



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

LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2024	L\$178.9837/US\$1.00	L\$180.5808/US\$1.00

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

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VOL. 14 NO. 209 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2024

-As Supreme Court orders parties to return to Status Quo Ante





Continental News

COP29: A \$300B a year deal for climate cash sparks outrage "I'm sorry to say we cannot accept it." Sudan in danger of becoming a failed state, aid chief warns Will Ross and Danai Nesta Kupemba in London Millions of people have been forced to flee their homes in Sudan

Delegates of developing countries reacted to the UN climate talks agreement on a \$300B a year for humanity's fight against climate change.

he deal is aimed at helping poor nations cope with the ravages of global warming in tense negotiations in the city where industry first tapped oil.

a chance to speak.

When they did they blasted him for being unfair to them, the deal for not being enough and the world's rich nations for being too stingy.



COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev gaveled the deal into acceptance before any nation had

"It's a paltry sum," India negotiator Chandni Raina said, repeatedly saying how India objected to rousing

She added that the amount "to be mobilized is abysmally poor" and said that developed countries are forcing developing ones to adapt without accounting for the need for economic growth.

"It is not something that will enable conducive climate action that is necessary for the survival of our country, and for the growth of our people, their livelihoods,"she

A long line of nations agreed with India and piled on, with Nigeria's Nkiruka Maduekwe, CEO of the National Council on Climate Change, calling the deal an insult and a joke.

She also said it was unrealistic, and that developed countries need to take more responsibility for their historical and current role in worsening climate change.

"It is not something we should take lightly. I do not think is something we should clap our hands (for)," she added. -Africa

Millions of people have been forced to flee their homes in Sudan War-stricken Sudan is in danger of becoming another failed state because civil society is disintegrating amid a proliferation of armed groups, the head of a leading international aid agency has

warring parties in Sudan the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces - there are many smaller "ethnic armies"

s well as the two main underfunded. Egeland said the lack of humanitarian response meant remaining sources of aid are simply "delaying deaths instead of preventing them."

"Most of Sudan is starving, it's



looting and going "berserk" on civilians, Jan Egeland, head of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), said.

"The parties are tearing down their own houses, they are massacring their own people,"

For nineteen months, there has been a brutal power struggle between the army and the RSF, that has forced over 10 million people to flee their homes and pushed the country to the brink of starvation.

"All that I saw confirms that this is indeed the biggest humanitarian emergency on our watch, the biggest hunger crisis, the biggest displacement crisis," Mr Egeland said, following a trip to Sudan.

In September, the World Health Organization (WHO) said starvation in Sudan "is almost everywhere".

forced to close due to being

starving," he said, adding that starvation has been used as a method of warfare.

Some food security specialists fear that as many as 2.5 million people could die from hunger by the end of this year.

Mr Egeland warned that the world is "failing Sudan completely" by not doing enough.

He told the BBC if Europe wanted to avoid a refugee crisis, it needed to invest in "aid, protection and peace in this corner of the world".

"It's an underfunded operation, even though it's the world's biggest emergency," he said.

Thousands of people have been killed since a civil war broke out. Rights groups have also expressed fears that there may be ethnic cleansing and genocide in Sudan.

Despite this, peace talks between the RSF and the army have been fruitless.

"The war will stop when these warlords feel they have more to lose by continuing fighting, than by Soup kitchens have been doing the sensible thing" Egeland said.-BBC

Trial set to begin for six accused in Paul Pogba blackmail case

he trial of six individuals close to football star Paul Pogba opens this Tuesday, November 26, at the Paris court. Among the accused is Mathias Pogba, the elder brother of the 2018 World Cup winner with the French national team. All are charged with attempting to extort the player in March 2022.

According to Paul Pogba, he was held captive in an apartment in the Paris region by armed men demanding €13 million as payment for alleged protection provided since the start of his career. The group reportedly included childhood friends and Mathias Pogba, who is alleged to have played a key role in the incident.

Videos posted by Mathias Pogba on social media, accusing his brother of failing to fulfill commitments to his family, drew investigators' attention and reignited the

The trial, expected to last several weeks, sheds light on deep tensions within the footballer's inner circle. Currently sidelined due to injury, Paul Pogba watches as his former confidants face charges that could lead to sentences of up to 20 years in prison.

Pogba tested positive for testosterone in August last

year and the Juventus midfielder was handed the maximum punishment by Italy's anti-doping court.

But CAS judges cut Pogba's ban as they acknowledged a lack of intent and said his positive test was the result of erroneously taking a supplement prescribed to him by a medical doctor in Florida.

Pogba's contract with Juventus was set to expire in June 2026.

"My time at Juventus has come to an end. It has been a privilege to pull on the shirt of the Bianconeri and to share so many special memories together," Pogba said in a statement.

made. They live on. Even in the with my next club," Pogba most difficult moments over the added.-Africanews past year, your support was

crucial and I want to thank Juve fans around the world for their compassion."

Pogba was the most expensive soccer player in history when he joined Manchester United from Juventus for a fee of 105 million euros (\$113 million) in

He starred in France's World Cup triumph in 2018 and returned to Juventus as a free agent in 2022. But injuries limited him to just eight Serie A appearances in his second spell at the club before his ban last year.

"I am looking forward to the next chapter of my career and "I cherish the memories we to stepping out on the pitch





By Jayati Ghosh

EDITORIAL Liberia's dealing with ECOWAS! T

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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crisis, leaving global leaders and damage. disheartened.

fossil-fuel production. During a meeting at (UNFCCC) is driven less by a commitment to promising to roll back regulations the UN system, favoring bilateral deals that the Environmental Protection Agency, geopolitical interests. vowed to "deregulate" the EPA.

successor, <u>Joe Biden</u>. He is widely expected withdraw so that the US act as a spoiler. the accord.

escalating climate crisis disproportionately more frequent, solution-driven meetings." increasingly remote.

catastrophe will depend on the global climate-financing commitments. leadership.

fossil fuels.

Even under Biden, America's green policies goods and are accessible to all. a tool" to advance its national interests.

This helps explain many of America's policy realize it cannot afford to be left behind. positions. Over the years, the US has blocked discussions on climate reparations Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at

EW DELHI - Donald Trump's victory in same time, it has sought to benefit American the US presidential election has cast a companies by prioritizing enforcement of dark shadow over the United Nations intellectual-property (IP) rights over the Climate Change Conference (COP29) in broader dissemination of green technologies. Baku. Having made no secret of his belief And it has favored vague, non-binding that climate change is a "hoax," Trump's language in international agreements on return to power threatens to undo much of national mitigation goals, adaptation the progress made in combating the climate support, and compensation for loss and

policymakers with ample reason to feel Given this reality, many negotiators believe that America's involvement in the UN Trump is expected to ramp up domestic Framework Convention on Climate Change Mar-a-Lago in May, he openly asked for \$1 multilateral cooperation and more by the billion in campaign contributions from oil pursuit of narrowly defined, self-serving and gas executives in exchange for goals. Moreover, the US frequently bypasses threatening their profits. His pick to lead align more closely with its economic and

former Congressman Lee Zeldin, has already Paradoxically, Trump's anticipated withdrawal from the Paris agreement could During his first term, Trump withdrew the pave the way for more effective climate United States from the 2015 Paris climate negotiations - a dynamic that also could agreement - a decision later reversed by his prompt the Trump administration not to

to withdraw from it again. Notably, Irrespective of Trump's policies, it is now Argentine President Javier Milei, Trump's clear that the COP process is no longer fit for political ally, recalled his country's purpose. Earlier this month, I joined other delegation from COP29 - a move that may academics and climate advocates in sending signal Argentina's imminent departure from an open letter to UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell and UN Secretary-The mood at COP29 was further dampened General António Guterres, arguing that the by the conspicuous absence of global current framework "simply cannot deliver leaders like Biden, French President the change" we need "to ensure a safe Emmanuel Macron, Indian Prime Minister climate landing for humanity." Instead of Narendra Modi, German Chancellor Olaf hosting grand annual summits that often Scholz, and Chinese President Xi Jinping, all serve as platforms for fossil-fuel lobbyists to of whom skipped this year's summit. As the broker side deals, we called for "smaller, affects the world's poorest populations, and Trust between high-income and lower-

