



CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024	L\$179.1436/US\$1.00	L\$180.9750/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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PRICE LD\$50.00



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Continental News

DECEMBER 12

clinging to inner tubes for three days in stormy weather in the Mediterranean. Rescuers from nongovernmental organisation Compass Collective said they were on their way to another emergency when they heard her calls for help.

migrants were presumed dead. Thousands of migrants trying to reach Europe die during the treacherous journey in the Mediterranean every year.

Compass Collective spokeswoman Katia Tempel told the BBC that rescuers on board the Trotamar III vessel had found The unnamed girl, from Sierra the young Sierra Leonean

Wednesday.

The girl told them that the metal boat she had been on had sunk within seconds as strong storms with 3.5m-high (11.5ft) waves hit and that she and two others - were together in the water for a while but then lost contact.

Rescuers handed her over to Italian authorities on the island of Lampedusa, where she was able to walk as well as talk.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) says 30,955 migrants have died - or remain missing crossing the Mediterranean since it started recording figures 10 years ago.

Italy has borne the brunt, receiving more than 63,000 this year alone, according to data released by the UN refugee agency, UNHCR.

The numbers have dropped, however, partly due to the hard-line policies of the rightwing Italian government of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.-BBC

Girl, 11, rescued in Med after three days clinging to tyre tubes At least 175 people killed, dozens around her waist at around had sunk and all the other had sunk and all the other

At least 175 people have been reported dead and dozens injured after a series of airstrikes hit Sudan's capital on Monday and Tuesday.

he attack has been linked to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) who have been waging a war with the Sudanese army in the 20-month conflict.

The first attack took place on Monday when an air strike hit a busy market in the town of Kabkabiya, 180km west of North Darfur, killing at least 100 civilians including women and children according to a rights group.

In another incident, a single shell fired at a passenger bus "killed everyone on board,"

Governor Ahmed Othman Hamza who also indicated that a hundred were injured during the incursion.

Tuesday marked the year's most violent clashes between the regular army, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the RSF, commanded by his former ally and deputy, General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo.

Sudan, a predominantly Arab country on the edge of sub-Saharan Africa, descended into civil war in 2023, as fighting erupted between the military and a paramilitary group known as the Rapid Support Forces that grew out of Darfur's totaling 22 people, stated notorious Janjaweed militia.



Leone, told them she had set migrant wearing a simple life

off with another 44 people jacket and two tyre inner tubes

Dozens of Ghana president-elect's supporters arrested in post-poll chaos

Mahama - over acts of supporters. lawlessness.

Supporters of the newly elected president who want jobs have allegedly attacked some state institutions, looted properties, and engaged in disturbances that have left some police and military personnel injured.

The irate supporters also torched two electoral commission offices due to a delay in announcing the outcome of Saturday's elections and disagreements over some parliamentary results.

Mahama has condemned the vandalism and called on President Nana Akufo-Addo and security agencies to "act decisively" in addressing the violence.

Vice-President Bawumia, the

olice in Ghana have defeated presidential arrested more than 100 candidate of the governing people - mostly New Patriotic Party (NPP), opposition supporters of has publicly called on the President-elect John president-elect to reign in his

> the vote against Bawumia's offices before the president-41.6%, the biggest margin of victory in the country for 24

> Mahama's National politics, where the party in Democratic Congress (NDC) power gets to control has also won a huge majority everything, including jobs in parliament, with 186 seats and contracts.-BBC against 76 for the NPP and four for independents, with

10 seats still to be declared.

In Ghana, it is common for supporters of the winning party to take over state institutions, demanding that the incumbent government's Mahama won with 56.6% of appointees vacate their elect is sworn in.

> This phenomenon is rooted in the country's winner-take-all



communiqué, denouncing a "massacre" committed

army-controlled region, Ukraine.-Africanews according to Khartoum

Ahmed Othman Hamza in a Though estimates are difficult to come by, at least 24,000 people have been killed and millions displaced in a conflict In a separate incident, at that has largely been eclipsed least 65 people were killed in the world's attention by wars in Omdurman, which is an in the Middle East and



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By Shlomo Ben-Ami

EDITORIAI The belated LCC statement The Fall of the House of Assa

all by the once viable Liberia Council of Churches for both sides in the leadership impasse at the House of ◆Representatives to uphold the law is little too late and disappointing. After more than two months of in-fighting that was sometimes characterized by threats of violence and police brutality, stalling the business of the Liberian people for this long without any intervention, was the LCC constrained to speak so lately and faintly?

We say faintly because even after the final arbiter of Justice in the land, the Supreme Court of Liberia, had spoken albeit indefinitely, with the majority bloc remaining belligerent backed by the Executive, what impact is the LCC's call.

Speaking in a reconciliatory dialogue meeting on Tuesday, | December 10, 2024 at Providence Baptist Church in Monrovia, the President of the Liberia Council of Churches (LCC) Rev. Dr. Samuel B. Reeves, Jr, called on Majority Bloc members of the House of Representatives and embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa to uphold recent opinion of the Supreme Court, urging adherence to the principles of justice and the rule of law.

The Supreme Court, referencing Articles 33 and 49 of the Constitution of the Liberia recently, called on both parties to act in conformity with the law, and for honorable conduct from all parties involved.

Rev. Dr. Samuel B. Reeves said that the Supreme Court, as interpreter of the Liberian Constitution, has laid down a ruling that **|** serves as a foundation for good governance. But we beg to differ. The Court did not rule with a specific stance or interpretation. Rather, it advised all sides to return and act in confines of the law.

One had thought that the Church, as the moral conscience of our society, would have spoken long since. But its conspicuous silence in the last two months on the issue that has a propensity to derail the governance of the state and stifle the already bleeding economy, left a vacuum that politicians took advantage of and provided interpretations that suited their quest.

At the eleventh hour when a new Speaker has been elected outside of Articles 33 and 49 of the Constitution

Article 33 of the Constitution reads, "A simple majority of each House shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lower number may adjourn from day to day and compel the attendance of absent members. Whenever the House of Representatives and the Senate shall meet in joint session, the presiding officer of the House of Representatives shall preside", while Article 49 says, "The House of Representatives shall elect once every six years a Speaker who shall be the presiding officer of | that body, a Deputy Speaker, and such other officers as shall ensure the proper functioning of the House. The Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and other officers so elected may be removed from office for cause by resolution of a two-thirds majority of the members of the House."

But the two-thirds majority, as legally required, was never met by the majority bloc in electing a new Speaker to replace Speaker J. Fonati Koffa. Notwithstanding, the Executive branch of the government gave approval, endorsing ruling Unity Party Representative, Richard Nagbe Koon as Speaker.

We deem the LCC's call as a face-saving move to give an impression that it spoke when the nation needed moral advice and direction, but the voice lacks weight and is belated.

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geopolitical landscape. The lightning opportunity of the civil war to consolidate an offensive by the Islamist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham autonomous enclave. (HTS) militia took all of Syria's neighbors - and Jolani now must work hard to find a everyone else - by surprise. The news that compromise between the Kurds' desire to President Bashar al-Assad had <u>fled</u> to Russia maintain their autonomy and Turkey's confirms the one binding truth about wars: ambitions to keep them away from the border unintended consequences can extend far area. Will Erdoğan tolerate Kurdish territorial beyond the theatre of battle.

destroy Hamas in Gaza, and in Lebanon against Syria's territorial sovereignty? on international shipping.

protests. But the fighting largely subsided Istanbul. chance.

Qatar's as well, the rebels easily overran the home. slaughter no longer inspired fear.

stronghold in the Arab world, will reshape the US President Donald Trump in 2019. dominant force."

Caliphate's political lexicon comprises Syria, Islamists on the border.

minister, Mohammad Ghazi al-Jalali, to the dominant positions adjacent to it. continue to run public institutions until they Key US allies in the region are similarly worried. officials.

may temper HTS's extremism assume that however moderate it claims to be. Jolani would be an obedient soldier of Turkey. militias that united just to topple Assad, and recalibrate their policies. also with the Kurdish forces who rushed to take control of more parts of eastern Syria, Shlomo Ben-Ami, a former Israeli foreign north.

