



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

LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR DATE **BUYING SELLING**

L\$178.5734/US\$1.00 L\$180.1816/US\$1.00 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2024 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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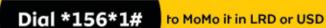
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2024

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Continental News

Kenya less open to visitors despite visa-free policy - report length has plunged in the lectronic Travel Authorisation the latest rankings of how (FTA) determines if applicants and tradicated and the legal advisers," he said. He also

NOVEMBER 27

latest rankings of how

(ETA), determines if applicants contradictions to the open it is to visitors from are eligible to travel to Kenya and



to travel to Kenya was introduced this year

other African countries despite introducing a "visa-free policy" earlier this year.

It dropped 17 places to 46th out of 54 nations, according the 2024 Africa Visa Openness Index (AVOI).

Last year, President William Ruto was highly praised after announcing that Kenya would drop visa requirements for all visitors from the continent.

But in their place most travellers now have to apply online for authorisation before leaving their country, which some have criticised as "a visa under another name".

The system, known as the

can take up to three days to be processed. Citizens from the East African Community regional bloc are exempt. The AVOI, supported by the African Union and run by the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), evaluates accessibility of African countries based on visa policies.

It says Kenya's "requirement for ETAs prior to travel for most travellers from other African countries lowered [its] score".Looking at the continent overall, AfDB director Joy Kategekwa said the fact that "Africans continue to require visas for the most part to enter other African countries is one of

continent's aspirations on regional integration".

She noted that the report also "investigates the question of [ETAs] which, notwithstanding intent, resemble features of a visa". The report says that the "introduction of ETAs by some countries added additional layers of requirements to the traveller and did not facilitate ease of movement".Last October, President Ruto said Kenya would be going "visafree" beginning in January this year, noting that the country was "the cradle of mankind".

But the latest ranking has come as no surprise to some Kenyans."I did raise this very matter in January 2024," says Mohamed Hersi, a hotelier and former chairman of the Kenya Tourism Federation.

In January, Mr Hersi, said that the ETA was "not the same as visa-free", and could make it more difficult for potential visitors to come to the country. Others have called for change in the policy.

"The ETA isn't progress—it's still a visa, adding another bureaucratic layer and making travel to Kenya harder, not easier. Time for a serious rethink on accessibility," says Kenyan entrepreneur Gina Din.

of Mauritius has said he has reservations about a deal struck by his predecessor with the UK government over the Chagos Islands.

Agreed last month, it said the UK would give up sovereignty over the remote but strategically important archipelago - though it would lease Diego Garcia, home to a joint UK-US military base, for at least 99 years.Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam, elected a fortnight ago, did not outline the exact issues he had with the deal, which still needs to be finalised in a treaty, but a cabinet minister said there were problems with the lease arrangement.

It may also face opposition from US President-elect Donald Trump's incoming administration.

Marco Rubio, Trump's pick for secretary of state, has described it as a threat to US security. When the deal was signed,

after years of talks, UK Prime

voiced surprise that the details were finalised just over a month before Mauritius's general election.Mr Powell said that negotiations would continue and both sides agreed to reconvene in Mauritius in two weeks to report their progress.

In the election campaign, Ramgoolam and his allies in the Change coalition accused then-Prime Minister Jugnauth of "high treason", describing the agreement as a "sell-out" motivated by desperation ahead of the vote.Arvin Boolell, the newly appointed minister of agro-industry and fisheries, has been more specific about the objections in his comments on Monday.

He criticised the former prime minister for granting the UK a long lease over Diego Garcia - he said it was 200 years, though the publicised timeframe was an initial period of 99 years.

"In other words," Boolell remarked to a newspaper, "the tenant has become the owner of Diego Garcia for 200 years."In recent years, the UK has faced rising diplomatic isolation over its claim to what it



ls Namibia going to elect ts first female leader?

f things work out as Namibia's long-time governing party hopes, the country will be electing its first female head of state this week.But a mood of disillusionment with liberation movements in southern Africa, coupled with the antiincumbency feeling in many parts of the world, may pose a threat to what would be an nistoric achievement.

Vice-President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, 72, is the flag-bearer for Swapo, which has led the country since independence from apartheid South Africa in 1990.

Tanzania's Samia Suluhu Hassan is currently Africa's only female president, so Nandi-Ndaitwah would be joining an exclusive club if she is victorious.

Her party, totally dominant for three decades, saw a large drop in its support in the last general election. It goes into Wednesday's vote amid an unemployment rate of 19% almost the same as it was 30 years ago - troubled government finances, questions about corruption and high levels of inequality.

Standing in Nandi-Ndaitwah's way is her main challenger among the 14 other candidates -Panduleni Itula of the Independent Patriots for Change (IPC) party. She is also up against a traditional and maledominated political culture in the country.

But she is a trusted leader of this sparsely populated and peaceful country having served in high known as South West Africa government office for a quarter since the end of World War One of a century. "I have always and later introduced the racist believed in teamwork, that is

what made me achieve what I have achieved," she has said. Known for her hands-on and pragmatic style of leadership. the vice-president is also fiercely loyal to the party, which she joined as a teenager.

At 14 she became part of the movement resisting rule from South Africa, which had governed the country - then system of apartheid.

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has been a loyal member of the governing party since she was 14

Minister Sir Keir Starmer and his then-Mauritian counterpart Prayind Jugnauth peaceful resolution of disputes and the rule of law". UK opposition leader Kemi Badenoch accused the government of not knowing "how to defend our national interests" in its handling of the negotiations.

Some groups representing the interests of Chagossians have also expressed disquiet, saying they were excluded from the negotiations.Prime Minister Ramgoolam expressed his doubts about the agreement after meeting Jonathan Powell, the UK's national security adviser, on

Monday. "I informed them that I wished to have more time to study

the details with a panel of

refers to as the British Indian Ocean Territory, with various United Nations bodies - including its top called it a "seminal moment in court and general assembly our relationship and a overwhelmingly siding with demonstration of our Mauritius and demanding the UK enduring commitment to the surrender what some have called its "last colony in Africa".

The government of Mauritius has long argued that it was illegally forced to give the Chagos Islands away in return for its own independence from the UK in 1968. At the time, the British government had already negotiated a secret deal with the US, agreeing to lease it the largest atoll, Diego Garcia, for use as a military base.

Britain later apologised for forcibly removing more than 1,000 islanders from the entire archipelago and promised to hand the islands to Mauritius when they were no longer needed for strategic purposes.

Until very recently, the UK insisted that Mauritius itself had no legitimate claim to the islands.

By Tawakkol Karman, Saul Perlmutter, and

Brian Schmidt

EDITORIAL

Giving coins to children is dangerous

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Human Progress in the Trump Era

TYDNEY - Having just been elected benefit for humanity, to harness the at a critical moment. Navigating this global cooperation. new and dangerous era of uncertainty ahead.

peaceful in history. Major strides have Amazon to the Atlantic circulation. been made in improving gender equality, occurrence, have been limited.

Humanity has all the tools it needs to before.