the ongoing wars in the Middle East and income economies is crucial for any <u>Ukraine</u> continue to generate massive collaborative climate effort. To promote greenhouse-gas emissions, prospects for transparency and accountability, meaningful climate action appear governments must prioritize feasible nearterm goals over distant, effectively But the fight against climate change is not meaningless targets, and rich countries must necessarily doomed. The ability to avert make genuine, well-defined, and transparent

response to Trump's obstructionism and Importantly, climate finance must not take whether other countries can come together the form of loans, which often trap to confront the crisis, even without US developing countries in perpetual cycles of debt and distress, exacerbating their It is also worth noting that the US has long external vulnerabilities. Equally pressing is been a reluctant participant in global the need to share the knowledge and climate initiatives, regardless of who technologies critical for both mitigation and occupies the White House. This reluctance is adaptation. To be sure, achieving this would hardly surprising, given its position as the require a re-evaluation - or even an outright world's <u>largest producer</u> and net exporter of waiver - of existing IP rules, so that these vital resources are treated as global public

have been primarily additive, focusing on Even if a second Trump presidency disrupts expanding renewable-energy production multilateral arrangements, there is still rather than replacing or reducing fossil-fuel significant potential for large international extraction. As Indian journalist Nitin Sethi coalitions to tackle climate change. The has <u>noted</u>, the US approach to climate clean-energy transition, led by China and negotiations has been to "retain, reinforce, other countries, is not just inevitable - it is and gain new competitive economic already underway. As this shift becomes advantage." wielding "climate language as harder to ignore, even a US administration fixated on getting the best "deals" may

and shifted the burden of mitigation and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, financing onto emerging economies like is a member of the Club of Rome's China and India while subjecting them to Transformational Economics Commission intense scrutiny. It has ensured that and Co-Chair of the Independent financing and mitigation measures remain Commission for the Reform of voluntary rather than enforceable. At the *International Corporate Taxation* .

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MONDAY

by Sophie Scherger

Carbon Farming Won't Save the Planet

ERLIN - Healthy soil is indispensable to life on Earth, sustaining nearly 60% of all living species. As the second-largest carbon reservoir after oceans, soil is also among our planet's most important natural assets in the fight against climate change.

But the world's soils are under immense strain. Droughts are increasingly turning fertile land into deserts, while pesticide use drastically reduces soil biodiversity, threatening our ability to produce healthy food. As high-quality agricultural land becomes scarcer, conflicts over shrinking topsoil - critical for crop growth - are

The Heinrich Böll Foundation's recent Soil Atlas highlights the many ways we are losing the ground beneath our feet. The current industrial agriculture system has been a major driver of soil degradation, accelerating biodiversity loss and depleting vital carbon reserves. Yet despite its impact, the agriculture sector has made little progress in advancing climate goals. Its global greenhouse-gas emissions have remained largely unchanged over the past decade.

As countries worldwide set new emissions-reduction targets under the 2015 Paris climate agreement, it is clear that achieving real emissions cuts will require developing strategies to reduce the agriculture sector's carbon footprint.

One approach touted as a potential solution is "carbon farming," which uses market incentives to reward farmers for storing carbon in their soil. By adopting practices like planting cover crops, farmers can earn certificates for increasing carbon storage. These certificates can then be sold as carbon credits in voluntary or government-mandated markets, providing farmers with an additional income stream.

This concept has gained traction in both public-policy circles and the private sector. Fertilizer and pesticide companies like Yara and Bayer have already rolled out their own certification programs, while major agriculture producers such as Canada and Australia have integrated these credits into their markets. The European Union is also developing a certification program for carbon farming, and global carbon markets are expected to follow suit.

Unfortunately, the newfound popularity of carbon farming risks perpetuating the false notion that emissions reductions and soil carbon storage are interchangeable. Even if we accept this premise, developing a system to offset emissions through carbon storage is extremely difficult. For such a system to be effective, storage must originate from a change in farm practices and be measurable and secure for at least a century. But given that carbon stored in soils is inherently unstable and can easily be re-released into the atmosphere by droughts, floods, or shifts in farming practices, long-term storage remains highly unreliable.

Previous attempts to address this instability in other natural reserves have been unsuccessful. For example, reserve credits set aside to offset unintended carbon releases from forests in California are being depleted faster than anticipated after the intense wildfires there. And there has been little interest in credits with expiration dates, which would require buyers to renew them periodically.

While it is possible to measure the carbon stored in soil, doing so is neither simple nor cheap. The accuracy of these measurements depends on several factors, including sampling depth, location, and timeframe. Alternative methods, based on limited sampling or mathematical models, have failed to overcome measurement challenges.

Since prices for soil-carbon credits have been too low to cover the costs of changing agricultural practices, farmers are unlikely to embrace them. In response, European regulators have opted to make credit generation easier, rather than adjusting price incentives, thus compromising the system's integrity.

Beyond methodological challenges, carbon farming can serve as a smokescreen for the livestock industry. Industry groups claim that carbon storage in grasslands can offset methane and nitrous-oxide emissions. But this scenario is unrealistic, given that it would require vast amounts of grassland. It is well established that the most effective way to reduce livestock emissions is to cut livestock numbers and consumption of meat and dairy.

The carbon-market approach views maintaining soil health and reducing emissions as an either/or choice. In reality, both are necessary, as healthy soil is essential for food production. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has found that sequestering carbon in soils - or anywhere else - cannot replace emissions reductions. Targeting emissions reductions, rather than relying solely on soil credits, could have the additional benefit of weakening the appeal of controversial technologies that aim to remove carbon from the atmosphere.

Simply put, a market-based approach to carbon storage cannot deliver the transformative change we need. We cannot offset our way out of the climate crisis. Instead, we should redirect public funds currently spent on agricultural subsidies to investments that improve soil health and support farmers as they undertake the transition to a climate-resilient food system.

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by Azalina Othman Said

| Can Technology End Corruption?

UALA LUMPUR - At the end of October, the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) held its annual meeting in Vienna. Representatives from 81 member states assessed progress on the organization's mission to fight corruption through education, capacitybuilding programs, and research.

Corruption disproportionately affects the poorest and most marginalized communities, making it an economic and social tragedy as much as a political issue. According to the World Economic Forum, corruption costs the world economy an estimated \$2.6 trillion annually, or about 5% of global GDP, leaving fewer resources for essential services in many developing countries.

Digital tools can and should play an important role in the effort to eradicate corruption. Governments can use them to increase transparency, promote accountability, and empower citizens. But, as the IACA assembly concluded, technology alone cannot guarantee success. Policymakers must also commit to anti-corruption measures, deliver leadership and vision, and uphold the rule of law.

For starters, technology can aid the fight against corruption by enabling the digitalization of government services. Cumbersome bureaucratic processes all too often become breeding grounds for graft and bribery. Digital platforms that streamline and automate such services would minimize faceto-face interactions and thus reduce opportunities for wrongdoing. For example, Estonia, a pioneer in e-government, has digitalized nearly all of its public services, from tax payments to business registration, providing greater transparency and making it harder for corrupt officials to demand kickbacks.

Governments could also use blockchain technology and artificial intelligence to identify and prevent corruption. Blockchain-based publicprocurement systems would create a transparent and immutable record of tender processes. Moreover, governments have begun using AI and data analytics to track illicit financial flows that often cost billions of dollars in lost tax and customs revenue. Al also could detect patterns and anomalies that might indicate corruption, such as suspicious financial transactions or inconsistencies in procurement data. Such tools enable early intervention, which can stop corruption from growing unchecked.

Some of the world's largest corruption scandals have been exposed by whistleblowers. To facilitate reporting of wrongdoing, policymakers should introduce encrypted systems that allow individuals to report incidents of corruption and bribery anonymously. These platforms, coupled with social media, enable citizens to speak up quickly and without fear of retaliation, putting pressure on governments and businesses to act.

Despite the advances in digital tools for uncovering corruption, however, technology cannot prevent bad actors from finding work arounds. Moreover, the digital divide between rich and poor countries means that citizens and officials in the developing world often lack access to anti-corruption tools, despite having the greatest need. This problem is especially pronounced in rural areas, where corruption tends to be more widespread and people may not have the digital literacy or resources to use e-government services or online whistle blowing platforms.

For digital tools to be effective in combating corruption, the people in power must have the skills to spot wrongdoing and be aware of best practices. To that end, the IACA has focused its efforts on education and training programs. Ethics and moral reasoning must be integrated into school curricula starting from a young age. And public officials, business leaders, and law-enforcement officers should receive regular training on the most effective and efficient anti-corruption measures.

