within approval. "The prosecution may file a

notice of exceptions, after which the surety shall appear before the court for examination. If the court finds the surety sufficient, the bond will be endorsed. If not, another surety must be

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The case is about allegations

of corruption and abuse of

public office, charges the

Weah.

Dorbor Jallah.

The prosecution argues that Commissioner Jallah's testimony and clarification were crucial in determining the validity of the surety bond filed by the defense team on behalf of the accused.

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