It is not difficult to see why. It is not a systemic failures by our decision-making converge on shared long-term goals. institutions over many decades.

intelligence holds immense potential contentious issues.

president of the United States for a promise of these technologies fully, while second time, Donald Trump is mitigating the threats, we must focus on poised to reshape international relations ethical governance, digital literacy, and

requires reflecting on the progress we Moreover, the arrival of a new world have made, not least to seek insights disorder is playing out against a terrifying into how to overcome the challenges backdrop: climate change. With each year proving hotter than the last, the planet is now dangerously close to several The past 80 years have been the most tipping points, from Antarctica to the

with the global gender gap now As we discussed at last month's Nobel considered to be 68.5% closed, Prize Dialogue in Sydney, Australia, in the according to the World Economic Forum. face of such existential threats, we have Literacy has soared: 87% of adults a responsibility - to our fellow humans, to worldwide can now read and write our planet, and to future generations - to (compared to just 36% in 1950). improve our decision-making radically. Longevity has improved dramatically, Since cooperation has always been with average life expectancy standing at humanity's superpower, the first step 73 today, up from 66 at the turn of the must be to rebuild a global culture that century. Mass famines, once a common sustains it, underpinned by a shared, fact-based understanding of reality and trust in institutions.

sustain - and accelerate - this progress. To this end, robust support for academic In fact, with the knowledge and research, scientific institutions, technologies we already possess, we professional journalism, and transparent could solve some of the greatest government agencies is vital. By fostering challenges we face, from poverty and trust in these pillars of knowledge and food insecurity to climate change and credible information, we can overcome rapid population growth. This should (mis)information overload, AI thus be a time for optimism. Yet the hallucinations, and propaganda to create Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists - whose a common base of knowledge that founders include Albert Einstein and J. transcends national and cultural Robert Oppenheimer - has set its boundaries. This effort should be Doomsday Clock at 90 seconds to supported by a renewed push to deliver midnight, indicating that humanity is education for global citizenship and to now closer to annihilation than ever establish platforms designed for collaboration and cross-cultural understanding.

coincidence that during the long period Combating misinformation and achieving of relative global peace and stability, a shared, fact-based understanding of democracy gained ground steadily, reality is a prerequisite for all efforts to broad-based global cooperation became improve global decision-making and the norm, and the world demonstrated cooperation. This would entail reforming an unprecedented shared commitment and modernizing education systems and to human rights. Today, however, we are fostering "third millennium thinking," witnessing the erosion of democracy and characterized by curiosity, creativity, and international cooperation, as well as the - most important - critical thinking. It proliferation of wars and conflicts in would also require inclusive global which innocent civilians are flagrantly governance structures, collaborative targeted, and aggressors act with problem-solving networks, and impunity. These developments reflect sustainable economic models that

Just as strong democracies spearheaded The way we consume information in the human progress over the last century, digital age has contributed to the they must play a leading role in building a problem. Social-media platforms, while global culture of cooperation. But, with offering unprecedented opportunities deep inequalities having created fertile for connection, education, and ground for anti-democratic forces, their advocacy, have also challenged our ability to do so is being cast into doubt. ability to discern fact from fiction and Deliberative citizens' assemblies and upended the shared understanding of other participatory processes using reality we need to facilitate collective random selection can help support muchproblem-solving and preserve needed democratic renewal by helping democracy. While advanced artificial societies to negotiate politically

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WEDNESDAY

By Mohamed A. El-Erian

Once Again, It Was the Economy, Stupid

AMBRIDGE - "It's the economy, stupid!" This famous mantra, coined by the political strategist James Carville, helped Bill Clinton unseat President George H.W. Bush in 1992, and now it explains another election. The economy played a critical role in the 2024 presidential race, creating the conditions not only for Donald Trump to trounce Kamala Harris, and for the Republicans to gain control of the Senate and the House of Representatives, but possibly also for a counter-elite to usher in a new power structure.

The election's outcome reflected two seemingly opposing views of the economy, both of which are correct. The interaction between them says as much about the basic economics-related strategies of the two political campaigns, good and bad, as it does about the state of expert economic communication in today's America.

The message from voter surveys was unambiguous: The economy was one of the two main issues in this election (the other being illegal immigration). When asked for specifics, many said "inflation"; and if pushed harder, they reported being heavily influenced by what they see as excessively elevated prices, and the lack of any sign that they are coming down.

The Trump campaign masterfully exploited voter dissatisfaction with the cost of living. Following Ronald Reagan's example in 1980, they repeatedly posed variations of the question: "Are you better off today than you were four years ago?"

One reason why Democrats failed to respond is that they were obsessed by another (ironically correct) characterization of the economy. The Harris campaign emphasized America's "economic exceptionalism," echoing a point that many professional economists have been making. The Democrats pointed to robust US growth, which has outpaced the rest of the G7, and to recent gains in real wages, owing to the decline in the inflation rate. And, of course, there have been multiple record highs in the stock market.

But this approach signaled to many voters that the Democrats simply did not understand what was going on, that they are fundamentally disconnected from pocketbook realities on the ground. On some occasions, they even came across as being full of hubris.

After all, a "K-shaped economy" means that improvements associated with robust growth are not evenly shared. Some sectors and households prosper; others struggle. Among those struggling the most are very low-income households that have exhausted their pandemic savings, maxed out their credit cards, have no financial buffers and, therefore, live with an unsettling degree of economic insecurity.

Michael Spence, the Nobel laureate economist, put it well at a recent lecture at the University of Cambridge's Judge Business School. Pointing to data illustrating the financial fragility of the bottom half of the income distribution, he noted that such households hearing about economic exceptionalism from the traditional media may have one or more of the following reactions: "the media doesn't know what it is talking about," "the media is biased," or "the media is not to be trusted." From these starting points, one can easily arrive at a belief that whoever is talking about the economy doing well simply doesn't understand or represent one's interests.

The Democrats also lost control of the narrative on inflation. It did little good to tell people that the rate of price increases, while still positive, had fallen sharply from its 2022 high, when their concerns were with the overall price level. The cumulative effect of inflation has added to their cost of living and thus reduced their quality of life.

Similarly, record-breaking equity-market runs mean little to households that own few, if any, stocks. Meanwhile, a housing-price boom is far from a blessing for those seeking to buy their first home.

But the issue is not just how each party communicated to voters. The traditional expert economic consensus also has proved wanting, not least in its inability to describe clearly and widely the interaction between these two views. Mainstream economists also stood little chance of changing voters' minds about the other big issue in this election: immigration.

By bolstering the US economy's supply side, illegal immigration has, in fact, supported growth. But the experts who formulate the consensus economic opinion were never going to be able to communicate this to skeptical voters, and even more so because they belong to a club that has taken one credibility hit after another for the past 16 years.

It started with the failure to anticipate the 2008 global financial crisis and subsequent Great Recession - which almost resulted in an even more devastating depression. Likewise, in 2021, the mainstream expert economic consensus insisted that the rise in the US inflation rate would be "transitory," that is temporary and reversible. But this view was upended when inflation continued to rise, peaking above 9% in June the following year.

This saga also served as a reminder of an unusual fact: the head of the world's most powerful central bank, the US Federal Reserve, is not an economist, but a lawyer. Would we have someone lacking in formal medical training put in charge of the National Institutes of Health?

All these threads are consistent with a broader theme that was apparent in this election. Not only has the "establishment," including traditional media, taken a big hit, but the incumbent elites that have led this establishment are being seriously threatened by the rise of a counter-elite. As the historian Niall Fergusonput it, this election was also a victory for "the new generation of builders whose autistic-virile qualities [Elon] Musk exemplifies."