Likewise, governments should uphold the rule of law by vigorously enforcing anti-corruption legislation and closing legal gaps. Convicting corrupt actors requires strong legal frameworks, an independent judiciary, and empowered law-enforcement agencies, without which even the best technology will fail to have any real impact.

Rooting out corruption is one of the defining struggles of our time, and we now have a new set of powerful digital tools at our disposal. But while technology can help detect and prevent wrongdoing, anti-corruption laws and the authorities tasked with enforcing them must be granted the authority to finish the job.

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ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblal

with By Prof. Tom Kaydor, Jr. Lihavia naada ta Invact in Anxiaultuva and Tvanenavtation to End Evtvama Dava



Liberia needs to Invest in Agriculture and Transportation to End Extreme Poverty

iberia provides investment opportunities, mainly in the mining, agriculture, fishing, and forestry industries and in other sectors such as energy, agribusiness, telecommunication, tourism, and financial services.

Why are investors shunning Liberia despite huge opportunities?

However, despite these opportunities, the country has failed to attract any investment over the last seven years. Many factors are responsible for this lack of investment, such as the government surrendering its responsibilities to investors to build roads, schools, hospitals, and, in some cases, housing units.

An investor's primary objective in investing in any country is to minimize risk and maximize returns, not to assume the government's responsibilities. The latter, coupled with the lack of favorable conditions such as political stability, market potential, infrastructure, human capital, and legal protection, has turned potential investors away from Liberia.

Liberia is certainly rich in natural resources and has the raw materials lacking in many of its neighbouring countries. However, it has failed to attract any investment since the regime of former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

In fact, few companies that took the risk to invest during former President Sirleaf's 12 years have either folded up or transferred ownership to someone else.

The case of Sime Darby, BHP Billiton, Buchanan Renewables, and West African Telecom, among others, in the mining and agriculture sectors, are classic examples of investments that folded up on the heels of former President Sirleaf's regime.

Repeated protests orchestrated by local political rivalry (political instability) forced the Malaysian Oil Palm Company Sime Darby to park up and leave its investment in the hands of a company with little or no experience in the sector.

In addition to repeated protests at concession areas backed by political actors, the government's handing over its responsibilities to investors, requesting them to build schools, roads, and hospitals in concession communities, also makes investing in Liberia a risky venture.

It is the government's responsibility to build roads, hospitals, and schools for its people from the taxes and revenue collected from investors and not to burden them with such tasks.

When a government surrenders its corporate social responsibility to a company or an investor, it puts itself in the pocket of the investor, who sits at an advantageous point of the table during negotiations.

The recent negotiation between Arcelor Mittal Liberia and the Liberian Government and the company's refusal to allow a multi-user rail unless it becomes the regulator are explicit examples.

Another factor that makes investors shun Liberia despite its rich natural resources is its huge human capital gap and weak legal system, which does little or nothing to protect investments amidst an inherently corrupt and skilless human resource capital.

An investor once said she could not invest in Liberia because she could not afford to pay people for stealing from her-simply put, most Liberian workers could not be trusted.

Liberia lacks skilled workers, which would require an investor to bring in experts at additional costs—something every investor wants to avoid. Liberia's investment incentives do not include immigration waivers.

When considering investment destinations, investors also consider the cost of doing business. Liberia's poor infrastructure and lack of stable electricity also make it unattractive to investors.

Foreign direct investment in the Liberian economy will continue to decline unless the government creates an enabling environment for investment, including favorable conditions such as political stability, market potential, infrastructure, human capital, and legal protection.

The situation at Bea Mountain in Capemount County, where increasing protests forced Sime Darby to abandon its plantation, could also force Bea Mountain Company out of Liberia. The Government should begin to rethink the practice of surrendering its responsibilities to investors while signing concession agreements. Investors aim to minimize risk and maximize returns, not assume the government's responsibilities.

evelopment is the sustainable availability of socio-economic opportunities for everyone in a particular society. The Government has the authority and responsibility to ensure this happens.

This simply means that development must be inclusive, and rights based and intentionally deliberate. I chose to define development in such simple manner because I want my readers to grasp the context of this paper from the very beginning.

There is a need for social economic opportunities for all Liberians. When all Liberians thrive, Liberia will prosper. Liberia's longstanding development strategy has not worked for centuries because it has focused on the exportation of primary goods or commodities.

The ongoing Liberian development plan that is being formulated should therefore be focused on a social economic and environmental phenomenon that relies heavily on the export of finished products and manufactured commodities rather than primary products from the country.

In Liberia, the population that lives in areas where natural resources are extracted from for export are worse off than the Center that is better off in terms of all opportunities. The gap between the rich (Center) and the poor (periphery) has been widening for decades. It still grows bigger today.

Majority of Liberians survive on subsistent agriculture. Agriculture is therefore one of the key investment sectors that the Government needs to invest in as an economic growth corridor. When the country invests in Agriculture, food crop farmers and their cash crop counterparts will live profitably and the middle class in the country could grow bigger.

Farmers' income might increase; their living standard might equally improve, and their lifespan could rise. Thankfully, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai comes with huge experience from the agricultural sector. Therefore, his campaign agenda, the ARREST Agenda, begins with an "A" (which stands for Agriculture).

AS I SEE IT, to score significant points in reducing poverty and inequality in the country, Liberia needs to increase the production of food. Once the country can produce more for its own consumption, the surplus or excess products could be exported. Increase export from Liberia will bring in more foreign currency (fx).

When the country exports more and attracts increased FX, its balance of trade condition might improve. This might lead to an increase in the income of all including rural farmers. This means that the income of those rural farmers would rise once they are able to freely access both domestic and international markets and easily transport their excess goods to markets locally and internationally.

This is why the Government needs to invest massively in economic infrastructure especially roads or transportation. Connecting rural farmers to local and international markets is quintessential to bridging the poverty and inequality gap in Liberia. If other countries can lift millions of their citizens out of poverty, why Can't Liberia lift its entire population of a little over 5 million citizens out of poverty?

AS I SEE IT, huge investment the agricultural sector might lead to balanced political and socio-economic national development. With adequate linkages to other existing sectors, Liberia could develop into a private sector driven economy with inclusive and strong political and economic institutions.

This could lead to the creation of more economic opportunities including job creation. Liberia needs to therefore invest heavily in agriculture to create a larger middle class. An investment in agriculture requires substantial investment in the construction of roads across the country. Therefore, the National Legislature needs to place a priority on Agriculture and Roads in the 2nd National Budget of the country under this Government.

You may wish to ask, does Prof. Kaydor farm? Yes, he owns over 20 acres sugarcane farm in Harrisburg, Montserrado, his birthplace. He also engages in other agricultural activities in his home county, Grand Kru.

About the Author: Prof. Tom Kaydor, Jr. serves as an Assistant Professor at the IBB Graduate School of International Studies. He holds a PhD from the Department of Government and European Studies, the New University, Slovenia where he specialized in International Development and Diplomacy (with Security Aspects). His dissertation topic was 'Reconceptualizing Africa's Regional Integration for Peace and Sustainable Development.' He earned a Master of Public Policy (MPP) specialized in Development Policy or Development Economics with Distinction from the Crawford School of Economics and Government (now the Crawford School of Public Policy), Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. He also obtained a Master of Arts (MA) in International Relations (Highest Distinction) and Bachelor of Arts (BA) Magna Cum Laude in Political Science from the University of Liberia. Tom holds a Diploma in Leading Economic Growth from the Kennedy Graduate School, Harvard University, USA; and he holds other diplomas and certificates in professional fields from Italy, UK, Pakistan, China and Israel, Prof. Kaydor is also an Adjunct Professor of Development Studies at the AME University Graduate School. Dr. Kaydor is an evidence-based researcher, a blogger, a columnist, and a published author. One can reach him via (kaydorth@ul.edu.lr or thkaydor@gmail.com).

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NOVEMBER 25

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Minister Paye blasts Mining Cooperatives

2024

--Warns foreigners over illicit mining

Minister Paye has lamented that Liberians are ignoring the laws and illegally placing their mineral resources in the hands of foreigners.

By Lincoln G. Peters onrovia, November 25, 2024: Liberia's Mines and Energy Minister Wilmot Paye has expressed frustration at

alleged involvement in illicit and illegal mining practices and procedures.