Kurdish communities. In 2019, Erdoğan sent 2022). his army to establish a 30-kilometer-wide

EL AVIV - The swift collapse, after 54 "security zone" in northern Syria and push years, of Syria's al-Assad dynasty has just Kurdish fighters away from the Turkish border, transformed the Middle East's an area where the Kurds had seized the

gains that he sees as a threat to Turkey's The October 7, 2023, attack that Hamas national security? Will Jolani, who aspires to carried out against Israeli civilian communities nationwide support, allow Turkey to wage war bordering Gaza triggered earthquakes across against the Kurds while he tries to form a the Middle East. Israel's ruthless offensive to governing coalition with them and uphold

Hezbollah, practically obliterated Iran's "axis Notwithstanding his chronic conflict with Syria's of resistance," while the United States and the Kurds, Erdogan views Assad's fall as a grand United Kingdom pummeled the Iran-backed achievement. He was ecstatic in following the Houthis in Yemen in response to Houthi attacks rebel forces' advance. "Idlib, Hama, Homs, and the target, of course, is Damascus. ... Our wish is Syria's civil war began in 2011 when the Assad that this march in Syria continues without regime crushed peaceful "Arab Spring" incident," he said after last Friday's prayers in

after 2015, when Russia's intervention, For years, Erdoğan and his Qatari allies have together with assistance from Iran and been supporting Islamist groups throughout the Hezbollah, turned the war in Assad's favor. Middle East. He saw himself in competition with Today, with Iran's proxies destroyed and the Iranians on what model of Islamic Russia's war-fighting capabilities drained by its democracy should prevail in Muslim lands: the Ukraine quagmire, the rebels saw their Shia fundamentalist brand or Turkey's more moderate form. Now he believes he has won the With Turkish <u>assistance</u>, and apparently opportunity to shape such a model close to

regime's surprisingly thin defenses, and Although Syria's rebels have much to thank Assad's army capitulated without a battle. Israel for in creating the conditions for their After Assad's Iranian and Russian patrons success, Israel harbors no illusions about its new hastily evacuated their forces and left him to neighbors. Al-Jolani was born in Syria's Golan his fate, a regime built on torture and mass Heights (hence the name Jolani), which Israel captured in the 1967 war, and whose The end of Iran's alliance with Syria, its main annexation and sovereignty was recognized by

regional balance of power. As Mohammad Ali With the rebel march on Damascus, Israel lost Abtahi, a former Iranian vice president, put it no time in deploying combat units along the two days before Assad fled, the Syrian Syrian border. Israel is concerned about government's fall "would be one of the most potential spillovers of armed groups into the significant events in the history of the Middle Golan Heights and attempts to attack Druze East. ... Resistance in the region would be left villages on the Syrian side of the border, whose without support. Israel would become the residents have relatives in villages on the Israeli side. With the memory of October 7 still raw The name Hayat Tahrir al-Sham stands for the everywhere in Israel, there is no complacency liberation of the Levant, which in the early about weapons stockpiles in the hands of

Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine. But Abu But Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's Mohammad al-Jolani, the HTS leader, has tried hubris should not be underestimated. If the to project an image of a new kind of Islamist. Syrian tyranny collapsed, why not try to topple He seems to have drawn the necessary lessons Iran's as well? Already, Netanyahu could not from the failures of al-Qaeda and the Islamic resist the temptation of going beyond mere State (ISIS) and now sees himself as a defensive measures: arguing that the 1974 pragmatist who aspires only to bring about the agreement that regulated the separation of "liberation of Syria from its oppressive forces between Israel and Syria had collapsed, he ordered Israeli troops to seize control of the A sign of this new pragmatism is Jolani's Syrian part of Mount Hermon, as well as the <u>instructions</u> to his men to allow Syria's prime buffer zone in Syria's sovereign territory and

are formally handed over. ISIS would have They, too, would have liked to see Assad remain carried out mass executions of soldiers and in power, fearing that an Islamist-controlled Syria could become a haven for terrorism. In Still, al-Jolani leads a hard-line Islamist their view, Assad was a known quantity - and organization. Those who expect that Turkey better than an Islamist rebel-led government,

But now Assad is gone. The Middle East is again In any case, al-Jolani faces powerful political in a state of dramatic flux that calls for constraints. He must reckon with myriad rival everybody, winners and losers alike, to

while <u>under attack</u> from Turkish forces in the *minister*, is Vice President of the Toledo International Center for Peace and the To Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the author of Prophets Without Honor: The 2000 ambitions of Syria's Kurds threaten to spur Camp David Summit and the End of the Twonationalist subversion within Turkey's own State Solution (Oxford University Press,

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By Eric Posner

HICAGO - The outpouring of joy on social media after the murder of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson suggests that America's populist moment ▶is evolving into something larger and more significant than just a backlash against the political establishment. If so, it is also becoming something Americans have seen before. In the late nineteenth century, the 'Peoples Party, also known as the Populists, targeted big business as well as establishment politicians, blaming large enterprises for both destroying Americans' livelihoods and corrupting the government. This change could be bad news for Donald Trump. The US president-elect is not the first Republican politician to purport to serve both commerce and the forgotten man; but after campaigning alongside billionaires and inviting them into his administration, he has stretched this claim to the breaking point.

The American Populists were mainly farmers in the South and Midwest whose fortunes plummeted as the country industrialized and as the cultural center of gravity shifted to the cities. Both major parties neglected agrarian interests as they relitigated the Civil War and sought support from the rising commercial class (in the case of the Republicans) and the expanding ethnic populations in the cities (in the case of the Democrats). Farmers, pummeled by the "Great Deflation" caused by the government's insistence on paying off the war debt, thus took it upon themselves to mobilize, achieving political dominance in several states and greater influence in

The populists hated government elites in Washington, but they also hated the new businesses, particularly the railroads. The latter, they believed, discriminated against them in the market and corrupted the government through bribes and other forms of political influence. Still, while they considered the entire system to be rotten, they had no clear idea how to reform it. Many Populist leaders hoped a Napoleon-like president would come to power and sweep away big business and big government alike. Since these two forces were linked by tentacles of corruption, only a leader with no roots in conventional politics could achieve this goal.

It is a familiar story. Trump won the presidency in 2016 by attacking the political establishments of both parties, as well as the "deep state" (federal bureaucracy). But, owing to necessity as much as expediency, he rarely attacked the billionaire class to which he belonged. While he blamed the political class for ignoring illegal immigration, globalizing trade, and meddling in foreign conflicts - what he sees as the roots of America's problems - he did not oppose big business. Instead, he confined himself to attacking business leaders who criticized him and his programs, along with the social-media platforms that he believed were censoring him and his followers.

Unlike in his earlier campaigns, Trump benefited from a kowtowing business establishment in 2024, and he has reciprocated by bringing billionaires into his inner circle. Elon Musk, now Trump's most prominent cheerleader and surrogate, contributed <u>more than \$250 million</u> to his campaign. Meanwhile, others - including Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, billionaire investor Nelson Peltz, and Blackstone CEO Stephen Schwarzman - have made their peace with Trump or are trying to. The libertarian wing of Silicon Valley has <u>joined in</u> with great enthusiasm. It will profit mightily when Trump delivers on his promise to deregulate crypto.

But while billionaires' dollars and backing helped Trump win, so did the votes of his most loyal supporters, the vast majority of whom are not wealthy. Many are noncollege-educated, lower-skilled workers and religious social conservatives who have grown increasingly hostile toward business. Trump tapped into this hostility by attacking Big Tech and railing against corporate America's attempts to appease the left with diversity programs and climate goals.

The question now is whether anti-corporate populism will grow in the United States as it did 140 years ago. The online celebration of Thompson's murder was not noticeably partisan. Across the board, Americans today have a low opinion of corporate elites, with only 16% telling Gallup that they have a "great deal" or "quite a lot of" confidence in big business. That is less than for nearly all other institutions respondents assessed, including labor unions, the military, organized religion, public schools, higher education, the presidency, and small businesses. Indeed, unions are benefiting from an increasingly anti-business climate, as are government trustbusters.