There are many important messages in Trump's decisive victory and the down-ballot results. Democrats and the economics profession would do well to heed them.

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OPINION

By Gordon Brown

Crunch Time for the WHO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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What's driving Liberia's foreign policy?

ecent reports that Russia has announced plans to open an embassy in Liberia as part of its effort to expand its diplomatic footprint across Africa have ignited a new debate and raised questions about what is driving Liberia's foreign policy. In plain English, Liberia's foreign policy is firmly rooted in its political ideology of liberalism, democracy, and capitalism. It is modeled after the pattern adopted by the United States.

However, a foreign policy generally is a compendium of different strategies a country uses to guide its relationships with other countries and international organizations influenced by interests. Mutual interests are expressed in every relationship. How the parties maximize those expressed interests is left to them individually. A bilateral relationship between two countries is established through diplomatic interactions, trade agreements, and cultural exchanges to enhance mutual benefits. These mutual benefits are spelled out.

Thus, countries should have clear-cut goals or agendas before entering any bilateral relationship; they should know what they want and who to befriend to get it. These clear-cut goals should be tied to the country's national development agenda, which should be the driving force for entering into bilateral relationships with strategic partners.

National Agendas are long-term plans whose implementation spans ten years and requires periodic updating and revisions. They include a set of national indicators in education, healthcare, economy, police and security, housing, infrastructure, and government services. The ultimate purpose of National Agenda is to achieve sustainable development through a transformation program. It promotes an inclusive environment that integrates all segments of society.

This is where strategic partners come in, and choosing these partners strategically to target individual pilar within a national development agenda is very important. Rather than a country spreading its net or its leader traveling around with a laundry list of development needs and wishing for any country to come to its aid, it is not strategic. It leaves donor partners confused. Each strategic partner has its unique strength. Therefore, when deciding to enter a bilateral relationship with another country, it is important to know what you want from that country. Your interests and having a clear-cut goal for that relationship are more important than wasting resources.

For example, the United States could be a strategic partner in energy and electricity, Germany for Hospitals and vocational schools, China for roads and bridges, Isreal for security and counter-terrorism training, Education the United Kingdom, Japan for airports and technology, The Netherlands for seaports and so on. Meanwhile, in the absence of a clear-cut national agenda and targeting strategic partners to serve your country's agenda, such a bilateral relationship is a waste of state resources.

It is critical to note that a national agenda without a clear, developed roadmap to achieve it is mere words on paper. Knowing what you want is one thing but knowing what to do to achieve it and committing to that is another. It is good for a country to expand its diplomatic footprint across nations, but it should do so based on its interests. What can this country offer my country, and how does it contribute to my country's development agenda? Are key questions to consider when entering diplomatic relationships the cost-benefit factors.

Liberia's national vision should be a working tool for all administrations and a desire to implement the right programs to achieve it. This vision should be legislated to compel every government to commit to such an agenda by law. The indicators within the vision should be stand-alone items in the budget. Liberia's National Budget has been recurrent expenditure-based and not development-oriented year on year, hindering progress in achieving the country's development goals.

The Boakai regime can get this right if it has a clearly defined goal and looks for strategic bilateral partners for each pillar of the ARREST Agenda. The author holds a master's degree in International Relations from the University of Liberia, with high distinction.

Starts from page 7

NEC ED shares experie to be inaugurated as the 47th Biden endorsed Vice President Harris, who

election by the Electoral College.

little opposition.

considered a poor debate change. performance in June 2024 intensified concerns about his age and health and prominent issues in the campaign. leave the race.

After initially declining to do so, Biden the election. 1968.

President and the 50th Vice President was voted the party's nominee by the on January 20, 2025, after their formal delegates on August 5, 2024. Harris selected Walz as her running mate.

The incumbent President, Joe Biden, According to polls, the most important issues of the Democratic Party, initially ran for voters were the economy, healthcare, for re-election with Harris as the democracy, foreign policy (notably U.S. party's presumptive nominee, facing support for Israel and Ukraine), violent crime, immigration, gun policy, abortion, However, what was broadly racial and ethnic inequality, and climate

Education and LGBTQ rights were also

led to calls within his party for him to Polled voters consistently cited the economy as being the single most important issue in

withdrew on July 21, becoming the According to research, immigration was the first eligible incumbent president to second most important issue to Trump withdraw since Lyndon B. Johnson in supporters but the least important issue to Harris supporters.

Starts from page 7

Sen. Joseph proposes

problems,"

death, while noting that there are country." treatment.

before talking about hospital. As Browne such, it is the government, it's the

twelve children below the ages of 2 constitutional rights of those citizens and 5 years who had heart that government caters to them. We want the government and my colleagues However, he laments that out of to support this idea to reduce the death the 12, only four are life, awaiting of cancer and heart problems in the

other health cases of people sitting Sen. Saah Joseph is passionate about home, awaiting death only because Liberia's health systems, where he local doctors informed them that contributed so immensely during the they have to go outside for Ebola outbreak here in 2013, bringing ambulances into the country to take "Some of these individuals that death-stricken citizens to health have those cases, they are unable facilities across Montserrado and to even provide their daily meal, adjacent counties. Editing by Jonathan

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 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.
- 3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures approved by the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under* 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 given below.
- 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

- 6. 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

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 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.

Prepared by

Manager, Procurement Unit

Hon. Foday G. Klazolu, FCCA, CPA(LIB)

Deputy Auditor General/Administration Chairman/Procurement Committee

COMMENTARY

By: Togba-Nah Tipoteh

Uplifting Not Downputting

Ithough the main work to be done to carry Liberia forward is to Uplift Liberia and not to Down Fut Liberia, check who continua to Down Put Liberia and not to Uplift Liberia. One Uplift Liberia and not to Down Put Liberia, there are many people often hears through the media, especially the electronic media. people talk and talk about the social problems, but they present no solutions to the social problem.

Let us look at some examples of the plenty talk. There is this falsehood, advertised on radio, to get people interested to play games to get money, each person is required to pay LD200 to get into a lottery to win up to LD20,000. So if one thousand persons ware to play the Providers would get LD LD200,000 and the winner LD5,000 to LD20,000.

Many times, thousands of people play these games, and they get duped. Long time ago, I suggested to the LBS Director that the display of women almost naked on television while men are fully clothed is bad and the Director told me that the advertisements were paid for. I told the Director that it is bad and illegal for any amount of money to be used to promote discrimination, especially on the national broadcaster.

Then there are situations that are reported as news. These situations have men on the beaches wearing appropriate beach clothes while the women are almost naked. What a shame! We are not forgetting the discrimination in clothing at graduation ceremonies.

Most unfortunately, the powers that be take personal promotional positions rather than use the Rule of Law to stop and prevent these bad and illegal actions. These bad and illegal actions have become generalized with the practice of the rule of outlaw. In fact, there is this general expression saying: No Justice for the poor person. No wonder that the country operates under the rule of outlaw.

We are not surprised that eighty-five cent of the girls who should be in school are not in school (UNICEF, 2022). Then there is the bad and illegal practice of men going out and getting married to very young girls. resulting in world record teenage pregnancies, depriving them of opportunities to go to school. No wonder that there are more boys in school than girls in school in Libera and elsewhere. This is bad news.