The Mines and Energy Minister stressed that colluding with such wrong mining cooperatives businesspeople undermines



operating in Liberia for allegedly colluding with foreigners to exploit Liberia's resources.

During an acquaintance meeting with about 19 mining cooperatives recently,

Minister Paye urged them to end their partnerships with foreigners who do not mean well for the country's development.

national development and impedes the economic empowerment of Liberians.

Minister Paye told the artisanal and small-scale miners that acts of aiding and abetting wrongful practices in Class 'B' and 'C' mining license categories do not happen in isolation.

In exchange for goodwill and other opportunities, he stated that local He complained about their townspeople provide access

and protection for strangers. The Minister disclosed that Liberians are ignoring the laws and illegally placing their mineral resources in the hands of outsiders.

Yet, he continued, they are expecting good outcomes and benefits when they are robbing themselves and the country in general.

To right the wrongs, the Mines and Energy Minister informed the mining cooperatives that the Ministry had taken some practical steps, including reprofiling every license holder.

Minister Paye divulged that all members of cooperatives present at the November 21, 2024, meeting will be properly profiled by crosschecking the status of their respective mining licenses.

Minister Paye assured that such a move would be extended to every other small-scale miner.

He expressed his administration's openness and willingness to work collaboratively with the mining cooperatives to ensure a vibrant and sustainable mining sector.

Premiering on Minister Paye's reform agenda at the Ministry of Mines and Energy is to make services of the ministry accessible to

CONT'D ON PAGE 7

continued unabated. One officer was overheard threatening, "What we're doing now is nothing. When we get to the office, you'll get more."

Following the incident, a nearby resident, Lucky Boy Johnson, who had gone to check his ticket after a previous game between Barcelona and RC Celta, witnessed the events.

He told our reporter that he was standing in front of the PlayStation booth when LDEA agents entered and asked for "Shelving Stick."

CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Senator Dopoh boosts River Gee TVET program

River Gee Vocational and Technical Training Institute (RGVTTI) in Southeast Liberia receives a boost, with donation of a 32-seated bus and a Toyota Corolla Pickup for its smooth operation.

By Lincoln G. Peters

iver Gee, Liberia, November 25, 2024 - River Gee County Senator, Francis S. Dopoh, II, donated a thirty-two (32) seated Hyundai bus and Toyota Corolla to both the administration and driving department of the River Gee Vocational and Technical Training Institute (RGVTTI).

The Hyundai bus is for the administration, while the Toyota Corolla is to be used for practical session in the TEVET institution. Senator Dopoh's office encourages students at the River Gee Vocational and Technical Training Institute to make use of the "golden opportunity" aimed at collaborating together in developing the county, adding that River Gee is the center of the southeastern counties.

The donation is an effort to mitigate transportation challenge students encounter in transporting themselves to campus in Sarbo Sweaken and an annex in Fishtown City.

The official presentation, which took place on Saturday, November 23, 2024, in the county, brought together administrative staffs, students, citizens and officials from the Senator's office.

According to the office of Senator Dopoh, the donation is in fulfilment of his campaign promises during the 2023 Presidential and Legislative elections.

The senator's office recalls that during the elections, they promised the people of River Gee County that within nine years, the county could afford quality and better education.

"We believe that with these technical skills, lot of our young people in the county will acquire capacity building. We want to make this clear that, it does not mean that we do not have interest in other tertiary institutions, but we are concerned about the technical skills as a county to have comparative advantages in human resource development", the office notes. Editing by Jonathan **Browne**







UN Drive, P. O. Box 1266

LDEA accused of theft -Following raid in Fiamah The Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) faces accusation

of theft by residents following a weekend's raid in Fiamah community, Sinkor, Monrovia, leaving unspecified cash and phones allegedly taking away by LDEA agents.

By: Kruah Thompson onrovia, Liberia, November 25, 2024 Fiamah Market Junction in Sinkor, Monrovia, are accusing agents of the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) of allegedly stealing their belongings during a raid on Saturday, November 23, 2024.

The raid took place around 7:45 p.m. when LDEA agents arrived in a white pickup truck, searching for a suspect known as "Shelving Stick." Unable to locate the suspect, they arrested three individuals, identified only as Johnson, Samuel, and Buffon.

Eyewitnesses narrated that Buffon was arrested after responding to LDEA

officers, who had asked him to leave the road.

When he replied that he was - Residents of not standing in the road, it angered the agents. Eyewitnesses described a harrowing scene as Buffon was punched and beaten by at least four officers.

His cries for help filled the air, but the assault

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LDEA accused of theft

"They asked if anyone was 'Shelving Stick,' the person they were looking for. When no one confessed, they demanded we raise our hands," Johnson explains.

He adds that the officers then searched all individuals in the area, confiscating phones, money, and other valuables. "The place has only one entry point, so there was no way to escape. They took money, phones, and belongings from everyone, who was present," he says.

Another eyewitness pointed to a nearby hand pump, where he claimed Samuel was apprehended while washing his feet.

"The officers approached him and asked him to raise his hands. Knowing he had he refused. This led to the and demanding answers. officers jumping on him and allegedly taking his bag, which contained cash and valuables. He was also taken into custody" Johnson continues.

escalated the situation when his mother and sister followed the agents to their office, demanding his release. She recounted how her son, along with the other detainee, would have been released the next morning. The officers even showed

her the bag and phones, promising they would be returned upon their release. However, the incident has left a cloud of frustration over the Fiamah Market Junction community, with residents questioning the

his market money with him, conduct of the LDEA officers

injustice. It could never happen in other developed countries—arresting someone just for standing on the road and going as far as However, Buffon's arrest taking people's phones and money. Where are we taking this country?" one resident, remarked.

Meanwhile, attempts to obtain a response from the an officer assured her that LDEA's Public Affairs Department have so far yielded no substantial clarification. Despite posting an inquiry in the LDEA Media Team chat room, this paper received no response.

> Residents are urging the government to ensure that law enforcement agents are held accountable for their actions. **Editing by** Jonathan Browne

"This is a complete

11 NTA buses ready for service

-Says MD Forh The new management team at the Monrovia Transit Authority says it has repaired 11 out of the agency's 26 buses, ready to ply the street again.

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

onrovia, Liberia, November 25, 2024 -■The Managing Director of the National Transit Authority (NTA) Mr. Edmund Forh reveals here that eleven out of the agency's 26 buses that had been down, are ready to resume public transportation across Montserrado and three other counties.

In an exclusive interview over the weekend, Mr. Forh acknowledged the transportation challenges facing Liberians due to the absence of NTA buses in the streets for a good while.

He explains that procurement process for spare parts from

shortage of public transport has worsened over the years, adding that due in part to mismanagement under the previous administration.

He explains that the NTA in disarray, with only five out of 39 buses operational, and many more requiring major mechanical overhauls before they can be put back in the street.

He notes that the NTA did not have an administrative building, as the previous headquarters had been destroyed in a fire, leaving employees to work in a garage or under trees.

Mr. Forh reveals that groundbreaking ceremony for a new NTA headquarters is scheduled for next month when

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Minister Paye blasts Mining Cooperatives

miners regardless of mining district, region, or county.

To achieve this ambitious plan, the Minister told the cooperatives that his team is working tirelessly to set up county offices to handle tasks such as license renewal, grievance redress, or dispute resolution, among others.

To put words into action, he said the Ministry will provide mobility for its county staff to include motorbikes, vehicles, and other field and office equipment to make the offices functional.

"No foreigner or alien who knows no one in Liberia will transport themselves here, enter Monrovia, and get on a car and just settle into our towns and villages all by themselves...," said Minister Paye.

Minister Paye used the acquaintance gathering to assure the cooperatives of President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's commitment to providing a conducive environment for them to do their mining businesses and benefit from the minerals God has blessed their country with.

The cooperative members made a passionate plea for the Government of Liberia to grant them the right to use earth-moving equipment such as excavators to enhance their mining operations.

They gave the Ministry of Mines and Energy a firsthand account of their experiences in the artisanal and smallscale mining sub-sector.

Providing justifications, they informed the Ministry that illegal activities, including the use of contraband materials, are causing difficulty for local daily hire or mine workers to commit to working on their mining claims as was done over the years.

The Miners further disclosed that illicit and illegal Miners are violating the law daily by mining minerals in the Sarpo National Park in Sinor County.

