





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

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

L\$180.0288/US\$1.00

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

French Version Inside



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FC says



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Continental News

Ethiopia and Somalia agree to end bitter Somaliland port feud

agreed to end their bitter dispute over Addis Ababa's breakaway republic of Somaliland following talks in Turkey.

thiopia and Somalia have considers as part of its territory.

It prompted fears of a wider regional conflict as Egypt has been backing plans to build a port in the Somalia - largely due to its anger with Ethiopia for building a dam on the River Nile.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Turkey has in recent years become

country was "ready to work with the Ethiopian leadership and the Ethiopian people".

While Prime Minister Abiy insisted Ethiopia's efforts to secure and reliable access to the sea did not threaten Somalia and the two had " a d d r e s s e d t h e misunderstandings that have occurred over the past year".

The feud began on New Year's Day, when Abiy signed a controversial deal with Somaliland to lease a 20km (12-mile) section of its coastline for 50 years to set up a naval base.

In exchange, Ethiopia - the world's most-populous landlocked nation - was to reportedly recognise Somaliland as an independent country, although Addis Ababa never explicitly confirmed this.

Somaliland, which broke away from Somalia more than 30 years ago, has long been pushing for recognition - but Mogadishu described the move as an act of "aggression".

According to the Ankara joint declaration, the two Horn of Africa neighbours are to reconvene in February to hold "technical talks". In the interim they will strive to reach "mutually beneficial commercial arrangements" to ensure Ethiopia gains access to the sea "under Somalia's sovereignty". It is not clear if Ethiopia has discarded the deal it signed with Somaliland - something demanded by Somalia at earlier



Erdogan welcomed the "historic agreement", which he said would eventually ensure landlocked Ethiopia's access to the sea.

At the press conference he held hands with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who both agreed to respect one another's "sovereignty".

The two neighbours have been at loggerheads since January when

an important geopolitical player in the Horn of Africa as it has close economic ties with Addis Ababa and security deals with Mogadishu.

Erdogan said the agreement announced on Wednesday night in the Turkish capital, Ankara - was "the first step towards a new beginning".

"I congratulate both my brothers for reaching to this historic reconciliation with devotion and thank them for their constructive

Clashes erupt between Somalia's federal troops and regional forces over a disputed local Election

Wednesday morning in a southern town in Somalia between the country's federal regional troops of the state of Jubbaland amid escalating tensions over a disputed regional election there.

The hourslong fighting in the town of Raskamboni calmed by midday, officials from both sides said, the latest violence in the restive Horn of Africa long plagued by deadly attacks by Islamic extremists. Both sides accused each other of instigating the clashes.

Details of the fighting and the number of casualties remained unclear because of a telecommunications blackout imposed in the

lashes erupted on Wednesday previously held by federal troops. The positions are critical, the government said, in the fight against al-Shabab.

"These troops were preparing government forces and for operations against al-Shabaab militants," the statement said.

> Madobe was reelected for a third term in Jubbaland's presidential election held on Nov. 25. His third term is said to violate term limits set by the federal government. The opposition in Jubbaland has disputed the election results and formed a parallel government.

> A new African Union mission is expected to launch in January with troops from AU contributing countries, excluding Ethiopia, with which Somalia is involved in a dispute over its breakaway region of Somaliland.

Meanwhile, Jubbaland officials The clashes underscore a accused federal forces of



Security forces stand next to rubble at the scene of a suicide car bomb attack in the capital Mogadishu, Somalia, on 13 July 2020.

Ethiopia signed a maritime deal attitude," he said. mediation efforts. -BBC with Somaliland - which Somalia President Mohamud said his

Uganda leader backs military trials as rival in iail for Christmas President Yoweri Museveni, who praised military courts for contributing divorce matters etc, etc. They to the East African nation's peace, has been in power since 1986.

defended the use of military courts to try civilians following an outcry over the arrest and trial of opposition leader Kizza Besigye.

weapons abroad - accusations he denies.

Besigye, who was abducted while visiting Kenya last month and forcibly taken to Uganda, found out on Tuesday that he would be spending Christmas in custody as his trial has been delayed until January.

Museveni said any crime involving a gun was dealt with in a military court to ensure the country's stability as civilian courts took too long to deal with cases.

Hundreds of civilians have been tried in Uganda's military courts, even though the Constitutional Court has ruled

against the practice. "I have seen the arguments in the papers by some lawyers regarding the correctness of

ganda's President Yoweri some civilians being tried in the Museveni, 80, has Court Martial," President Museveni said in a long post on X. He said his National Resistance Movement (NRM) party had enacted a law through parliament in 2005 to allow the His 68-year-old rival has been use of military courts because of charged in a military court with the "rampant activities of possession of pistols and criminals and terrorists that attempting to purchase were using guns to kill people indiscriminately".

"The civilian courts were clogged with the many court cases of the whole country: murders, rape, assaults, robbery, land matters, could, therefore, not handle these gun-wielding criminals quickly. Yet, for stabilization you need speed," he said.

Besigye has objected to being tried by a court martial, saying that if there were any charges against him, he should be tried in a civilian court.

A fierce rival of Museveni, he has contested and lost four presidential elections against Uganda's leader, who has been in power since 1986.

He has been less active in politics in the last couple of years, and did not contest the

2021 election. -BBC at the end of the month.

deepening rift between the initiating the fighting fears of further instability in the strategically significant region near the Kenyan border.