But thanks to Our Creators that there is good news. The good news is that the bad and illegal practice is being reversed. It is being reversed through the transformation of the MESS of the educational system in Liberia, as characterized by former President of Liberia Ellen John Sirleaf.

This transformation is taking place through the process of awareness raising within the Rule of Law. Most fortunately, Liberia has an excellent Constitution which places all powers in the hands of the people, as seen in Article One of the Constitution of Liberia. This is what the late Liberian World Clas Human Rights Activist Albert Porte said that Liberia has an excellent Constitution, but the problem lies in the realm of implementation.

The implementation problem is solved when we Walk the Talk about the Constitution of Libera. The people who love Liberia are Walking the Constitutional Talk and they are winning, as seen in the non-re-election of almost all of the members of the National Legislature of Liberia who wanted to be re-elected.

This winning is taking place with the exposure of the corrupt and illegal practice of the National Elections Commission (NEC) of Liberia, as seen in its reduced cheating in the October 10, 2023, Election.

It is only through this transformation that the unfair prevailing electoral system can become the fair enduring electoral system that elects persons with good records. Through this election, persons with good records can get elected and bring in the system of Justice, the indispensable ingredient for Peace and Progress in Liberia and in any other country.

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ARTICILE

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

The Echoes of Conflict: A Generational Responsibility in Liberia

n the heart of the Mano River Union/ECOWAS/African Union lies Liberia, a nation deeply marked by its tumultuous history, especially the civil wars that ravaged the country from the late 20th century.

The generations born in the late 1960s through the 1980s witnessed the unfolding of this harrowing conflict, which led to the destruction of societal structures, familial bonds, and a sense of national identity.

Those individuals must recognize the gravity of their experiences and understand their roles as stewards of the future.

The responsibility falls squarely upon their shoulders to ensure that the devastation they endured does not spill over into the lives of the younger generations, those who were born amid the chaos and who instead should inherit a nation on the path to healing, not one still trapped in the legacies of social inequality, and money eating corrupt economic hyenasism (self-made word) system.

Conversely, the younger generations, including those born in the mid to late 1980s and into the 1990s and early 2000s, have become victims of a situation they did not create.

They are bearing the brunt of a fractured society, grappling with the effects of trauma, instability, and economic hardship that arose from the decisions and actions of their predecessors.

It is crucial that the older generations actively engage in the process of reconciliation, empowering these youths to reclaim their narratives and forge a new identity that is free from the shadows of conflict.

The House of Representatives, comprising many from the former generation, holds a pivotal role in this context, and it must act decisively to dismantle the prevailing culture of greed, corruption, sectionalism, tribalism, and nepotism that perpetuates national despair.

By doing so, after the Liberian Supreme Court invitation, they can work together and provide tangible hope to a disillusioned populace and ensure that the narrative of Liberia shifts toward one of recovery, progress, and resilience for generations to come.

Failing to address the needs and aspirations of these younger Liberians would be disingenuous, not only to their struggles but also to the prospect of a unified and peaceful future.

Acknowledging the painful past must come hand in hand with an unwavering commitment to nurturing a society that fosters hope, resilience, and growth for those who will shape Liberia's tomorrow.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NEC ED shares experience om US elections that the program featured a

According to polls, the most important issues for voters were the economy, healthcare, democracy, foreign policy, violent crime, immigration, gun policy, abortion, racial and ethnic inequality, and climate change.

the National Elections media, and the voters. Commission (NEC), Anthony Sengbe was invited by the

27, 2024: The campaigns, election Executive Director of authorities, candidates,



Sengbe, is back in the country after he joined other international elections observers to observe the US Presidential Elections.

Upon his return, Sengbe told journalists that participant learned about the decentralized U.S. election they learned about the role of the Federal Election Commission, the rights of states to conduct elections per their systems and regulations, and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) to participate in the 2024, U.S. Election Program, which took place from Sunday, November 3, to Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, D.C.

The IFES Program gathered experience. He detailed that electoral stakeholders from around the world to learn firsthand about the American electoral process and discuss democracy and elections from a comparative international perspective. Sengbe explained

series of exchanges ahead of election day on key concepts and issues impacting elections and germane to elections in every country, with a specific onrovia, November relationship between focus on the U.S. case. According to the NEC ED, on Election Day, he and other participants toured polling stations across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

During the tour, they saw how neighboring territories conducted their elections using different technology and procedures. The 2024 United States elections were held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. In the presidential election,

former President Donald Trump, running as the Republican nominee, defeated the incumbent Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris. The 2024 United States

presidential election was the 60th quadrennial presidential election.

Trump served as the 45th President of the United States from 2017 to 2021.

His running mate was J.D. Vance, the junior Senator from Ohio State.

Both men defeated the Democratic Party nominee Kamala Harris, the incumbent U.S. Vice President, and Tim Walz, the Governor of Minnesota.

Trump and Vance are scheduled

CONT'D ON PAGE 5

GOL committed t eauity-focus budget

-Assistant Finance Minister Mulbah

The Government of Liberia promises gender equity-focus budget for the country.

By Lewis S. Teh onrovia, Liberia, November 27, 2024 -Assistant Finance Minister for Budget, Madam Sarah McGill Mulbah, says the Government of Liberia under President Boakai is committed to making gender equity a central focus in planning the National Budget.

Assistant Minister Mulbah gave the assurance here on Monday, November 25, 2024, at official launch of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The launch was held at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Ministerial Complex in Congo Town. Delivering a statement on behalf of Finance and Development Planning Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, she highlighted a need for concerted efforts in battling Gender Based Violence

(GBV). She emphasized that the Ministry of Finance will

continue to play a key role in prioritizing projects and programs that address needs of women. She noted that during consultations for the development of the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID) that will be launched shortly, genderrelated issues were consistently highlighted across all discussions, underscoring their significance in national planning.

"Ending gender-based violence requires not only strong legal frameworks, but also sustained investment," Minister Mulbah underscored.

responding to gender-

based violence is costly. citing the lack of resources for law enforcement. "If a woman is raped and the police don't have gasoline for their vehicles or motorbikes, that responsibility is transferred to the

grieving family. Government has to take care of its responsibility in reducing response time," she urged.

In addition to direct interventions, she pointed out the importance of supporting indirect sectors such as education, healthcare, and economic opportunities in fostering adequate responses to gender-based violence. The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international civil society-led campaign. It commences on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and ends on 10 December, Human Rights Day, highlighting that violence against women is the most pervasive breach of human She further stressed that rights worldwide.



Sen. Joseph proposes **US\$10M Medical Fund**

-To address cancer, heart problems, others

Opposition Senator Saah Joseph, is proposing a US\$10 million Special Medical Fund to fight growing wave of cancer and heart complications-related deaths in the country.

By Lincoln G. Peters onrovia, Liberia, November 27, 2024 -Montserrado County Senator Saah Joseph proposes US\$10 million Special Medical Fund in the 2025 Draft National Budget currently before the Liberian senate for passage.

Senator Joseph, staunch steward of the former ruling Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) says US\$5 million of said amount should go toward equipping specialized doctors to perform services in country, while the remaining US\$5 million may be used to address special medical needs of Liberians face with cancer and heart complications outside the country.