They decried huge incentives illegal Miners use to induce daily hire staff to turn down job offers with the cooperatives.

According to them, this is imposing economic hardship on them as they rely mainly on small-scale mining for

their livelihood.

Hence, they want the government, through the Mines and Energy Ministry, to put in place a permit system that allows for the use of yellow machines by cooperatives.

Due to the barrage of difficulties, they face daily, the cooperatives said foreigners and aliens have taken over mining activities in their communities.

They stated that the foreigners use earthmoving equipment, and they are refusing to live up to agreements entered into with local government authorities.

Having listened to their concerns and complaints, the Ministry indicated that the necessary steps will be taken to fix the system.

The meet-and-greet program was attended by Deputy and Assistant Ministers of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, representatives from the German non-governmental organization - GIZ, and the Cooperative Development Agency (CDA).



the Public Procurement and institution. Planning.

He further explains that a and Broad Street. a generator.

According to him, the on motorcycles in May 2024. without power due to lack of Electricity Corporation (LEC). Mr. Forh highlights ongoing negotiations with various companies to procure new commercial buses. buses for the NTA.

hours, particularly as people rush to catch commercial buses and taxis, exacerbating traffic congestion and the scarcity of available vehicles.

The NTA boss says the

India was delayed from May to President Joseph N. Boakai will August this year due to lead the ceremony, marking a lengthy procedures involving key step in rebuilding the

Concessions Commission The NTA is also working to (PPCC) and the Ministry of reinstate it 104 routes, which Finance and Development had been suspended due to bad road conditions between Duala

portion of US\$300,000 He says transportation issues allocated for repairs was used have been compounded since to purchase a pickup truck and the Liberian National Police enforced new safety measures

generator is needed to Meanwhile, Mr. Forh notes that provide electricity at the NTA the intent of these measures is compound, which has been to improve safety, but the crackdown has significantly connection to the Liberia reduced number of motorbikes available for public transport, further straining other forms of transportation like taxis and

He assures that despite He laments hardship many challenges, the NTA Liberians endure during rush management team remains committed to restoring and improving public transportation system in Liberia for the benefit of the public. **Editing by** Jonathan Browne

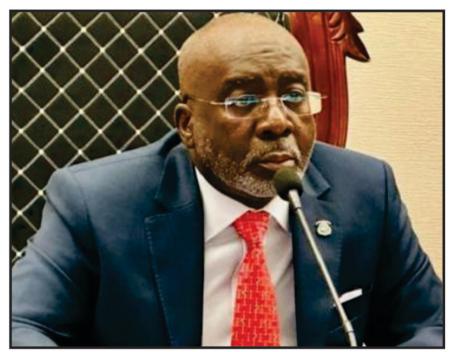
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J. Fonati Koffa conteste sa destitution et saisit la Cour suprême

algré son éviction législature. l'élection d'un nouveau président à la tête de la Chambre d e s représentants, le conseiller se proclamer président d'illégale

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par une majorité de Cependant, dans une riposte députés et juridique, M. Koffa a déposé une requête en *mandamus* auprès de la Cour suprême, remettant en question la légitimité de son éviction et dénonçant une J. Fonati Koffa continue de procédure qu'il qualifie



légitime de l'Assemblée. Le jeudi 21 novembre 2024, la majorité des parlementaires a élu Richard N. Koon, représentant du district #11 du comté de Montserrado, en tant que nouveau président, à l'issue d'un vote unanime. Koon succède ainsi à Koffa, devenant le deuxième

d'anticonstitutionnelle.

Un mandamus, issu du latin « nous ordonnons », est une injonction judiciaire contraignant une autorité publique à accomplir un devoir légal. Dans sa requête en six points, M. Koffa affirme que sa destitution découle du refus du bloc majoritaire d'assister aux sessions plénières régulièrement convoquées. président de la 55º Selon lui, cette absence a

entraîné une impasse constitutionnelle, empêchant l'atteinte du quorum nécessaire, tel que stipulé à l'article 33 de la Constitution, pour mener les activités législatives, y compris l'adoption du budget national pour l'exercice 2025.

Il accuse également le bloc majoritaire d'avoir violé les articles 33 et 34 de la Constitution et les règles internes de la Chambre. Ces violations, argue-t-il, nécessitent une intervention immédiate de la Cour suprême pour ordonner aux députés concernés de reprendre leurs fonctions parlementaires.

Le bloc majoritaire justifie la destitution de M. Koffa par une résolution signée par 50 députés, adoptée en session conjointe sous la présidence du greffier intérimaire Comic Chea. Cette décision s'appuie sur un rapport d'un comité spécialisé, qui reproche à M. Koffa d'avoir ignoré à plusieurs reprises des convocations visant à répondre à des accusations portées par six de ses collègues.

La résolution a surpris lorsque des noms de partisans supposés de M. Koffa, comme les députés Thomas Goshua (Grand Bassa), Matthew Joe (Grand Bassa) et Priscilla Cooper

CONT'D ON PAGE 09

Plus de 2 000 enseignants perçoivent des salaires inférieurs au seuil réglementaire

fonctionnaires, avec un accent particulier sur les sécurité, les professionnels de santé et les médecins.

Lors de la présentation du projet de budget national pour l'exercice 2025, le ministre des Finances, Augustine Ngafuan, a dévoilé une initiative visant à harmoniser les salaires des enseignants avec la grille salariale nationale. Cette réforme, qui prendra effet dès l'année prochaine, corrigera une anomalie qui touche actuellement plus de 2 000 enseignants, dont les revenus sont inférieurs au seuil salarial établi.

Selon le ministre Ngafuan, cette mesure s'inscrit dans une stratégie globale

e gouvernement destinée à améliorer les verront leur rémunération libérien a annoncé conditions de vie des revalorisée de plus de 200 ∎des mesures visantà fonctionnaires. Dans le dollars. revaloriser les salaires des domaine de la santé, les Ces ajustements reflètent infirmiers et médecins une volonté de reconnaître généralistes bénéficieront le rôle essentiel des enseignants, les forces de d'une augmentation de 50 dollars américains par mois, tandis que les spécialistes

professionnels de la santé dans le système national,

► CONT'D ON PAGE 09



Éditorial

La mauvaise COP de Trump

Par Jayati Ghosh

EW DELHI - La victoire de Donald Trump à l'élection présidentielle américaine a jeté une ombre sur la Conférence des Nations unies sur le changement climatique (COP29) à Bakou. N'ayant jamais caché sa conviction que le changement climatique est un « canular », le retour au pouvoir de Trump menace de réduire à néant une grande partie des progrès accomplis dans la lutte contre la crise climatique, laissant les dirigeants mondiaux et les décideurs politiques avec de nombreuses raisons de se sentir découragés.

On s'attend à ce que Trump accélère la production nationale de combustibles fossiles. Lors d'une réunion à Mar-a-Lago en mai, il a <u>ouvertement demandé</u> aux dirigeants des compagnies pétrolières et gazières de contribuer à sa campagne à hauteur d'un milliard de dollars en échange de la promesse de supprimer les réglementations qui menacent leurs profits. Le candidat qu'il a choisi pour diriger l'Agence de protection de l'environnement, l'ancien membre du Congrès Lee Zeldin, a déjà promis de « <u>déréglementer</u> » l'EPA.

Au cours de son premier mandat, Trump a retiré les États-Unis de l'accord de Paris de 2015 sur le climat - une décision sur laquelle son successeur, <u>Joe Biden</u>, est revenu plus tard. On s'attend à ce qu'il se retire à nouveau de cet accord. Notamment, le président argentin Javier Milei, allié politique de Trump, a rappelé la délégation de son pays de la COP29 une décision qui pourrait signaler le départ imminent de l'Argentine de l'accord.

L'ambiance à la COP29 a été encore plus morose en raison de l'absence flagrante de dirigeants mondiaux tels que Biden, le président français Emmanuel Macron, le premier ministre indien Narendra Modi, le chancelier allemand Olaf Scholz et le président chinois Xi Jinping, qui ont tous fait l'impasse sur le sommet de cette année. Alors que l'escalade de la crise climatique affecte de manière disproportionnée les populations les plus pauvres du monde et que les guerres en cours au Moyen-Orient et en Ukraine continuent de générer des émissions massives de gaz à effet de serre, les perspectives d'une action significative en faveur du climat semblent de plus en plus lointaines.