Europeans must be scratching their heads. America's Big Tech companies may be widely loathed at home, but they are envied on a continent that struggles to create its own innovative wealth creators. The truth, however, is that these companies' huge market capitalizations owe as much to their monopoly status as to innovation. They have long downplayed the significant social harms they do, and they constantly lobby policymakers to block regulation. It is little wonder that their stranglehold on American culture is now deeply resented by left and right alike.

While the 2024 election dashed the hope that America's populist turmoil would end with the Biden administration, it remains to be seen what shape the movement will take. The nineteenth-century Populists petered out as deflation eased and farmers' living standards finally improved toward the end of the century, and as party leaders realized that their best option was to fuse with the Democrats. But the populist impulse did not disappear. In the twentieth century, widespread hostility toward business found a home again in the Democratic Party, and the Republicans became the party hostile toward government.

The incoming Trump administration has vowed to round up illegal aliens and raise tariffs, but it will probably fail to reinvigorate the economy for the masses, who will watch the rich get richer on crypto and AI. If Trump doesn't turn on the business class and lay the blame at its feet, someone else will. Maybe then business elites will finally appear in the political crosshairs, not just in those of lone gunmen.

Eric Posner, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School, is the author of How Antitrust Failed Workers (Oxford University Press, 2021).

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By Antara Haldar

Trump's Pro-Corporate Populism Cannot Last | Trump's Victory Over the Rule of Law

AMBRIDGE - Kamala Harris was not alone in suffering a decisive loss in the

2024 US presidential election. It was also a defeat in the "battle for the soul" ♦ of the rule of law - an institution that has defined American democracy for almost 250 years. Poignantly illustrating that fact was Special Counsel Jack Smith's filing to drop the Department of Justice's prosecutions of President-elect Donald

Trump's win gets him off the hook for his attempt to overturn the 2020 election. He will also most likely evade legal accountability in the other state-level cases against him in Florida, Georgia, and New York.

Worse still, Trump's assault on the rule of law is only just getting started. He is a walking conflict of interest who has not divested any of his financial holdings. He has called for the "termination" of the Constitution, joked about his dictatorial aspirations, lauded authoritarian leaders like Russian President Vladimir Putin, and threatened to target journalists and "lock up" his political opponents.

Having staged the "greatest political comeback," and with his allies firmly in control of both houses of Congress and the Supreme Court, Trump is likely to be even more bellicose in his second term. With the Heritage Foundation's ultraconservative Project 2025 blueprint as inspiration, he is selecting loyalists who share his contempt for the rule of law to lead top law-enforcement agencies like the FBI, and has promised mass deportations and discriminatory "travels bans." Since the Watergate scandal, most US presidents have voluntarily shown some restraint in exercising their powers, particularly vis-à-vis the Justice Department, which is supposed to operate at a remove from Washington politics. But Trump has no respect for such norms or traditions, and "testing limits" is his signature move. Legal scholars and political scientists have been gaming out America's system of checks and balances in anticipation of a second Trump presidency, and the outlook

is not good. As Barton Gellman of the Brennan Center for Justice explains, "The games demonstrated repeatedly that an authoritarian in control of the executive branch, with little concern for legal limits, holds a structural advantage over any lawful effort to restrain him."

The risk has only grown following the US Supreme Court's landmark decision in Trump v. United States, in which the conservative majority granted the president "presumptive immunity from prosecution in all his official acts." Meanwhile, the power of presidential pardons is more sweeping than ever, and tools like the Insurrection Act, which allows the president to deploy the military domestically for various vaguely defined purposes, will be at his disposal.

Trump has already made a mockery of all legal attempts to contain him. His conviction in the "hush money" trial in New York was a fillip to his popularity - and to his campaign coffers. Republicans stuck with their anointed leader, and some even showed up at his trial to offer their support. While Harris and the Democrats emphasized the threat Trump poses to the rule of law, many voters sympathized with Trump, who accused the Biden administration of waging "lawfare" against

The law's failure to hold Trump accountable revives an old debate, which has played out both in the abstract and in specific contexts, ranging from Nazi law and chattel slavery to the South African apartheid regime, about when "evil" or "wicked" laws cease to be valid. The dominant school of thought in legal theory positivism, pioneered by thinkers like Jeremy Bentham, Hans Kelsen, and HLA Hart - holds that "law is law" as a matter of social fact. According to this "separation thesis," law's validity has nothing to do with morality and requires only that officials buy in to it (adopt the "internal point of view"), and that it is generally obeyed. In doing so, they risk legitimizing regimes where might is right.

The work of Gustav Radbruch, a relatively esoteric German philosopher, may be more relevant to this moment. The Radbruch Formula states that "[t]he conflict between justice and legal certainty may well be resolved in this way: The positive law, secured by legislation and power, takes precedence even when its content is unjust and fails to benefit the people, unless the conflict between statute and justice reaches such an intolerable degree [my emphasis] that the statute, as 'flawed law,' must yield to justice."

Radbruch, who originally had positivist leanings, developed this formula as a reaction to seeing the Nazis come to power in Germany by legal means. As he put it, "Positivism, with its principle that 'a law is a law,' has in fact rendered the German legal profession defenseless against statutes that are arbitrary and criminal." The historical resonance here is hard to ignore. America's rule-of-law regime has met its match in Trump; indeed, his own popularity seems to owe something to the public's mistrust of it.

If the rule of law is to have a fighting chance, its defenders must acknowledge that the law risks becoming a hollow shell, and its sterility a breeding ground for pugnacious populism. The rule of law must restore peoples' faith by becoming a symbol of justice and grounding its appeal in morality and shared meaning. As even the preamble to the US Constitution implies, the quest to become a "more perfect Union" is inextricably tied up with the effort to "establish Justice." But to succeed, the rule of law will need to discover a soul.

Antara Haldar, Associate Professor of Empirical Legal Studies at the University of Cambridge, is a visiting faculty member at Harvard University and the principal investigator on a European Research Council grant on law

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and cognition.







Forestry Development Authority (FDA) Whein Town, Bernard Farm, Montserrado County Liberia

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES)

Republic of Liberia

Assignment Title: Individual Consultancy for the Position of Construction Supervisor Completion of One Share Facility Centre and Construction of Two additional Share Facility **Canters**

Name of Project: Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry_

: Forestry

Sector

Project ID No: P-LR-AAD-002 Grant No : 5900155018403 Issue Date : December 2, 2024

End Date : December 30, 2024

The Government of Liberia through the Forestry Development Authority has received financing from the African Development Bank toward the cost of the Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry Phase II, and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grant to payments under the contract for Construction Supervisor.

- The services included under this project are [The individual consultant will be expected to undertake physical site assessments to support design of the three demonstration and storage facilities, support the review of designs, in coordination with the project teams and recommend approaches, Designs and responses to the resolution of comments, Daily monitoring of construction activities in accordance to the specifications and designs, cost, and schedule to ensure progress, Carry out site inspections and assessments as required, prepare periodic reports for submission to Project Coordinator (PC) and Project teams and Act proactively to identify key areas of concerns that relates to quality, health, safety and environmental issues at site and where necessary. The duration of the contract is Maximum Nine (9) months
- The Forestry Development Authority now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.).
- 4. Qualification and Experience: i. Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering, Technical Diploma in Civil or Construction Engineering, Electrical or related field required. Applicants with a relevant Vocational Certificate with additional 2 years of relevant working experience may also be considered. ii. Working knowledge of MS Office applications iii. Demonstrated planning and organizational skills and ability to coordinate the works, work on tight deadlines, and handle multiple concurrent activities iv. Ability to translate engineering drawings into physical implementation v. Organized, attention to detail, able to prioritize construction activities vi. Proven experience in the construction industry, with a strong record of accomplishment of managing construction sites and teams vii. Strong leadership and team management skills, with the ability to motivate and direct workers viii. Excellent organizational and time-management skills ix. Knowledge of construction processes, materials, and legal regulations x. Ability to read and interpret construction plans and specifications
- Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's "Procurement Policy Framework for Bank's Group Funded Operations" dated October 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at http://www.afdb.org.
- Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours [9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Liberian Time], Mondays through Fridays (except public holidays): emmanuellewis965@gmail.com with copy to: wynnbeyant12@gmail.com.
- 7. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by December 30, 2024 at 1:00 PM and mention "Construction Supervisor".