He also suggests that the Special Medical Fund should be managed by a special unit or department within the Ministry of Health to enhance transparency and accountability, while noting that patients will be approved for the fund based on doctors' medical diagnosis, which he believes will make it difficult for anybody to fabricate the illness. "...I am pushing for this now because we have the National Budget before us and this not coming from anybody; rather, the Liberian people. It is their money, the budget. We don't have insurance that covers all of our citizens and so, with that it will greatly help", he pleads. Explaining more, he says the

only thing that is needed to equip those specialized doctors



of cancer and heart problems in less timeframe. across the country.

directly.

Tuesday, November 26, 2024 in senate plenary and further reporters. Senator Joseph carter to their stay. urges his colleague to approve Fund in the Draft National Budget because it will address such complications that are mostly referred aboard due to lack of specialists. According to him, to equip specialized doctors to do the job here would cost approximately five million for equipment and specialized Hospital to tackle

lives of many Liberian on a

daily basis.

He notes that US\$10 million is and the health sector to perform nothing for the government to surgical services are financial do to save (in his words), resources and if that is done, alarming death rate because those equipment are shippable

Sen. Joseph cites Ghana as an He added that such fund example that on a yearly basis would enable citizens to feel provides professional medical impact of the national budget treatment for her citizens through intervention of He made the proposal on international doctors at their health facilities that are well equipped, adding that the only in a special press briefing with thing the government does is to

"A sister of mine, who was chief the proposed Special Medical administrative officer for me at the House of Representatives, this year she started her cancer treatment and she passed while on the treatment. She was referred to India. There are also series of heart disease cases for children that have taken their lives. The last time I visited a program at the Monrovia City Hall organized by a medical such illnesses that are taking doctor to raise resources for

CONT'D ON PAGE 5

F'rançais

La PPCC auditionne la LTA sur la sélection d'une société fictive a Commission des graves à la transparence et à affirme que leurs

marchés publics et des concessions (PPCC) ouvre aujourd'hui une enquête sur des accusations d'irrégularités

WEDNESDAY

l'équité dans l'évaluation des propositions étaient les propositions soumises.

Au cours de l'audience, Angela Cassell Bush, présidente par intérim de la LTA à l'époque des

KUKATUNON WE ARE ONE

seules examinées ce jour-là. Pourtant, la LTA aurait par la



concernant un appel faits et responsible du Système d'offres en cybersécurité lancé par l'Autorité des télécommunications du Liberia (LTA). Au cœur de la controverse se trouve la sélection suspecte d'une entreprise qualifiée de « société fictive » comme lauréate du contrat. Cette démarche fait suite à une plainte déposée par Aloysius S. Zayzay, fondateur et PDG du groupe SATZ. Celui-ci dénonce des manquements l'ouverture des offres. Il

de passerelle internationale, devra s'expliquer sur les circonstances ayant conduit à cette sélection controversée. Des sources internes révèlent que la LTA pourrait demander le report de l'audience afin de permettre le retour au pays de Prince Goah, ancien directeur des achats, pour qu'il participe aux délibérations.

Selon M. Zayzay, seules deux critères utilisés pour entreprises - SATZ et Millennium - étaient présentes lors de

preuve de publication d'un nouvel appel d'offres. Ces allégations, combinées à des soupçons de pots-de-vin et à une opacité persistante, jettent un doute sérieux sur l'intégrité du processus.

La rédaction de New Dawn a officiellement sollicité des éclaircissements auprès de la LTA sur le nombre total de soumissionnaires, les sélectionner le lauréat, l'identité du gagnant,

CONT'D ON PAGE 09

Signature d'un protocole d'accord de coopération technique entre le Liberia et l'Égypte

du Liberia (NaFAA), a signé, de division AlHussein ambitionne également de Farahat Mohamed, directeur exécutif de l'Agence de protection et de développement des ressources lacustres et halieutiques de la République arabe d'Égypte.

Ce protocole d'accord vise à renforcer la gouvernance des pêches, à promouvoir le développement de l'aquaculture et à intensifier les programmes de recherche scientifique. Il s'inscrit dans une volonté commune d'approfondir la coopération entre les deux

pays.

Emma Metieh Glassco, Selon un communiqué officiel, transformer l'industrie directrice générale de l'objectif principal de cet piscicole libérienne, l'Autorité nationale des accord est d'établir une majoritairement artisanale, pêches et de l'aquaculture collaboration technique mutuellement avantageuse, le lundi 25 novembre 2024, tout en stimulant les échanges compétitif. au Caire, un protocole commerciaux et en Pouratteindre ces objectifs, d'accord de coopération encourageant la participation le protocole prévoit des technique avec le général du secteur privé. L'accord initiatives de renforcement

en un secteur aquacole commercialement viable et

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

On s'attend à ce que Trump accélère la production nationale de combustibles fossiles. Lors d'une <u>réunion à Mar-a-Lago</u> 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, Joe Biden, 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 États-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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rançais

Starts from page 8 La PPCC auditionne la LTA sur la

NOVEMBER 27

l'appel d'offres. Cependant, dans la compétition initiale, version précédente de charges. l'affaire sans consultation M. Zayzay conteste

« en temps voulu ».

vidéo, obtenus par des respectée. sources anonymes, révèlent Cette affaire met en lumière des discussions entre des de graves lacunes dans la responsables de la LTA et l'un gestion des appels d'offres des soumissionnaires, ainsi publics au Liberia. La LTA, au que des échanges internes cœur de la controverse, fait entre des employés face à des interrogations subalternes. Ces fuites, d'une croissantes sur sa gravité notable, soulignent gouvernance et son respect des tentatives de des normes de transparence. contournement des L'issue de cette enquête sera procédures établies. Des cruciale pour rétablir la informations internes confiance dans les processus indiquent également que la de passation des marchés LTA aurait cherché à engager publics et prévenir de futures un consultant externe, en controverses similaires.

toujours tenue secrète, et contournant l'appel d'offres. l'éventuelle relance de Ce consultant, non impliqué depuis deux semaines, la LTA se serait vu confier des tâches reste muette, accusant New correspondant aux exigences Dawn d'avoir publié une définies dans le cahier des

préalable. Bien que le fermement l'évaluation de sa commissaire Abu Kamara ait proposition, qu'il estime initialement accepté de injuste. Selon lui, la Section répondre aux questions, 20 du cahier des charges l'institution a finalement exigeait la présentation des déclaré qu'elle s'exprimerait CV de trois membres clés de l'équipe, condition que le Des enregistrements audio et groupe SATZ affirme avoir

Signature d'un protocole

Liberia et d'autres des informations sensibles. institutions universitaires. Les agents de surveillance des également prévus.

d e s domaine de l'aquaculture.

s'engagent à travailler dans le fluviaux, côtiers et marins. respect de leurs législations Enfin, des groupes de travail nationales et des normes seront constitués pour internationales. Elles analyser les données

des capacités à travers des et d'appliquer des stratégies formations pour les communes visant à lutter agriculteurs, des échanges contre la pêche illégale, non d'experts, ainsi que des déclarée et non réglementée programmes pour les (INN). Des mécanismes étudiants et chercheurs, d'échange de données sur les notamment en partenariat navires autorisés à pêcher avec le Département des seront mis en place, tout en pêches de l'Université du garantissant la confidentialité