Cependant, la lutte contre le changement climatique n'est pas nécessairement vouée à l'échec. La capacité à éviter la catastrophe dépendra de la réponse mondiale à l'obstructionnisme de Trump et de la capacité des autres pays à s'unir pour faire face à la crise, même sans le leadership des Etats-Unis.

Il convient également de noter que les États-Unis ont longtemps été un participant réticent aux initiatives climatiques mondiales, quel que soit l'occupant de la Maison Blanche. Cette réticence n'est guère surprenante, étant donné que les Etats-Unis sont le <u>plus grand producteur</u> et exportateur net de combustibles fossiles au monde.

Même sous la présidence de Biden, les politiques vertes des États-Unis ont été essentiellement additives, se concentrant sur l'expansion de la production d'énergie renouvelable plutôt que sur le remplacement ou la réduction de l'extraction des combustibles fossiles. Comme l'a fait remarquer le journaliste indien Nitin Sethi, l'approche américaine des négociations sur le climat a consisté à « conserver, renforcer et acquérir de nouveaux avantages économiques compétitifs », en utilisant « le langage climatique comme un outil » pour promouvoir ses intérêts nationaux.

Jayati Ghosh, professeuer d'économie à l'université du Massachusetts Amherst, est membre de la Commission économique transformationnelle du Club de Rome et coprésidente de la Commission indépendante pour la réforme de la fiscalité internationale des entreprises.

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r'ran

Starts from page 8 J. Fonati Koffa conteste sa

parmi les signataires.

compris son bureau.

Dans son discours pour relever ces obstacles. d'investiture, Richard N. Koon « Je suis fermement responsabilité.

« Cette élection représente libériens », a-t-il affirmé. bien plus qu'une victoire M. Koon a également promis aspirations du peuple libérien représentants. », a déclaré M. Koon.

(Montserrado), figuraient Soulignant les défis auxquels la législature est confrontée -En outre, le bloc majoritaire a divisions politiques, donné une semaine à M. Koffa inefficacité institutionnelle et pour restituer tous les biens manque de cohésion - il s'est publics en sa possession, y engagé à collaborer avec l'ensemble des parlementaires

a exprimé sa gratitude envers déterminé à relever ces défis ses collègues et promis de avec honnêteté et intégrité. travailler à une réforme Ensemble, nous ferons institutionnelle basée sur la avancer les institutions transparence et la démocratiques pour répondre aux attentes des citoyens

personnelle : elle incarne une de placer la transparence et la vision collective pour un responsabilité au cœur de son avenir meilleur, une mandat, tout en veillant à gouvernance parlementaire renforcer la cohésion et rénovée et plus proche des l'efficacité de la Chambre des

Starts from page 8 Plus de 2 000 enseignants perçoivent des

problématique de l'équité japonais. D'autres initiatives, public.

agents de sécurité, infirmiers développement régional. et médecins. Cette initiative, Le ministre Ngafuan a qui inclut des prestations toutefois reconnu que le d'assurance santé et vie, vise budget 2025 ne saurait à réduire les charges résoudre tous les défis du financières pesant sur ces pays. Il a affirmé qu'il marque travailleurs essentiels.

enveloppe budgétaire de 10 stratégiques comme les a été prévue pour répondre des fonctionnaires et le bienaux besoins des retraités. être social. l'engagement de l'État à d'un développement durable résoudre les défis persistants et d'un changement positif à liés aux paiements des long terme », a-t-il déclaré pensions et à garantir la lors d'une interview exclusive stabilité financière des diffusée par OK FM le 20 anciens fonctionnaires.

économique.

route reliant le pont Gabriel développement du pays. Tucker au port de Monrovia,

tout en s'attaquant à la financée par le gouvernement salariale dans le secteur comme les travaux routiers de Saclepea dans le comté de Par ailleurs, le ministre a Nimba, témoignent de la annoncé que le gouvernement volonté du gouvernement prendra en charge les primes d'améliorer l'accès aux zones d'assurance des enseignants, clés et de favoriser le

néanmoins des progrès En complément, une significatifs dans des secteurs millions de dollars américains infrastructures, les salaires

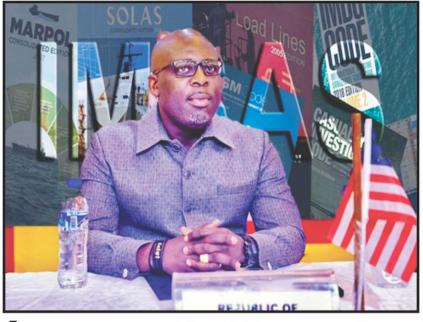
Cette allocation traduit « Ce budget pose les bases novembre 2024.

Dans le cadre des La révélation selon laquelle infrastructures, le projet de plus de 2 000 enseignants budget alloue 50 millions de perçoivent des salaires www thenewdaw dollars américains à la inférieurs au seuil construction et à la réglementaire a suscité des réhabilitation des routes, un appels urgents à une réforme levier essentiel pour structurelle. Cette situation améliorer la connectivité et met en lumière des inégalités stimuler l'activité persistantes et souligne l'importance de garantir une Parmi les projets prioritaires rémunération juste pour ceux figure la réhabilitation de la qui jouent un rôle clé dans le

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Le Liberia sous l'examen de l'audit IMSAS



e programme maritime libérien est actuellement soumis à l'audit du Mécanisme des États Membres (IMSAS) de l'Organisation Maritime Internationale (OMI).

L'IMSAS est une obligation découlant des traités de l'OMI, visant à promouvoir la mise en œuvre cohérente et efficace des instruments de l'Organisation. Cet audit a pour objectif d'aider les États membres à renforcer leurs capacités tout en contribuant à améliorer les performances mondiales et individuelles en matière de conformité avec les instruments internationaux auxquels ils ont adhéré.

L'audit, entamé aux États-Unis, se déroulera au Liberia du 25 novembre au 2 décembre 2024. Il repose sur le Code d'Application des Instruments de l'OMI (Code III), qui sert de référence pour évaluer la mise en œuvre des instruments obligatoires de l'Organisation par les États membres.

Le Commissaire et Directeur Général de l'Autorité Maritime du Liberia (LiMA), Maître Neto Zarzar Lighe, Sr., a souligné l'importance de cet audit pour le pays. Selon lui, il constitue une étape déterminante pour le développement de l'industrie maritime libérienne, permettant d'identifier les domaines nécessitant des améliorations à la suite d'une évaluation indépendante et « Réussir cet audit est essentiel rigoureuse.

« Cet audit n'est pas financier, mais systémique. Il évalue comment les conventions internationales que nous avons ratifiées sont appliquées. Les auditeurs se pencheront sur nos régimes d'État du pavillon, d'État portuaire et d'État côtier, en analysant la sécurité des navires, la prévention renforçant ainsi notre position de la pollution et les conditions de travail des équipages à bord des navires libériens », a précisé Maître Lighe.

Il a ajouté que l'audit inclura également l'examen des conclu.

inspections et détentions des navires étrangers dans le cadre des responsabilités de l'État côtier, ainsi que les inspections effectuées sur les navires dans les ports libériens pour vérifier leur conformité avec les normes internationales.

Le cadre juridique du Liberia sera aussi scruté pour évaluer comment le pays traite les violations des règlements de l'OMI.

Dans le cadre de sa préparation à cet audit, la LiMA a mené une simulation interne. « Nous avons organisé un audit simulé avec l'aide de nos auditeurs certifiés par l'OMI. Cet exercice a été crucial pour évaluer notre niveau de préparation. En tant qu'État membre de catégorie "A", nous devons être exemplaires dans chaque domaine du secteur maritime mondial », a indiqué Maître

Le Liberia joue un rôle central dans l'industrie maritime mondiale en tant qu'État du pavillon, État portuaire et État côtier majeur. Selon le Commissaire Lighe, réussir cet audit revêt une importance capitale pour la réputation du pays, en démontrant que le Liberia ne se contente pas de signer des conventions internationales, mais qu'il les met également en œuvre de manière efficace et conforme.

pour l'avenir de notre programme maritime. Cela prouvera notre engagement à respecter et à appliquer les normes internationales, de leader dans l'industrie maritime mondiale », a-t-il



beria and Liberia

thighs) at the detriment of the Liberian immediacy of the citizens' suffering. people:

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

n a scathing juxtaposition of privilege and poverty, Commissioner General James Dorbor Jallah's recent remarks regarding the plight of the Liberian people at the "Tax Appreciation Awards and Dinner Night" on November 22, 2024, have stirred a controversial discourse about the pervasive corruption and misallocation of resources within the Liberian government.