Project Coordinator Attn: Project Implementation Unit Forestry Development Authority Whein Town. Bernard Farm Montserrado County Liberia

E-mail: emmanuellewis965@gmail.com 0775-841-431/0886-570-320

Link for Clarification: Email: wynnbryant12@gmail.com 0776-063-643/0886-551-249





DECEMBER 12



Invitation for Bids [IFB]

Forestry Development Authority/TSF Project

IFB Number: LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/003/2024 **Purchaser:** Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in the Secondary **Project:**

Wood Processing Industry Phase II

" Provision of office materials to Three (3) Shared Facility **Contract title:**

Centers, and the provision of office materials to Eleven

(11) Associations"

Country: Liberia **Grant No.:** 5900155018403

Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding National (OCBN) LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/003/2024 **OCBN No:**

Issued on: **December 2, 2024**

- 1. The Government of Liberia through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has received financing from the African Development Bank Group hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of the Scaling up the Participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry Phase II, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Provision of office materials to three Shared Facility Centers, and the provision of office materials to Eleven (11) Associations. "For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank's Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing.
- The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply of Stationery, ICT Equipment and Office Furniture's

Lot No. 1	Description	Quantity
i	Stationery	Various
ii	ICT Equipment	Various
iii	Office Furniture	Various

- 3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding National, (OCB-N) method as specified in the Bank's Procurement Policy Framework for Bank's Group Funded operations ² dated October, 2015, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
- The bidding document in English may be collected by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 1:00 PM, December 30, 2024. Electronic 5. Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below
- All Bids must be accompanied by a "Bid-Securing Declaration".
- Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
- For any further clarification, please contact: 8.

Attn. Project Coordinator Project Implementation Unit Forestry Development Authority Whein Town, Bernard Farm Montserrado County

Liberia

Email Address: emmanuellewis965@gmail.com 0775-841-431/0886-570-320

Link for Clarification:

Email Address: wynnbryant12@gmail.com

0776-063-643/0886-551-249

Senate begins Budget hearing today

--On Revenue and Expenditure

The hearing on the revenue component will commence today, Thursday, with the Finance Ministry and the LRA expected to appear.

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, December 12, 2024: p.m. The Statutory Committee on Ways, Means, Finance, and Budget at the Liberian Senate will begin hearing on the draft National Budget for the fiscal year 2025 today, Thursday, December 12, 2024.

The hearing on the draft National Budget will be held in the conference room of the old building at the Capitol.

The draft budget is in the tone of over Eight Hundred and Fifty-one Million United States Dollars.

Revenue and Expenditure are the two components expected to be targeted in today's hearing.

According to the Senate's Press and Public Affairs, the revenue component will commence on Thursday, December 12, and continue up to Saturday, December 14.

The Expenditure component will begin on Monday, December 16, and continue up to Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

The hearing on the revenue component will commence today with the appearance of the Ministry of Finance and Devilment Planning, and the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA).

The hearing involving Finance and the LRA is scheduled to start from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

On Friday, December 13, The Ministry of Mines and Energy will appear from 10 to 11 a.m., while the Liberia Maritime Authority will appear from 11 to 12 p.m., respectively.

The National Port Authority will appear from 12 to 1 p.m., and the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) will appear before the committee from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., respectively.

The Liberia National Police and the National Fire Service will appear at 3 p.m.

The Revenue component on hearing of the draft budget will end with the reappearances of the LRA and Finance on Tax Legislation. According to the Senate, the

Expenditure part of the hearing on the draft fiscal envelope will commence on Monday, December 16. The Ministry of Finance will appear from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will appear from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

The LRA and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) will appear before the Committee from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

On Tuesday, December 17, 2024, the Ministries of Public Works (MPW) and Education will appear from 10 to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., respectively.

The Liberia Telecommunication The University of Liberia will appear Authority's hearing will begin from 11 from 3 to 4 p.m., and the Liberia



a.m. to 1 p.m.

Further, the Liberia Petroleum appear from 4 to 5 p.m. National Authority, and the National Oil state institutions. Thursday.

The Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) respectively.

Drugs Enforcement Agency will

Refinery Corporation (LPRC), the The public hearing will come to a Road Fund (NRF), the close on Wednesday, December 17, Liberia Petroleum Regulatory 2024, with the appearances of other

Company of Liberia (NOCAL) will The Ministries of Health and appear from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Agriculture will appear from 10 to 12 p.m., and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.,

will appear from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Ministries of Justice and Defense while the Ministries of Transport and will appear from 3 to 4 p.m., and Labor will appear from 4 p.m. to 5 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., respectively.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Finance Minister holds talk in Morocco,

-Explores Cooperation on Public Financial Management and Infrastructure

Liberia's Finance and Development Planning Minister, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, is in Morocco where he met with his Moroccan counterpart, Madam Nadia Fettah, to discuss opportunities for enhanced bilateral cooperation in Public Financial Management (PFM) and other sectors.

By: Kruah Thompson abat, December 11, 2024 - The talks, held in Rabat, culminated in an agreement to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will see Morocco providing technical support to Liberia in key areas of PFM, including debt and cash management.

Earlier in the day, Minister Ngafuan participated in a high-level panel discussion on "Patient Capital for Critical Infrastructure" at the African Finance Ministers Summit in Casablanca. The session, which included fellow finance ministers from across Africa, centered on the challenges of attracting long-term



This partnership, according to Minister Ngafuan, will allow Liberian PFM professionals from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to collaborate closely with their Moroccan peers, offering a valuable opportunity to build capacity for more effective public financial systems."

Through this collaboration, we aim to equip our professionals with the tools and knowledge to enhance the efficiency of Liberia's financial management systems," Ngafuan explained.

In addition to PFM discussions, the two ministers also delved into broader areas of mutual interest, including agriculture, particularly in the fisheries sector, as well as port development and sports.

They agreed to work closely with relevant sector entities to further explore these areas of cooperation.

investment for critical infrastructure projects.

Minister Ngafuan highlighted political instability, weak rule of law, and the lack of contract sanctity as major deterrents to attracting patient capital, which requires a stable and secure environment to thrive."Patient capital becomes fleeting when political and economic conditions fail to inspire investor confidence," Ngafuan stated, underscoring the importance of creating an environment where investors can trust in the long-term sustainability of projects.

Minister Ngafuan's visit is part of Liberia's ongoing efforts to strengthen ties with African nations and improve its financial systems through international cooperation and knowledge-sharing. -Dispatch.

Fula Community meets with Boal

-seeks tribal recognition. laments political exclusion & social marginalization

Members of the Fula community in Liberia complain of political exclusion and marginalization, demanding recognition.

By Lincoln G. Peters onrovia, Liberia, December 12, 2024 high-power delegation from the Fula community under the banner "Fula Progressive Union of Liberia (FPU) has met and pleaded with President Joseph N. Boakai to address critical issues effective them, including political exclusion.

The meeting held here Tuesday, December 10, 2024, focused on concerns of discrimination. marginalization, inclusion and recognition of Fula as an official tribe.

The group through its president, Alhaji Ibrahim Sangare Kamara highlights instances where government officials and authorized personnel had allegedly denied or delayed issuance of crucial documents to members of the Fula community.

"Mr. President, our people over the time have been documents in the country just because of their names", he complains.

Mr. Kamara adds that the there are many Fulanis whose documents are

put us down from cars; request for documents and when we showed them our documents, they will start asking how we manage to get them; Mr. President, this is unfair" he continues.

He underscores a need for greater representation within the government, urging President Boakai to consider qualified members of the Fula community for government jobs, arguing that increased inclusion would foster better understanding and address their concerns more effectively.

"This plea reflects a desire for greater participation in the political and administrative processes of Liberia. Moreover, we also want you to know the importance of official national recognition. We request that the Fula tribe be formally acknowledged among the recognized ethnic groups in Liberia", Mr. Kamara requests.

He maintains that such recognition would grant them denied access to national greater legitimacy to potentially access resources and programs designed to support diverse communities. The community also used the medium to extend thanks to the President for appointing a



seized by state authorities Fulani Sheikh Y. Jalloh, as a and they are interrogated when they want to renew their National documents (LPRC). or business registration.