Des projets conjoints de deux pays collaboreront pour recherche scientifique sur les enquêter sur les activités de ressources halieutiques sont pêche INN, partager les informations collectées et Un des aspects clés de harmoniser leurs politiques l'accord concerne la afin d'assurer une réponse facilitation des échanges concertée et efficace face à commerciaux entre les ces défis. Dans le domaine de secteurs privés des deux pays, l'aquaculture, l'accord accompagnée d'une prévoit des transferts de collaboration étroite dans le technologies, notamment suivi, le contrôle et la dans l'élevage de tilapias et le surveillance des activités de développement d'espèces pêche. L'accord prévoit en locales à des fins outre le transfert d'expertise commerciales. Il inclut technique et le renforcement également le partage c a p a c i t é s d'expertise en matière de institutionnelles dans le gestion des maladies, d'adoption des meilleures En matière de gouvernance pratiques de production et de des pêches, les deux parties suivi des écosystèmes

s'efforceront de développer collectées et améliorer la

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Le gouvernement libérien défend l'extradition d'un ressortissant guinéen



e gouvernement du Liberia a justifié la remise du mercenaire guinéen Ibriam Kahli Cheriff aux autorités de son pays, affirmant que cette décision respectait les normes du droit international et les protocoles diplomatiques, malgré les critiques persistantes.

Le ministre de l'Information, de la Culture et du Tourisme, Jerolinmek Matthew Piah, a déclaré que Cheriff était accusé de participer à des activités de déstabilisation en Guinée. notamment au sein de groupes mercenaires, ce qui représentait une menace directe pour la sécurité régionale.

« En le transférant à la Guinée, le Liberia a honoré ses engagements pour la paix et la sécurité régionales tout en respectant ses obligations internationales concernant la lutte contre la criminalité et l'utilisation illégale de son territoire », a affirmé le ministre Piah.

Le ministre a souligné l'importance de traiter les questions de sécurité nationale avec prudence, avertissant qu'une gestion inadéquate pourrait compromettre les progrès réalisés par le pays ces dernières années.

« Chaque décision prise dans cette affaire a été minutieusement réfléchie pour protéger les intérêts suprêmes du Liberia et garantir une stabilité durable », a-t-il ajouté.

Piah a également insisté sur la nécessité d'une coopération responsible avec les pays voisins, en particulier sur des questions touchant leur sécurité.

« Nos relations avec les nations voisines doivent être gérées avec le plus grand soin, car la paix et la stabilité de la région en dépendent », a-t-il déclaré, ajoutant que l'extradition de Cheriff avait été effectuée dans le strict respect des lois et des normes internationales

Cette extradition a toutefois suscité une controverse après qu'un juge de la Cour criminelle « A », Roosevelt Willie, a ordonné au gouvernement de produire Cheriff vivant dans un délai de 72 heures. Cette décision faisait suite à une requête en habeas corpus déposée par les avocats de Cheriff, qui

Le juge a exigé un rapport détaillé sur la localisation de Cheriff, avertissant que le non-respect de cette injonction pourrait entraîner des sanctions judiciaires.

De son côté, l'ancien juge de la Cour suprême, Kabineh M. Ja'neh, représentant les intérêts de Cheriff, a accusé le ministre de la Justice, Oswald N. Tweh, et le chef de la police, Gregory Coleman, d'avoir orchestré l'enlèvement de son client.

Ja'neh a qualifié cet acte de violation flagrante des droits de son client et des lois libériennes, rappelant que le kidnapping est un crime de premier degré passible de lourdes sanctions pénales.

En réponse aux critiques, le ministre Piah a défendu les actions du gouvernement comme étant conformes à son engagement en faveur de la sécurité nationale et régionale.

Dans une interview accordée à la chaîne nationale ELBC, il a déclaré que la priorité du gouvernement était de prévenir toute utilisation du territoire libérien à des fins subversives.

« Si un citoyen libérien menaçait la stabilité de la Guinée, nous attendrions d'eux qu'ils nous le remettent. Pourquoi agirions-nous différemment dans cette situation ? », a-t-il interrogé.

Église Méthodiste Unie suspend le Rév. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah

'Église Méthodiste Unie (UMC) a suspendu avec effet stratégique en septembre 2023 à immédiat le Rév. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah, vice-président de la Nairobi, où des membres de la GMC Bishop John G. Innis Graduate School of Professional auraient élaboré des plans pour Studies à l'Université Méthodiste Unie (UMU).

Cette décision fait suite aux recommandations d'un comité d'enquête et du Conseil ecclésiastique des ministres ordonnés, qui l'accusent de multiples infractions compromettant les enseignements, l'unité et les politiques de l'UMC.

Le Rév. Kulah, figure éminente de l'Eglise Méthodiste Globale (GMC), est accusé de violations présumées des paragraphes 2702.1 (c, d, e, f) du Book of Discipline de l'UMC. La GMC, une dénomination dissidente, s'oppose au mariage homosexuel et à l'ordination de personnes non célibataires ou homosexuelles, positions en désaccord avec celles de l'UMC.Principaux chefs d'accusation L'UMC reproche au Rév. Kulah de donner la priorité au Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline de la GMC, au détriment du Book of Discipline 2016 de l'UMC, ce qui contredit les enseignements et les lois de l'Église. Il est également accusé d'affiliation active avec la GMC, notamment en tant que coordinateur de projets financés par cette dernière, comme la Boway Development Association, soutenue par la Mt. Horeb Church basée en Caroline du Sud. Ces initiatives opèrent, selon l'UMC, sous la bannière de la GMC au

Liberia, en violation de l'autorité ecclésiastique.

Le Rév. Kulah aurait également participé à une réunion

encourager la désaffiliation des églises africaines de l'UMC. Cette stratégie viserait la formation de conférences indépendantes et l'élection de nouveaux évêques alignés sur les positions de la GMC. Atteinte à l'unité de l'Eglise

En tant que membre de la Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA), le Rév. Kulah est accusé de soutenir des initiatives contraires aux valeurs de l'UMC. Il aurait diffusé des informations trompeuses sur l'Église et coordonné l'Africa Initiative, un groupe critiqué par les évêques de l'UMC pour ses actions jugées sources de division. Ces initiatives, selon l'UMC, auraient gravement compromis l'unité de l'Église en Afrique, en violation de son engagement à préserver.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Draft Budget 2025: Emphasis on Recurrent Expenditure with Neglected Capital Investment

By Seltue Karweaye

WEDNESDAY

n fiscal year 2025, President Joseph Boakai has proposed a budget totaling \$851.8 million. A significant portion of this budget, specifically \$745.69 million, is allocated for recurrent expenditures, making up 87.5% of the overall budget. This proposal represents the first full annual financial plan under his administration.

The majority allocation reflects the government's focus on ongoing operational costs, including salaries and essential services. However, this trend raises concerns about excessive recurrent spending, reliance on new borrowings, and debt servicing obligations. One major drawback of this budget is the insufficient emphasis on capital expenditures, which are critical for the country's long-term development.

Given Liberia's extensive infrastructure deficit, the lack of investment in capital projects is particularly disheartening. The nation urgently needs improvements in infrastructure—such as roads, bridges, and public facilities—to facilitate economic growth and enhance the quality of life for its citizens. Therefore, President Boakai needs to reevaluate the budget estimates and prioritize funding for infrastructure development. By doing so, he can help initiate the vital infrastructure renewal program that the country needs to thrive.