A recording with his voice making remarks at the Tax Appreciation Award and Dinner night in Monrovia trending on social media, the commissioner's metaphor of being "cooks in the kitchen" who dine on "dry rice" while "other people are eating fat, fat chicken thighs" paints a distressing picture of a gallant leadership that acknowledges its struggle yet feigns helplessness in the face of rampant malfeasance.

This analogy is poignant and not only reflects the harsh realities faced by the citizens of Liberia but also underscores an emerging disconnect between the government and its constituents.

As the downtrodden Liberian people continue to suffer, it is imperative that they demand clarity on this statement and hold their leaders accountable for their role in the national economic crisis.

At the heart of this commentary lies one fundamental question.

Who is(are) "eating fat, fat chicken thighs" in

The stark contrast between the lives of the general populace and those of the elite illuminates a disturbing narrative of inequality and injustice.

While Commissioner Jallah suggests that a brighter future is on the horizon, the grim reality is that many families struggle to meet basic needs.

In a country where significant portions of the population live on less than \$1.50 daily, the metaphorical "dry rice" resonates with a harsh authenticity.

This dire situation begs the question.

How can a government that relinquishes its accountability and moral responsibility allow the gap between poverty and wealth to expand?

The commissioner's metaphor also diverts attention from the complexities of governance.

By casting the Liberian people as passive consumers in the economic "kitchen," he implicitly excuses the systemic failures that have led to the pervasive corruption among government officials.

The statement betrays an alarming sense of complacency in failing to address the issues of transparency and accountability proactively. Instead of confronting the corruption that runs rampant through the channels of government, the Commissioner's reference to

Other People Are Getting Fat, Fat Through the possibility of future benefits is a simplistic, Mismanagement of state resources (chicken albeit naive, assertion that ignores the

Moreover, the callousness of the statement is magnified when considering the recent history of

The nation has barely recovered from the devastating civil wars that ravaged its infrastructure and destabilized its economy. The international community extended its aid,

yet looting and mismanagement continue to plague not only the revenue authority but multiple sectors of government. Therefore, the idea that the current leadership

will eventually reward citizens with a fair share of the state's resources seems disingenuous. It disregards the accumulated grievances and

marginalized by those in power. While Commissioner Jallah may argue that the current regime is simply experiencing tough times, it is essential to highlight an even graver

aspirations of those who have long felt

The deep-rooted patterns of governance leave the populace in perpetual limbo.

issue.

The metaphor of "dry rice" versus "fat, fat chicken thigh" inadvertently showcases a larger systemic failure, where government officials remain entrenched in a cycle of impunity and mismanagement.

Governance should not merely be about managing resources but should entail strategic planning, ethical stewardship, and, most importantly, genuine representation of the people's interests.

As citizens, Liberians must demand that their leaders take responsibility for their actions and reassess their priorities.

It is not enough for Commissioner Jallah to acknowledge the people's suffering while simultaneously romanticizing the notion of future improvement.

Instead, Liberians should urge him and others in positions of authority to present actionable plans that address the root causes of suffering.

Transparency in how revenue is generated and utilized must be prioritized.

The government should serve the people, not the elite few who hoard resources, leaving the majority to scrounge for survival.

Furthermore, the phrase "when things improve" expresses an unsettling passiveness reminiscent of a false promise.

While it suggests hope, it implies that change will come without significant effort or initiative.

This is particularly concerning for the Liberians who, after years of struggle, deserve more than empty promises they have heard many times.

The government needs to present a concrete vision that outlines how it intends to mitigate corruption while ensuring equitable distribution of state resources that effectively address poverty, education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

To interpret Jallah's statement as a mere verbal acknowledgment of poverty is to disregard the profound disconnect between the elite and the

suffering masses of Liberia. It is time for the Liberian people to challenge government officials to take substantial actions that lead to meaningful change rather than allowing a rhetoric of hope to alleviate suffering. In a nation where accountability should be nonnegotiable, the expectation for transparency and ethical governance must be top-of-mind.

In one of my public administration/public policy classes, I learned that, in reality, "the government is not a spectator in a societal dilemma but an active participant in either perpetuating or alleviating it."

By adopting an attitude of helplessness, the Liberian government positions itself as indifferent to the cries of its citizens.

Liberians must demand that their leaders articulate what must be done and engage with stakeholders to formulate and implement measures to curb corruption and mismanagement.

Representative governance should address the needs of the people while providing them with a sense of dignity and hope for the best future.

The idea of waiting for improvements without tangible action creates a dangerous precedent of inaction, further stranding the population in cycles of poverty and hopelessness.

The legacy of the Liberian government should not remain intertwined with inept governance or

Instead, Liberians must advocate for an exemplary government that prioritizes its citizens' rights and needs above political and personal interests.

The consequences of complacency and mismanagement are dire, particularly for future generations.

Liberians are tired of being promised a future by those who occupy offices disconnected from their realities.

It is time to amplify Liberians' voices and demand rigorous accountability and action from their

Simply put, Liberians can not afford another generation to grow up under the shadow of government inaction.

Commissioner General James Dorbor Jallah's comments offer a critical lens through which Liberians can scrutinize the current state of governance in Liberia.

His metaphorical depiction of being the "cooks in the kitchen" reveals a deep-seated disconnect that calls for an immediate reevaluation of the government's priorities.

Instead of merely acknowledging the suffering of the Liberian people, leaders must take decisive steps to address corruption and revenue mismanagement that inhibits economic

The time has come for the Liberian populace to demand clarity on these statements, insist on accountability, and challenge those in power to

fulfill their national responsibilities. Only through this dialogue can Liberia hope to bridge the chasm of inequality and work towards a more just and prosperous future for all its

citizens. With collective action, the people can emerge not as passive recipients of government goodwill but as active participants and shareholders in their destiny.

-As Supreme Court orders parties to return to Status Quo Ante

The Supreme Court of Liberia mandates all parties in the ongoing leadership crisis in the House of Representatives to return to Status Quo Ante, following a writ of mandamus filed by embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, protesting his removal.

By Lincoln G. Peters onrovia, Liberia, November 25, 2024—The ongoing leadership crisis within the House of Representatives has taken another dramatic twist following the white ballot vote that saw members of the majority bloc remove embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa. The joy of the majority bloc's apparent victory has been short-lived. This is because the Supreme Court ordered all parties involved in the leadership struggle to return to STATUS QUO, meaning they should return to their status as of October 15, 2024, before the rebellion. Embattled Speaker Koffa, who challenges his removal, filed a writ of mandamus to the Supreme Court here on Thursday,

members of the Majority Bloc, challenging his removal and subsequent replacement on the grounds that it was done outside of the legal C e A writ of mandamus is a court order that compels a lower court or government official to perform a legal duty or correct an abuse of discretion. The term comes from the Latin word mandamus, which means "we m m a n Newly elected Speaker Koon was sworn in by the Majority bloc, becoming the second Speaker of the 55th Legislature. Following his election Thursday in the Joint Chambers of the Capitol, defiant Koffa took to his Facebook page, encouraging himself and his supporters that "Nothing has happened." Despite the election of a new Speaker, Cllr. Koffa contends in his writ of mandamus to the





attention to the legality of his colleagues' decision to elect a new speaker while he remains the sitting Speaker of the 55th Legislature. However, in its order issued on 22nd November 2024, the Supreme Court commanded Cllr. Sam Main Mu, Clerk of the Supreme Court to notify the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Cllr. N. Oswald Tweh to appear and file returns on the side of the law before the FULL BENCH of the Honorable Supreme Court of the Republic of Liberia, Temple of Justice, on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. as to whether or not, the Petitioners' Petition should be granted. Furthermore, the Clerk of the Supreme Court was also instructed to notify the referenced Members of the House of Representatives to also file their returns. "You are further commanded to instruct the Minister of Justice and the referenced Members of the House of Representatives to file their official returns to this Writ in the Office of the Clerk of this Honorable Court on or before the said 26th day of November A. D. 2024, and have the Members of the House of Representatives to return to Status Quo Ante and Stay all further proceedings or actions pending the determination of the matter", the writ d e a S

The Supreme Court also mandates that the Clerk read the original to them and leave a copy of the Writ with them. As to when and how he shall have served this Writ, he will make known by filing his OFFICIAL RETURNS hereto on the back of the original Copy in the Office of the Clerk of this Honorable Court on or before the said 26th day of November A. D. 2024. Majority lawmakers replaced Speaker

Koffa on Thursday, November 21, 2024, by ruling UP lawmaker Richard N. Koon on the white ballot as the new Speaker of the u 0 S е Koon is Montserrado County District #11 Representative, who lost the race for the speakership to Cllr. Koffa during the inception of the 55th Legislature in

n u a r But a defiant Koffa has filed a six-count petition to the Supreme Court of Liberia, praying for a writ of mandamus against

Supreme Court that he remains the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 55th Legislature and Presiding Officer.