Registry will seize our documents if we go to attentively to the renew them, thereby community's concerns, unnecessary processes that these allegations and

board member of the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company

Meanwhile, following the "The Liberia Business various concerns raised, President Boakai listened making us to go through promising to investigate are not required by law. The consider their requests in immigration officers will subsequent time.

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ranca Incendie au Capitole : des dégâts majeurs et des interrogations

déclaré mardi 10 bâtiment du Capitole à d'importants dégâts matériels. Les autorités n'ont pas encore déterminé

n incendie s'est où certains membres se réunissent pour tenter de destituer le président Fonati Koffa, a été épargnée par les Monrovia, causant flammes. Au même moment, des sénateurs participaient à une audience publique sur les affaires intérieures et la gouvernance

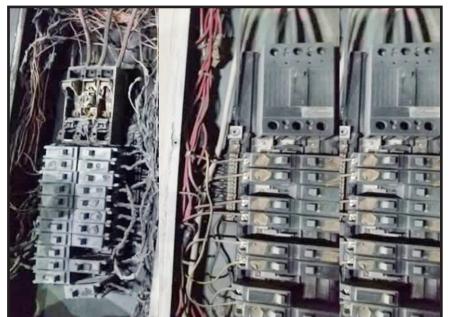
L'incident survient quelques heures après que le ministère de la Justice a officiellement reconnu Richard Koon comme président de la Chambre des représentants. Cette reconnaissance a également été entérinée par le Sénat, qui a annoncé sa volonté de travailler avec le bloc majoritaire ayant élu M.

Sur place, une épaisse fumée a rapidement envahi le bâtiment, rendant la

respiration difficile et limitant l'accès. Une première évaluation a révélé que les flammes avaient gravement endommagé les disjoncteurs alimentant le système de climatisation ainsi qu'une partie du premier étage du Capitole. Les murs chauffés par

l'incendie témoignaient de





l'origine de l'incident, nombreuses spéculations.

locale.

laissant place à de Alertés de la situation, les sénateurs ont quitté La Chambre conjointe de la précipitamment la séance, Chambre des représentants, visiblement alarmés par la

Libéria : Les États-Unis signalent des insuffisances en matière de transparence budgétaire

2024 sur la transparence budgétaire au Libéria, le américain dresse un bilan soulignant des insuffisances préoccupantes dans la

et des propositions budgétaires, désormais accessibles au public de manière plus ponctuelle. En outre, des informations essentielles sur l'attribution des contrats d'exploitation des ressources naturelles sont désormais rendues publiques, une évolution majeure pour renforcer la transparence dans ce secteur clé.

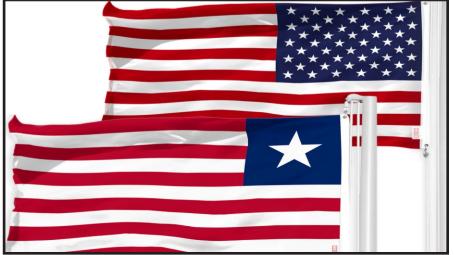
La Commission générale d'audit (General Auditing Commission, GAC) est

essentiel dans le contrôle budgétaire, grâce à son accès direct aux données budgétaires Département d'État nationales. Ce mécanisme renforce la surveillance des contrasté, saluant des finances publiques et la progrès notables tout en responsabilité gouvernementale.

gestion financière publique importantes demeurent. L'utilisation continue par le limitant ainsi son efficacité Le rapport reconnaît gouvernement de comptes hors dans le contrôle des plusieurs avancées budget, échappant à tout audit dépenses publiques. importantes. Le ousupervision, est une source de D'autres préoccupations gouvernement libérien a grande préoccupation. Ces incluent le retard dans la amélioré la publication de pratiques compromettent la publication du budget ses rapports de fin d'année transparence et soulèvent des adopté, qui restreint l'accès questions sur l'utilisation des citoyens à des responsible des ressources informations financières publiques.

ans son Rapport également citée pour son rôle Le rapport déplore également l'absence de divulgation des revenus générés par les entreprises publiques, un élément crucial pour une gestion financière transparente. Bien que la GAC dispose de certains pouvoirs, son indépendance Cependant, des lacunes reste insuffisante par rapport aux normes internationales,

essentielles. De même, les



Éditorial

<u>chute de la maison Assad</u>

Par Daron Acemoglu

EL AVIV - L'effondrement rapide d'une dynastie al-Assad vieille de 54 ans en Syrie vient transformer le paysage géopolitique du Moyen-Orient. L'offensive éclair de la milice islamiste Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) a surpris tous les voisins de la Syrie, comme le reste du monde. L'annonce de la <u>fuite</u> du président Bachar al-Assad en Russie confirme une vérité incontournable s'agissant des guerres : des conséquences inattendues peuvent s'étendre bien au-delà du champ de bataille.

L'attaque du 7 octobre 2023 perpétrée par le Hamas contre des communautés civiles israéliennes à proximité de la frontière de Gaza a provoqué plusieurs séismes dans l'ensemble du Moyen-Orient. L'impitoyable offensive menée par Israël pour détruire le Hamas à Gaza et le Hezbollah au Liban a quasiment anéanti « l'axe de résistance » iranien, tandis que les Etats-Unis et le Royaume-Uni ont bombardé les Houthis soutenus par l'Iran au Yémen, en réponse à leurs attaques contre des navires commerciaux internationaux. La guerre civile syrienne a débuté en 2011, lorsque le régime

d'Assad a écrasé les manifestations pacifiques du « Printemps arabe ». Puis les combats se sont largement atténués après 2015, l'intervention de la Russie, avec l'aide de l'Iran et du Hezbollah, ayant inversé le cours de la guerre en faveur d'Assad. Dernièrement, les proxies de l'Iran ayant été détruits, et les capacités de combat de la Russie étant éprouvées par la difficulté du conflit en Ukraine, les rebelles ont saisi l'opportunité.

Avec l'appui de la Turquie, et semble-t-il du Qatar, les rebelles ont facilement pris d'assaut les défenses étonnamment fragiles du régime syrien, et l'armée d'Assad a capitulé sans combattre. L'Iran et la Russie, protecteurs d'Assad, ayant précipitamment évacué <u>leurs troupes</u> et abandonné le dictateur à son sort, le régime syrien fondé sur la torture et les massacres n'inspirait plus la peur.

La fin de l'alliance de l'Iran avec la Syrie, principal bastion du régime de Téhéran dans le monde arabe, est vouée à redéfinir l'équilibre régional des puissances. Comme l'exprimait l'ancien vice-président iranien Mohammad Ali Abtahi deux jours avant la fuite d'Assad, un effondrement du gouvernement syrien « constituerait l'un des événements les plus importants dans l'histoire du Moyen-Orient... La résistance dans la région se retrouverait privée de soutien. Israël deviendrait la puissance dominante ».

« Hayat Tahrir al-Sham » signifie la libération du Levant, qui dans le lexique politique du premier califat inclut la Syrie, le Liban, la Jordanie et la Palestine. Le chef du groupe islamiste HTS, Abou Mohammad al-Joulani, tente néanmoins de projeter l'image d'un islamiste d'un nouveau genre. Il semble avoir tiré les enseignements nécessaires des échecs d'al-Qaïda et de l'État islamique (EI), et se considère désormais comme un pragmatique aspirant uniquement à « libérer la Syrie de son régime tyrannique ».

Signe de ce nouveau pragmatisme, Joulani a <u>ordonné</u> à ses hommes de laisser le Premier ministre syrien Mohammad Ghazi al-Jalali continuer de gérer les institutions publiques jusqu'au transfert officiel du pouvoir. Par opposition, l'El aurait certainement procédé à des exécutions massives de soldats et responsables publics.

Joulani n'en demeure pas moins à la tête d'une organisation islamiste radicale. Ceux qui <u>'sattendent</u> à ce que la Turquie tempère l'extrémisme du HTS présument que Joulani sera le soldat obéissant d'Ankara. Ce qui est sûr, c'est que Joulani va devoir composer avec de puissantes contraintes politiques, notamment avec les nombreuses milices rivales qui se sont unies pour faire tomber Assad, ainsi qu'avec les forces kurdes qui se sont empressées de prendre le contrôle de nouveaux territoires dans l'est de la Syrie, tout en subissant les <u>attaques</u> des forces turques au nord.