The administration has announced plans to increase civil servants' salaries by 2025, responding to the pressing issue of low wages in Liberia. However, the financial situation is precarious; the government is currently grappling with a severe budget deficit and has funded some of its activities through loans. With inflation rates soaring to 10.1%, exacerbated by the rapid decline of the Liberian dollar, even modest wage increases may be rendered ineffective. The combination of high inflation and currency devaluation threatens the purchasing power of ordinary Liberians, posing an ongoing risk of economic hardship soon if the government fails to stabilize both the currency and inflation.

On the other hand, capital expenditure remains alarmingly insufficient in the 2025 draft budget. Only US\$106.07 million, or 12.5% of the total budget, is allocated for infrastructure development and basic services. Among this, a mere US\$52.82 million is earmarked specifically for road construction and repair. This allocation falls drastically short in light of the country's significant infrastructure deficit, which has hindered economic growth and development.

Rather than prioritizing funding to address the pressing infrastructure needs, President Boakai has proposed an allocation of US\$39,886,910 for the National Legislature. This allocation raises concerns as it appears to divert attention and resources away from critical public infrastructure projects.

Specifically, the Office of the Speaker is receiving a budget of US\$1,755,553, with the Speaker's annual salary set at US\$245,540, equating to approximately US\$21,211.67 per month. Similarly, the Office of the Senate Pro Tempore has been allotted US\$1,024,136, while its annual salary amounts to US\$254,250 (around US\$21,187.50 per month). Additionally, the Office of the Deputy Speaker receives US\$645,817, with the Deputy Speaker's annual salary being US\$208,940 (roughly US\$17,411.67 per month).

In 2024, as part of a controversial budget allocation, each of the 103 lawmakers in Liberia was granted \$45,000 to acquire SUVs. This decision stems from the lawmakers' recognition of the poor state of the country's road infrastructure, which significantly hampers their ability to fulfill their responsibilities effectively. The allocation for these vehicles serves as a temporary measure to address the challenges legislators face while navigating treacherous road conditions throughout the nation.

Despite this financial effort to enhance mobility for the lawmakers, it raises concerns about the lack of attention given to the underlying infrastructural issues in Liberia. The substantial funds dedicated to vehicle purchases highlight a pressing need for comprehensive road repairs and upgrades, which have been largely overlooked in the overall budget proposal. This situation points to a systemic problem in the country's governance, where urgent infrastructural improvements are necessary to support both public officials and the citizens they serve. Addressing these road conditions is essential not only for the efficiency of government operations but also for the broader development and connectivity of Liberian communities.

In 2019, the Global Competitiveness Index Report highlighted the critical state of infrastructure in Liberia, ranking the country 132nd out of 140 economies assessed for the quality of their infrastructure facilities. This low ranking underscores the ongoing challenges Liberia faces in terms of developing and maintaining essential infrastructure. According to the World Bank, Liberia's infrastructure stock is significantly below the global standard, which recommends that infrastructure investments should constitute approximately 70 percent of a country's gross domestic product (GDP). The current state of Liberia's roads is concerning, as the percentage of paved roads remains relatively low, severely limiting transportation and accessibility. Additionally, only 27% of Liberia's population has access to electricity, which poses major obstacles to economic growth and quality of life.

To address these infrastructure deficits, the World Bank estimates that Liberia will need to allocate between \$350 million and \$600 million annually over the next three decades. These funds will be necessary depending on the technologies adopted and the standards set for infrastructure development. This investment is crucial for bridging the existing

gap in infrastructure that has hindered the country's progress.

Moreover, the imbalance between recurrent spending (which covers operational costs) and capital spending (which is focused on infrastructure and development projects) further complicates Liberia's development efforts. Participants at the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries stressed the critical role of infrastructure development. They stated that building vital infrastructure—such as roads, bridges, and communication systems—is not merely about construction; it is a strategic means to achieve broader developmental outcomes, including the reduction of poverty and the improvement of living conditions for the populace.

There is more concerning news regarding Liberia's economic landscape that requires careful attention. According to the World Bank, Liberia's fiscal deficit has increased significantly from 1.5 percentage points, now standing at 7.1% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023. This increase can be attributed to a notable decline in revenues and grants, coupled with rising consumption spending by the government. As a result of this fiscal pressure, the government has found it necessary to resort to borrowing to finance some of its operations.

The public debt situation in Liberia raises serious concerns about the nation's fiscal health. As of 2023, the total public debt has surged to US\$2.5 billion, amounting to 58.8 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This represents a significant increase from US\$1.8 billion, or 53.3 percent of GDP, recorded in 2021.

Looking ahead to the upcoming 2025 fiscal year, the Liberian government has earmarked US\$137 million specifically for debt servicing. This figure illustrates a substantial rise in expenditures dedicated to managing public debt obligations and is projected to constitute 16.1 percent of the total budgeted expenditures. Notably, this allocation for debt servicing is the highest single expenditure item within the government's budget estimates in recent years, especially considering it follows the cancellation of a considerable \$4.6 billion in debts that Liberia previously owed.

Evaluating a country's debt sustainability requires a comprehensive analysis of several economic indicators that provide insights into the country's financial stability. One of the most critical metrics is the gross debt as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), known as the debt-GDP ratio. For Liberia, this ratio stood at 41.6% in 2022, which is noteworthy when compared to the sub-Saharan African average of 56%. The World Bank has identified that economic growth begins to suffer significantly when the debt-GDP ratio surpasses a threshold of 77%. This finding underscores the importance of keeping Liberia's ratio below this critical level to ensure ongoing economic health.

Another key measure of debt sustainability is the Debt-Service Ratio, which indicates the proportion of a nation's export earnings that are allocated to servicing its debt obligations. An ideal Debt-Service Ratio is considered to be below 18%, as a lower figure suggests a healthier economic environment. For Liberia in 2022, the Debt-Service Ratio was reported at 6.4%, indicating that the country is currently managing its debt obligations within a sustainable framework. However, it is important to note that while Liberia's Debt-Service Ratio is less alarming compared to many other African nations—where the average was 19% in 2022—the trends presented in the data indicate that Liberia could be approaching a precarious juncture. If these patterns continue unchecked, the country may face significant challenges in effectively managing its debt in the years ahead, necessitating prudent fiscal policies to avert potential economic distress.

To effectively reboot the economy, it is essential to redirect emphasis toward infrastructure development, which serves as a critical foundation for sustained economic growth. One of the immediate steps the President can take is to significantly reduce the cost of governance. This can begin with a thorough evaluation of the current cabinet structure, which is perceived as oversized and inefficient. For instance, Belgium, boasting a GDP of \$594.1 billion, manages to operate efficiently with only 15 ministers, including the prime minister. In stark contrast, Liberia, with a substantially lower GDP of \$4.76 billion, maintains a cabinet of 19 ministers, in addition to numerous other appointed officials. This disparity highlights the need for a leaner and more cost-effective government structure in Liberia. Furthermore, President Boakai should consider a drastic reduction in his office budget as outlined in the 2025 draft budget. Currently, the proposal indicates a budget increase from \$1,963,504 in 2024 to \$3,442,406 in 2025. This increase is counterproductive, especially in the context of economic recovery. Instead, he should aim to implement significant cuts, prioritizing essential expenditures and eliminating wasteful spending.