According to him, the majority bloc that announced his removal had refused to attend duly convened legislative sessions of the plenary of the House of Representatives while attaching a notarized affidavit issued by the sergeant-at-arms of the House, confirming the respondent's refusal to attend sessions. He argues that the majority bloc's refusal to attend sessions has created a constitutional procedure impasse due to the lack of the constitutional quorum required by the Liberian Constitution for the House to conduct official business, including enacting the national budget for the 2025 fiscal year law. into

The veteran Liberian lawyer and lawmaker continues that the action by the majority bloc raises grave, urgent, and pressing constitutional issues that have created a constitutional impasse, which requires immediate attention and resolution by the

"The majority bloc's failure to attend these sessions violates the Constitution, the statutory laws of Liberia, and the Standing Rules of the House of Representatives. Their actions violate Article 33, which prevents the plenary from performing legislative duties due to the lack of quorum. Also, Article 34 (d) of the constitution was violated, d which gives the House the right to enact laws. Wherefore, and in view of the foregoing, petitioners respectfully request the court to cause the Alternative writ of mandamus to be issued, requiring the majority bloc to attend plenary legislative sessions as mandated by Article 33 of the Constitution of Liberia, Statutory laws and the House Standing Rules", the Grand Kru County representatives pleads. According to the Majority bloc, 50 Representatives signed the resolution for Speaker Koffa's removal. The resolution was read in the Joint Chambers of the 55th Legislature during the Majority session presided over by Acting Chief Clerk Comic Chea, following a motion by Bong County Representative James Kolleh. The majority bloc decided to follow a specialized committee's report. Editing by

Jonathan Browne

UMC suspends Rev. Kulah

-Amid allegations of promoting GMC agenda Rev. Kulah's suspension follows recommendations from an investigative

committee and the Church Counsel of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

onrovia, November 25, 2024: The of Discipline 2016, contradicting UMC United Methodist Church (UMC)

has, with immediate effect, suspended Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah. The Vice President at the Bishop John G. Innis Graduate School of Professional Studies, United Methodist University (UMU), is accused of multiple infractions

that undermine the UMC's teachings, unity, and policies. Rev. Kulah's suspension follows recommendations from an investigative committee and the Church Counsel of the

Board of Ordained Ministry. A prominent campaigner for the Global Methodist Church (GMC), Rev. Kulah is accused of allegedly violating Paragraph 2702.1 (c, d, e, & f) of the UMC Discipline. The GMC is a breakaway denomination of the United Methodist Church, which is opposed to same-sex marriage and the

Church officials have confirmed that an investigation is ongoing.

ordination of non-celibate and gays as

Rev. Kulah has been instructed to comply fully with the process, return all UMC and UMU properties in his possession, and restrict his activities to retrieving personal belongings.

The suspension arises from allegations of multiple infractions that undermine the UMC's teachings, unity, and policies.

Key allegations include Rev. Kulah's alleged promotion of GMC Policies. The UMC said Rev. Dr. Kulah prioritizes the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline of the GMC over the UMC's Book

teachings and laws.

The UMC further accuses Rev. Kulah of affiliation with the GMC. He allegedly works as a coordinator for GMC-related projects, including a breakaway group, the Mt. Horeb Global Methodist Church, which severed ties with the UMC in May 2022.

Also, Rev. Kulah is accused of coordinating GMC-funded projects. The accusations against Rev. Kulah detailed that he is reported to oversee initiatives like the Boway Development Association, funded by the Mt. Horeb Church of Lexington, South Carolina.

These projects, according to the UMC, operate in Liberia under the GMC banner, despite the UMC's opposition to such affiliations. He is reported as advocating for

disaffiliation, which the UMC explains as saying in September 2023, the accused allegedly participated in a Nairobi meeting where GMC members strategized on disaffiliating African churches from the UMC. According to the UMC, the idea was to form independent conferences and elect new bishops aligned with the GMC.

Rev. Kulah is accused of having a membership in Breakaway Groups. As a member of the Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA), the UMC noted that Rev. Dr. Kulah is accused of supporting initiatives that contradict UMC teachings. respecting the principles of due process.

The UMC said the investigation into the allegations against Rev. Kulah is ongoing, and further updates will be provided as they become available.

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

The General Auditing Commission Old Executive Mansion Building Ashmun Street, Monrovia, Liberia

Procurement of Repair & Maintenance of Non-Residential Building (Design and Renovate) IFB No. GAC/NCB/010/2024

The General Auditing Commission (GAC) has received funds for its operations and it intends to apply

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures approved by the

- part of the proceeds of this to payments under the Contract for Repair and Maintenance of Non-Residential Building (Design and Renovate) GAC/NCB/010/2024
- The General Auditing Commission now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Repair and maintenance of non-residential building. The delivery/construction period is three (3) weeks.
- Public Procurement & Concessions Commission specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement una IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries (Liberia) as defined in the
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the General Auditing Commission Procurement Unit, Musa C. Kamara (mckamara@gac.gov.lr) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address
- Qualifications requirements include:
 - Article of Incorporation (if applicable)
 - Valid Tax Clearance
 - Valid Business Registration Certificate
 - Past performance records- including the names, and contact numbers of at least three clients.
 - PPCC vendors registration form.
- A margin of preference for eligible national contractors/joint ventures shall not be applied.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be obtained when a written communication requesting for a copy (s) is submitted to the address below. The communication should include the name of the business, name of contract package, signature of authorized person and official stamp of the business. Copy of bidding document will be available from November 26, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00 a.m. December 20, 2024. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 11:30 a.m. December 20, 2024.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Securing Declaration in the format indicated in the attached forms.
- The address referred to above is 9.

General Auditing Commission (GAC) Attention: Musa C. Kamara Procurement Manager/Procurement Unit Old Executive Mansion Bldg. Ashmun Street Monrovia, Liberia

Secretary/Procurement Committee

Interested bidders are encouraged to attend a Site Visit at the General Auditing Commission office at 10. the address indicated above on Thursday November 28 and December 5, 2024. The costs of visiting the Site shall be at the Bidder's own expense.

Manager, Procurement Unit

Hon. Foday G. Klazolu, FCCA, CPA(LIB) Deputy Auditor General/Administration

Chairman/Procurement Committee



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PAL tells House parties

calling for the return to

he Publishers concerned about the parties to respect the Association of Liberia unfolding events at the decision of the supreme (PAL) agrees with the National Legislature which is court and the rule of law. Government.

Supreme Court of Liberia in the first Branch of PAL at the same time calls status quo ante in the Heads of media group noted media institutions to avoid

matter involving members that the prolong standoff inflaming the already democracy.

House dispute to return to status quo ante-meaning back to October 15.

the replacement of the

District#11 Representative, who lost the race for the speakership to Cllr. Koffa during the inception of the 55th Legislature in January.

on its members and all fragile situation, as doing so has the propensity to undermine the security of the state and our fragile The PAL statement follows a Supreme Court stay order issued over the weekend

asking all parties to the The stay order also follows

embattled House Speaker Fonati Koffa on Thursday November 21, 2024, by ruling UP lawmaker Richard N. Koon on white ballot as new Speaker of the House. Koon is Montserrado County





of the House of Hepresentatives (Majority and Minority blocs).

PAL, which is the umbrella organization of newspapers and online magazines here

between the majority and minority blocs has affected legislative functions and the governance of the state.

PAL acknowledges the supreme court as the final in a statement issued over arbiter of justice in the land the weekend said it is and at such, calls on all







UN Drive, P. O. Box 1266

Opposite the National Investment Commission Monrovia - Liberia.