Aux yeux du président turc Recep Tayyip Erdogan, les ambitions des Kurdes de Syrie menacent d'alimenter une rébellion nationaliste au sein des communautés kurdes de Turquie. En 2019, Erdogan a ordonné à son armée de mettre en place une « zone de sécurité » de 30 kilomètres de large dans le nord de la Syrie, et de repousser les combattants kurdes loin de la frontière turque, zone dans laquelle les Kurdes avaient saisi l'opportunité de la guerre civile pour consolider une enclave autonome.

Shlomo Ben-Ami, ancien ministre israélien des Affaires étrangères, et vice-président du Centre international de Tolède pour la paix, est l'auteur de l'ouvrage intitulé Prophets Without Honor: The 2000 Camp David Summit and the End of the Two-State Solution (Oxford University Press, 2022).

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Incendie au Capitole : des dégâts Starts from page 8

l'intensité des flammes. Plusieurs témoins avancent des hypothèses sur les causes, évoquant soit une défaillance électrique, soit un acte malveillant, mais aucune conclusion officielle n'a encore été rendue publique.

Malgré les efforts déployés par le personnel du Sénat pour contenir les flammes, l'intervention du Service national des incendies du Liberia a été nécessaire. Les pompiers ont mis plus d'une heure à arriver sur les lieux, une lenteur qui a suscité des interrogations et des critiques.

Cet incident met en lumière des lacunes inquiétantes dans les dispositifs de sécurité et d'intervention d'urgence au sein d'une institution clé du gouvernement. En attendant les résultats de l'enquête, le bâtiment reste partiellement inaccessible, et les dégâts matériels risquent de perturber les activités parlementaires dans les jours à venir.

Starts from page 8 Libéria: Les Etats-Unis signalent des

données relatives à la dette nationale sont difficilement accessibles, ce qui entrave une compréhension claire des obligations financières du Libéria.

Le rapport critique en outre la persistance de la corruption et l'application incohérente des réglementations, en particulier dans l'attribution des contrats d'exploitation des ressources naturelles. Ces problèmes reflètent des défis systémiques en matière de gouvernance et d'État de droit.

Couvrant la période du 1er janvier au 31 décembre 2024, le rapport appelle à des

réformes urgentes pour renforcer la transparence budgétaire. Il recommande notamment de mettre fin aux comptes hors budget, de garantir la divulgation des revenus des entreprises publiques et de lutter contre la corruption.

Selon le Département d'État américain, la mise en œuvre de ces mesures contribuerait à renforcer la confiance du public et à améliorer la responsabilité globale du gouvernement libérien dans la gestion des ressources nationales.

Libéria : Une manifestation estudiantine dégénère à l'Université Tubman

l'arrestation de plusieurs violence. étudiants et laissant Selon des témoins, plusieurs d'autres blessés.

violation du règlement gazlacrymogènes. technologie.

Outre cette suspension, les frigorifiés, les manifestants étudiants protestaient ont néanmoins poursuivi contre une augmentation leurs revendications, de 20 % des frais de scolarité, jugée inacceptable par de nombreux manifestants issus de familles modestes. L'administration de l'université a justifié cette hausse par le besoin de maintenir la qualité de l'éducation, un argument rejeté par les étudiants.

La situation a dégénéré lorsque l'administration a fait appel à la police pour rétablir l'ordre. Des unités

ne manifestation antiémeutes, équipées de organisée lundi par matraques et de gaz des étudiants de lacrymogènes, sont l'Université William V.S. intervenues pour disperser Tubman à Harper, dans le les manifestants, comté de Maryland, a transformant une dégénéré en affrontements protestation initialement violents, entraînant pacifique en scènes de

étudiants ont été agressés Le rassemblement, initié lors de l'intervention. par des membres de David, l'un d'entre eux, a l'Alliance pour l'unification été blessé à la tête par un des étudiants (SUA), visait à coup de matraque et dénoncer la suspension de transporté d'urgence à 14 étudiants, décidée par l'hôpital. Une autre l'administration le 2 étudiante, Sarah, a souffert décembre 2024, pour « de difficultés respiratoires conduite désordonnée » en après avoir été exposée aux

intérieur. Parmi les Malgré la répression suspendus figurent Paul P.K. policière, les étudiants ont Blanyon, président de la résisté, lançant des pierres SUA et étudiant en et d'autres projectiles pour ingénierie, ainsi que se défendre. La tension a Jefferson Wah, également atteint son paroxysme avec inscrit au Collège l'arrivée de canons à eau, foule. Trempés et

exigeant justice et un dialogue avec l'administration.

Après plusieurs heures d'affrontements, le calme est finalement revenu sur un campus marqué par des dégâts matériels et des blessures physiques et psychologiques.

Dans un communiqué officiel, l'administration de l'université a condamné les violences survenues sur le campus et promis une enquête approfondie pour déterminer les responsabilités. Cependant, pour les étudiants, cet engagement est perçu comme insuffisant face à ce qu'ils qualifient de brutalité et de répression.

Cet incident met en lumière les tensions persistantes entre les étudiants et les autorités universitaires, tout en soulignant les défis structurels auxquels est confronté le système éducatif libérien. La quête d'un accès équitable à d'ingénierie et de utilisés pour disperser la l'éducation reste au cœur des préoccupations, malgré les obstacles économiques et institutionnels.



Les sénateurs McGill et Chea rejettent la décision du Sénat de collaborer avec le bloc majoritaire de la Chambre des représen

eux sénateurs libériens ont exprimé leur opposition à la décision du Sénat de traiter avec le bloc majoritaire de la Chambre des représentants, qui a récemment annoncé la destitution du président de la Chambre, J. Fonati Koffa.

Les sénateurs Nathaniel F. McGill, représentant le comté de Margibi, et Cllr. Augustine Chea, du comté de Sinoe, ont vivement contesté la décision du Sénat libérien de reconnaître la légitimité du bloc majoritaire de la Chambre des représentants, suite à l'éviction de Fonati Koffa, et de mener des discussions avec ses membres sur la base de l'avis du ministère de la Justice.

Lors de la 51e session régulière du Sénat, le 10 décembre 2024, la sénatrice Pro-tempore du Grand Bassa, Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence, a présenté une décision d'urgence après l'adoption d'un projet d'agenda qui visait à appliquer l'opinion du ministre de la Justice, Oswald Tweh, en rapport avec la crise qui secoue la Chambre des représentants.

Kangar-Lawrence a déclaré que le Sénat avait décidé de soutenir la légitimité du bloc majoritaire ayant évincé Fonati Koffa, conformément à l'avis du ministre de la Justice et procureur général. « Le Sénat, lors de sa réunion consultative, a pris la décision de soutenir l'opinion du ministre de la Justice et de la Cour suprême concernant la crise à la Chambre des représentants. Cette décision a été adoptée par le Sénat », a-t-elle précisé.

Toutefois, le président de la commission judiciaire, le sénateur Chea, a



rejeté fermement cette position. « Je refuse que l'on se fonde sur l'avis du procureur général du Libéria ou sur son interprétation de la décision de la Cour suprême pour justifier cette décision. Je rejette cette position du Sénat qui soutient le bloc majoritaire », a-t-il affirmé.

De son côté, le sénateur McGill a exprimé son mécontentement après la réunion consultative tenue dans le bureau de la sénatrice Kangar-Lawrence. Il a dénoncé ce soutien comme un moyen de favoriser les intérêts de certains individus sans fondement juridique. « Cette décision ne fait qu'accentuer les intérêts personnels de quelques-uns, sans justification légale. Elle ouvre la voie à l'anarchie et incite les citoyens à violer la loi », a-t-il déclaré, avertissant : « Ce piège n'est pas réservé aux rats. »

McGill a également souligné que cette situation était alimentée par des individus cherchant à créer une crise, soutenus par l'exécutif, qui, selon lui, a échoué à gérer la crise et à empêcher la violation de la Constitution du Libéria.