In addition to budget reductions, President Boakai should limit international trips to cut down on expenditures. By carefully evaluating the necessity of these trips and prioritizing only those that are crucial for Liberia's interests, the government can ensure that funds are used more effectively.

Additionally, it would be prudent for the government to look into reorganizing the numerous Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). This can be achieved through strategic mergers, scrapping redundant offices, and potentially outsourcing certain functions to enhance efficiency. A streamlined government structure would not only reduce costs but also improve service delivery to the public.

berian Dollar short

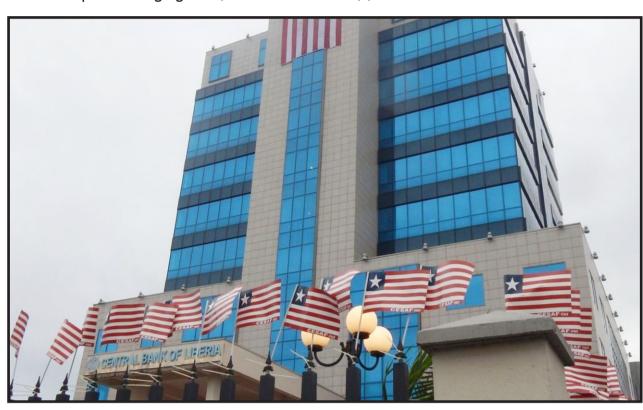
NOVEMBER 27

The Bank has strongly cautioned the public that statements on monetary policy must be authorized by the Central Bank of Liberia.

27, 2024: The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has clarified recent reports alleging a

onrovia, November Liberian dollar liquidity management, safeguarding foreign reserves, and containing inflationary Liberian dollar currency in pressure. This approach circulation is estimated at

been conducted by the CBL since the last half of 2019. As of October 2024, the



shortage of Liberian dollars and distrust in the local currency.

Through a press release issued Tuesday, November 26, 2024, the CBL categorically stated that there is no Liberian dollar shortage. The Bank indicated that the exchange rate is strictly market-determined, and there is no shortage of Liberian dollars in the economy.

Contrary to claims that Liberia's currency issues stem from more than supply and demand dynamics, the report acknowledges that foreign currency exchanged for Liberian dollars supports the value of the domestic currency.

The CBL considers this as a clear validation of the market-driven nature of the exchange rate.

Since the last quarter of 2019, the CBL shifted from exchange rate targeting an interest rate-based monetary policy framework for effective

has:Strengthened the value of the Liberian dollar, Eased pressure on the country's foreign reserves and contained inflation within a single digit in line with the CBL's core mandate.

At the recent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meetings, the monetary policy rate was reduced from 20% to 17%, a move that has supported relative stability in the Liberian dollar and increased public confidence, which reflects growing trust in the domestic currency, contrary to the report.

Additionally, under the IMF's Extended Credit Facility (ECF) program, the CBL discontinued foreign exchange auctions with strict restrictions.

The assertion in the report suggesting that auctions conducted to the tune of incorrect, as no auction has financial system."

approximately LRD 28 billion.In addition to the Liberian dollar in the operational vault, the CBL maintains more than adequate LRD in the reserves vault of the bank to meet current and post-festive market demand and ensure seamless transactions. The Management of the CBL dissociates itself from recent publications in the local daily regarding the exchange rate and LRD scarcity.

The Bank strongly cautions the public that statements on monetary policy must be authorized by the Central Bank of Liberia to reflect the Bank's official stance.

"The public is reassured of the CBL's effective monetary policy management to preserve economic stability, protect the value of the Liberian dollar, and LRD 65 million in 2023 is strengthen the country's

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LTA's "Ghost-Bidder" defense postponed

speculation and unrest within the industry.

SATZ's head, Aloysius S. Zayzay, has publicly asserted that his company was disqualified from the bidding despite meeting all necessary requirements, raising serious concerns about the fairness and transparency of the LTA's evaluation process. The

underscore the urgent need for a comprehensive investigation into the LTA's procurement practices.

The lack of clarity surrounding the selection process continues to erode trust among potential

bidders and stakeholders,

prompting industry

observers to call for

allegations made by SATZ immediate action to ensure accountability and restore confidence in the bidding process.

> Meanwhile, SATZ is calling on the Center for Transparency and Accountability of Liberia (CENTAL) and the Liberia **Anti-Corruption Commission** (LACC) for updates on its complaint filed on October 9 of this year.

Senate named and shamed

The Liberian Senate faces criticism for doing business with majority lawmakers in the House of Representatives.

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, Liberia, November 27, 2024 -Senator Joseph Jallah of Lofa County is concerned about the Liberian Senate doing business with majority lawmakers of the House of Representatives despite a leadership impasse engulfing that body.

The senate recently commenced business with the majority bloc that announced the removal of embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa. The Senate's decision comes as a result of a letter sent to the majority bloc here, craving them for concurrence on two key legislative instruments.

Those legislative instruments amongst others include an Act seeking to amend the Liberia Maritime law, and the Liberia Sea Port and Regulatory Authority; the Act if passed by the 55th Legislature, will create independent seaports and inland ports.

The legislative instrument will

seaports and inland ports operation and service in Liberia. Senator Jallah raised the concern on Tuesday, 26 November in plenary when the agenda was read and open for adaption and addition.

"Mr. Presiding, it's noticed that our decision taken recently has been taken to one of the factions in the House, but not the regular Speaker (J. Fonita Koffa); especially the last bill that was passed under the watch of Vice President Jeremiah Koung", he points out.

Based on the concern raised by Senator Jallah, plenary descended in disorder, on grounds that they have ratified their wrong in a consultation that he failed to attend.

However, superficially addressing the claim by the Lofa County Senator, Vice President Jeremiah Koung, who is also President of the Liberian Senate. explained that they called for consultation, but Sen. Jallah didn't attend. "However, we made a decision in the meeting. And so, we hope that you attend



regulate authority to provide the meeting to have for the regulation and understanding", President Koung sustainable development of clarifies. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2024

LTA's "Chost-Bidder" defense postponed

As reported in the Tuesday, November 26, edition of the New Dawn Newspaper, authorities at the Liberian Telecommunications Authority (LTA) requested a postponement of the bid irregularity hearing before the Public Procurement and Concession Commission on Tuesday.

onrovia, Liberia – and Concession Commission November 26, 2024 (PPCC) had arranged the

- The hearing as hearing for November 26, scheduled was intended to 2024, at its offices. However, address complaints the SATZ Group, the regarding irregularities in a complainant prompting the

Currently, the LTA has not disclosed the identity of the winning bidder for the Cybersecurity project, leading to increased

complications related to the bidding process. As a result, the LTA formally requested

postponement, which the PPCC hearing board accepted, with a new date to be determined later. This delay has raised significant concerns among stakeholders, especially amid an ongoing investigation into the complaint filed by the SATZ Group.

Cllr. Emmanuel Somah was unable to attend due to

The LTA's repeated postponements have intensified suspicions of potential corruption within the bidding process for the critical Cybersecurity project.Critics argue that the LTA's actions suggest a preference for obfuscation over transparency, undermining the integrity of the procurement process.







conducted by the LTA.

The LTA despite prior notification ahead of time asked that the hearing be postponed to a later date.

hearing, was informed that proceedings could not continue due to the LTA's failure to present its defense.

Sources indicate that the The Public Procurement LTA's legal representative,

thenewdawnliberia.com











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