Le sénateur McGill a exprimé des inquiétudes concernant la réaction du président Boakai si la population décidait de manifester contre son gouvernement. « Si le peuple rejette ce gouvernement par la protestation, le président pourrait-il utiliser les forces de sécurité pour réprimer ces manifestations? » a-t-il interrogé.

Enfin, McGill a rappelé que les États-Unis avaient sanctionné des individus pour corruption et pour avoir sapé la démocratie libérienne. Il suit de près les réactions de la communauté internationale, en particulier des États-Unis, sur cette question. « Nous avons tout fait pour que ce gouvernement respecte l'état de droit. Ce qui se passe aujourd'hui est un coup d'État déguisé », a-t-il conclu, rappelant que la Cour suprême a jugé illégale l'action du bloc majoritaire.

ARTICLE

Article

From Pages of History-Stop the Madness **By Hun-Bu Tulay**

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hapter 1, Article 3 of the Liberian Constitution emphasizes that "Liberia is a unitary sovereign state divided into counties for administrative purposes." This founding document establishes a Republic, highlighting the strength of its three distinct yet harmonized branches: the Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary. Each branch embodies the core principles of separation of powers and checks and balances, fulfilling defined roles and responsibilities that ensure a robust democracy.

The Legislative branch thrives on its vital functions: crafting laws, representing the citizenry, and exercising oversight over government actions. The Executive branch, empowered to enforce laws, is led by the president, who serves as a beacon of leadership. The Judiciary, led by the Supreme Court, stands as the guardian of law interpretation. This balance fuels the foundation and stability of a democratic society. The interplay of these branches profoundly influences the essence of democracy, where challenges in one can inspire resilience in the

Executive: The Executive dialogue inevitably revolves around the presidency, as the president embodies the Executive Power, serving as the Head of State, Head of Government, and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia. The president plays a pivotal role in shaping foreign policy and acts as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer, appointing key ministers and agency heads who work diligently under the president's guidance.

Challenges arise if the president or their appointees lack the competence or commitment to fulfill their responsibilities effectively. Decisions regarding foreign policy and global

engagements significantly impact governmental stability. Historical lessons remind us that missteps, like those of President Tolbert, can lead to profound political transformations. In a world of shifting alliances and rising tensions, diligent navigation of international relationships is

paramount to safeguarding the nation's

Furthermore, embracing proactive measures is essential to forestall issues reported a bribe of US\$14,800.00, the Justice Ministry took no action. The representative sought help from the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, which also remained inactive. This perceived inaction from the Executive branches can

Article 42, enjoy certain protections from prosecution unless tied to serious crimes.

before they escalate. The Minister of Justice or the Foreign Minister should provide legal insights regarding Supreme Court rulings during critical times. Alarmingly, the Ministry of Justice faltered in acting on a bribery complaint reported by a member of the House of Representatives. When this representative compound ongoing challenges, especially since members of the legislature, per

This situation prompts essential reflections: Has the inaction of the Ministry of Justice and the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission unintentionally weakened the Executive? Were political considerations at play? Or does this signal

a reluctance to tackle issues until more severe circumstances arise? We must commit to pursuing proactive measures that uphold trust and integrity in governance, ensuring we act responsibly without waiting for tragic events to prompt change.

Conspiracy: Prior to discussing the conspiracy theory, it is important to acknowledge that J. Fonati Koffa inadvertently shot himself in the leg. One notable misstep was his request for support from former President Weah for the 2029 elections, shortly after Weah had announced his intention to step away from politics. Immediately upon the former president's announcement, he traveled. Upon returning to the country, it appears that former President Weah reconsidered his decision regarding the 2029 elections, following advice from his advisors.

This situation raised questions about how to address Koffa's position. It was suggested that a



strategy be implemented to strengthen the resolve against Koffa, leading to efforts aimed at his removal from the Speakership. The Unity Party recognized an opportunity and sought to capitalize on Koffa's precarious situation. To enhance their chances of success, the President extended an invitation to Koffa to join him in Rome. While Koffa may have recognized the complexities of the situation, he chose to accept the invitation. Unity Party members believed that had Koffa remained in the country, their ability to secure votes could have been compromised. Ultimately, it became clear that both former President Weah and the Unity Party desired a shift in Koffa's role.

Justice Minister's Opinion: In a democratic society, the unique position of the Minister of Justice or the Attorney General is crucial; they hold the ability to challenge the president's decisions without fear of dismissal, we saw this during President Trump's first term. As the government's legal adviser, the minister must provide honest and sound legal counsel, untainted by the desire to cling to their position, a challenge that many African nations face. Historical instances like Justice Grime's guidance to President King regarding the 1926 Firestone Agreement highlight this truth. Grime cautioned that the contract contravened international law by allowing leases longer than 50 years. Even the Secretary of State of the United States wrote a similar opinion advising Firestone. Ignoring this clear legal advice, President King signed the Firestone Contract, undermining legal integrity.

Moreover, the landmark 1907 case Ditchfield vs. Dossen, delivered by Chief Justice James Jenkins Dossen, established a significant precedent by affirming that the laws of Liberia guarantee equal rights to all citizens, a principle that remained unobserved for decades. Though the ruling wasn't enforced until the late 1960s, it underscored the law's potential to challenge systemic injustices.

In conclusion: We leave you with a powerful proverb from my village: "The bullet that kills the monkey, the monkey does not hear the sound of the gun when it is fired." This should serve as a stark reminder of the potential consequences of ignoring the truth in leadership. Honest dialogue and adherence to the law are not merely ideals; they are critical for the future well-being of our nation.



others, showcasing the power of collaboration through mechanisms like the president's veto or judicial reviews.

Let us delve into the significant influence the Judiciary and Executive have on governmental stability.

Judiciary: The Judiciary embodies a system of courts dedicated to administering justice on behalf of the state. Its role in hearing cases, interpreting laws, and nullifying unjust statutes is fundamental to safeguarding citizens' rights. A strong Judiciary, operating independently and free from corruption, inspires public trust and cultivates an environment ripe for foreign investment and national progress.

For the populace, the Judiciary often emerges as the most essential branch of government, standing firm against potential abuses from the Legislative and Executive. As the protector of the constitution and defender of fundamental rights, the Judiciary assumes a respected position within the government framework. Citizens' faith in their Judiciary bolsters overall confidence in the integrity and efficacy of governance.

Yet, it is crucial to recognize that any hint of corruption within the Judiciary can gnaw at public trust, threatening the very structure of governance if not addressed swiftly.

Starts from Back page Bishop Quire heads West Africa College of Bishops and faith in addressing the challenges election of Bishop Quire and the new

facing the church and its communities. "Together, we can lead with purpose and bring transformation to our congregations and the communities we serve," he says.

The West Africa College of Bishops plays a vital role in shaping the spiritual and administrative direction of the United Methodist Church across the region. The

bishops signal a renewed commitment to addressing the unique challenges and opportunities in West Africa.

The event in Accra has left the United Methodist community with high hopes for a future marked by growth, inclusivity, and impactful ministry under the leadership of Bishop Quire and his fellow bishops.

DC makes Fallah scapegoat

The Congress for Democratic Change expulsion of Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah from the former ruling party appears to be a mere scapegoating.

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh & Kruah Thompson

onrovia, Liberia, December 12, 2024 -The Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) slams Deputy House Speaker Thomas P. Fallah with expulsion, for joining majority bloc members of the House of Representatives in removing Speaker J. Fonati Koffa.

The party has a majority bloc within the House of Representative most of whom have joined the ruling Unity Party led majority bloc to oust Speaker Koffa.

Despite public criticism of the former ruling CDC to call its lawmakers to check, it allowed to join the UP in its

fight to remove Koffa. Meanwhile, in a press statement Wednesday, December 11, 20224, the former ruling CDC says its decision followed a thorough investigation and recommendations from the party's National Disciplinary

Committee.

Deputy Speaker Fallah abandoned Speaker Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa, a fellow CDCian and joined rebel lawmakers now styled majority bloc, to elect ruling Unity Party Representative Richard Nagbe Koon as new Speaker of the House, much to the anger of the CDC.

According to the CDC, Deputy Speaker Fallah has breached disciplinary conduct laid down for senior party officials.

The statement says the party's National Executive Committee has also issued a seven-day ultimatum to suspended CDC lawmakers in the 55th Legislature, warning them to return to the party or risk expulsion.

At the heart of the party's decision is the ongoing leadership crisis in the House of Representatives. The CDC has reiterated its recognition of Speaker Fonati Koffa, as the constitutionally-elected Speaker of the 55th Legislature.

It dismisses the election of Richard Koon by the Unity Party-aligned majority bloc as unconstitutional, and urges embattled Speaker Koffa not to resign, describing any such move as a blow to

constitutional integrity. According to the former ruling party, its position aligns with the Supreme Court's

December 6, 2024 opinion. The Supreme Court asked both parties to return and act within confines of the law on any decision to remove the Speaker, but the majority bloc ignores the advice; instead, maintaining Rep. Richard Koon as new Speaker.

The CDC also frowns at discussions surrounding the draft National Budget by the majority bloc, accusing them of attempting to plunder the nation's resources.

It warns President Joseph Boakai against signing what it terms "treasonous" budget legislation, threatening to hold him and his allies accountable for undermining national stability and economic order. Amid growing tensions, the CDC calls for calm and respect for constitutional rights, stating its support for peaceful protests and demonstrations.

It calls on the government to guarantee safety of citizens, who may choose to assemble peacefully, framing itself as a constitutional, amid ongoing impasse in the legislature.

The backing comes as the House remains divided over procedural disputes and leadership crisis over the removal of Speaker Fonati Koffa, for alleged acts of corruption, nepotism and conflict of interest.

Speaker Koffa has faced allegations of corruption, nepotism, and conflict of interest from his colleagues, who gathered under the name "Majority Bloc," demanding his resignation. This led to a prolonged legislative deadlock, with over 15 sessions unable to achieve a quorum.

During this period, the majority bloc controversially convened sessions without the Speaker, suspending three members without due process, restructured committees, and has begun hearing on the 2025 Draft National Budget. After the controversial election

of Rep. Richard Koon as Speaker, embattled Speaker Koffa petitioned the Supreme Court, seeking a Stay Order to restore the status quo and resolve the matter.

The Court identified two key



freedoms while decrying actions it sees as threats to Liberia's unity.

However, Deputy Speaker Fallah's expulsion comes amidst reports of his complicated health condition.

Reports say the Deputy Speaker has since been battling a stroke, but his office has since dismissed these reports as unfounded.

The executive branch of government has expressed strong support for the majority bloc in the House of Representatives, declaring

their actions legitimate and

defender of democratic issues: its jurisdiction and the interpretation of Articles 33 and 49 of the Constitution regarding legislative procedures.

> The High Court's opinion on the matter has sparked diverse interpretations among legal experts and the general public. Many believe that the court ruled in favor of embattled Speaker Koffa.

> Despite the court's intervention, tensions continue to rise on Capitol Hill, as the majority bloc pressed on with sessions for the 2025 budget hearings. Editing by Jonathan **Browne**

FCWC 15th ministerial conference begins in Monrovia

The FCWC conference has brought together an extraordinary assembly of regional leaders in Monrovia.

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, December 12, 2024: Member Countries of the Fisheries Committee for West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) have gathered in Monrovia for the official start of the FCWC's 15th Ministerial Fisheries Conference.

Fisheries Directors and Technicians from FCWC Member Countries, along with several Partners and Donors,

as some of the many challenges facing the region.

Mr. Fred Antwi-Boadu,

The Executive Director of Ghana Fisheries Commission and Chairman of the Advisory and Coordinating Committee declared the 15th Ministerial Conference open in Monrovia.

Mr. Antwi-Boadu said the meeting provides an excellent opportunity to discuss the necessary steps for



gathered in the Liberian Capital on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at a local hotel to start the conference.

The three-day FCWC conference runs from 11-13 December 2024, with two days of technical discussions.

It will lead to the Ministerial meeting on Friday, December 13, 2024, at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, outside Monrovia.

Welcoming visitors from Africa, Europe, and other parts of the World to Liberia, National Fisheries and Aguaculture Authority (NaFAA) Deputy Director General for Technical Services Mr. William Y. Boeh disclosed that the conference offers an opportunity to forge actionable strategies and foster deeper regional collaboration.

Boeh also stated that the event is a defining moment for Liberia as a host country expected to assume the FCWC chairmanship.

As Chair, he noted that Liberia will demonstrate its unwavering commitment to regional leadership and collaboration.

"This event is a defining moment for Liberia. By assuming the FCWC Chairmanship, we demonstrate our unwavering commitment to regional leadership and collaboration," said Mr. Boeh.

"We are honored to serve as a hub for generations." these critical discussions and to work Mr. Antoine Gaston Djihinto noted with our fellow member states to drive meaningful progress," he stated

Commenting on the composition of the delegates at the conference, Mr. Boeh pointed out that the conference has brought together an extraordinary assembly of regional leaders.

He also named technical experts, policymakers, and partners dedicated to safeguarding one of the most vital resources, 'the Fisheries of West Central Gulf of Guinea.

Additionally, the NaFAA Deputy Director General disclosed that the Fisheries in the West Central Gulf of Guinea are faced with challenges that

threaten food security. On behalf of NaFAA boss Emma Metieh Glassco, Mr. Boeh indicated that overfishing, Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing (IUU),

climate change, and governance gaps

strengthening cooperation among the six member countries of the FCWC.

"Our focus is to promote decent work and sustainable practices within the fisheries sector while strengthening the resilience of our marine ecosystems," Mr. Antwi-Boadu said.

These objectives go hand in hand, with our oceans' health and directly impact our people's prosperity."

By taking a comprehensive approach emphasizing sustainability and equity, he indicated that the FCWC countries can ensure that their marine resources continue supporting future generations.

Mr. Antwi-Boadu also noted that the fisheries sector in West Africa holds enormous economic, social, and environmental significance.

He suggested that it also provides livelihoods for millions, supports food security, and contributes to the regional economy.

Also speaking, the Secretary-General indicated that the challenges facing the fishing sector in the region are multiple and complex.

"These issues do not only concern the present but also engage our responsibility towards future

that these challenges should give rise to building an integrated, responsible, and sustainable governance of fisheries resources.

He added that governance must combine rational exploitation and conservation of resources while offering equitable social and economic benefits for the populations.

Meanwhile, the FCWC Secretary-General added that the session of the Advisory and Coordinating Committee represents a valuable opportunity to engage in dialogue, analyse regional issues, and propose concrete solutions.

"I am confident that your informed contributions, informed by your respective expertise, will help formulate solid and pragmatic recommendations to be submitted to the Conference of Ministers."

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Bishop Quire heads West Africa College of Bishops

The West Africa College of Bishops elects the Bishop of the health care, and Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist environmental Church, Samuel Jerome Quire, Jr., as its new President.

By Lincoln G. Peters

ccra, Ghana, December 12, 2024 -The West Africa College of Bishops elects Bishop Samuel Jerome Quire, Jr., as its new President, during a

Methodist Church in the region.

Bishop Quire, who currently serves as Resident Bishop for the Liberia Episcopal Area, brings decades of

experience in church



in Accra, Ghana.

Bishop Quire, a revered spiritual leader and advocate for community development, assumes this prestigious role at a critical time for the United

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significant gathering held leadership and social justice advocacy. His election is seen as a recognition of his commitment to uniting diverse communities and addressing pressing societal issues, including education,

preservation.

In addition to Bishop Quire's election, the conference also welcomes two newly elected bishops: Bishop Ande Emmanuel from Nigeria, a seasoned church leader known for his focus on youth empowerment and interfaith dialogue, and Bishop James Boye Calker, now presiding over the Sierra Leone Episcopal Area, for his contributions to peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts in post-conflict Sierra Leone. As President of the West Africa College of Bishops, Bishop Quire will oversee coordination of United Methodist Church activities across the region. His priorities are expected to include strengthening regional partnerships, enhancing theological education, and fostering sustainable community development.

In his acceptance speech,











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