Somalia's federal forces are in the process of taking over the fight against al-Qaida-linked militant group al-Shabab from an African Union peacekeeping mission that has been in place since 2007 and whose term ends

The federal government accused Jubbaland regional forces, led by Ahmed Madobe, of attacking positions on

federal government and Wednesday by targeting J u b b a l a n d 's Jubbaland positions, alleging administration, raising the federal troop deployment was part of a broader effort to undermine the regional government's authority.

"It is unfortunate to see armies and vehicles meant to defend the country being used against its own people," Jubbaland state deputy security minister, Adan Ahmed Haji, told a news conference in the port city of Kismayo.

Somalia's defense ministry alleged that Madobe had coordinated his actions with al-Shabab militants, allowing Jubbaland forces to operate in areas controlled by the group. -**Africanews**

EDITORIAI The belated LCC statement

2024

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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by Walter O. Ochieng. Tom Achoki

Investing in Global Health Enhances US National Security

from multilateral public-health initiatives forms of financing. would carry serious risks.

To be sure, there is a strong case for health self-sufficiency. Operation Warp Speed, launched during Trump's first term, accelerated vaccine development and deployment, playing a pivotal role in facilitating America's economic recovery. But the notion that isolationism could shield can improve health outcomes. Americans from the effects of global health crises is deeply misguided. The 2014-16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa cost the United States \$1.1 billion and 12,000 jobs, American soil.

The ongoing mpox outbreak, which originated in Central Africa and has since spread to more than 120 countries, serves as a stark reminder of how quickly publichealth threats can escalate into global seemingly impossible. emergencies. A true "America First" surveillance and containment systems.

Investing in global health also makes strategic sense. As US firms seek to diversify their supply chains away from China, they with healthy and productive workforces. Countries with robust health systems are best positioned to fill this role.

Moreover, strengthening health systems in developing countries reduces migration pressures - a key concern for US voters - by addressing the root causes of displacement. Consider, for example, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), launched by then-President George W. Bush in 2003. With \$110 billion in overall funding, PEPFAR has saved 26 million lives and accelerated economic growth in recipient countries since its inception. Studies comparing data from 2004 to 2018 revealed that PEPFAR contributed to a 2.1-45.7% rise in per capita GDP compared to mining rights. 2004 levels.

crises. It has also bolstered America's global support consistently reporting higher approval ratings for the US.

But the traditional aid model is long maintaining cost efficiency. overdue for a radical transformation. Across the developing world, particularly in Africa, market-driven solutions are revolutionizing health care. In countries like Kenya and Nigeria, entrepreneurs are pioneering innovative, profitable models that combine digital systems, standardized protocols, and quality health care to middle- and lowerincome populations.

Such ventures present significant

AIROBI - US President-elect Donald some adjustments, America's development-Trump's return to the White House finance tools could facilitate the signals a potential break from transformation of Africa's health-care decades of American leadership in global systems. The US International Development health. While Trump's isolationist "America Finance Corporation, which has \$60 billion at First" agenda may resonate with voters its disposal, is well-positioned to de-risk eager to see their tax dollars redirected private investments in health ventures and toward domestic priorities, a US withdrawal attract additional capital through various

Early experiments appear promising. Stichting Medical Credit Fund, for example, has provided more than \$100 million in loans to health-care facilities across the continent while maintaining a remarkable 96% repayment rate. Other innovative controlling the COVID-19 pandemic and mechanisms, such as development-impact bonds, have shown that market incentives

Nearly five years after the start of the pandemic, the world is grappling with several major health threats, from HIV/AIDS to malaria, which kills 619,000 people annually, even with just 11 cases reported on most of them children. Critics may argue that eliminating these diseases is a pipe dream, but the same was once said about eradicating smallpox. If anything, Operation Warp Speed has demonstrated that American ingenuity, when harnessed effectively, can achieve the

The stakes are much higher than they may strategy would focus on investing in robust seem. In recent years, Africa has emerged as a key battleground in the escalating Sino-American rivalry. Through the "Health Silk Road" - an extension of its Belt and Road Initiative - China has funded 400 health-care require alternative manufacturing hubs infrastructure projects across the continent. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it sent medical experts to 17 African countries, using bilateral agreements to deepen trade and diplomatic ties.

America stands to lose far more than influence. To meet the needs of its growing population, Africa must finance massive investments in health infrastructure. The world power that fills this gap will not only reap financial rewards but also will gain preferential access to the continent's vast reserves of critical minerals - essential for clean-energy technologies and advanced manufacturing. Notably, in African countries and regions where US health programs have been curtailed, Chinese firms have quickly percentage-point increase in the rate of per stepped in, building hospitals and providing capita GDP growth, leading to a remarkable medical equipment, often in exchange for

As competition for these resources Beyond its direct impact, PEPFAR's disease- intensifies, health diplomacy will become surveillance infrastructure has proven increasingly vital for securing America's invaluable in managing subsequent health industrial future, a central pillar of Trump's economic agenda. By focusing on targeted standing, with countries receiving PEPFAR investments in areas where its interests align with global health priorities, the US can generate significant returns while

In an increasingly interconnected world where the next pandemic disease outbreak is only a matter of time, investing in global health security is a form of disaster insurance. The choice facing the incoming Trump administration is clear: reclaim America's health leadership or grapple with strategically located clinics to provide the far-reaching consequences of disengagement.

Persuading a skeptical electorate that investing in global health serves US interests opportunities for US investors seeking to will undoubtedly be challenging. But Trump enter the growing market for accessible has an opportunity to silence his detractors health care in emerging economies. With and create a health legacy that surpasses anything his predecessors achieved.

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Lord, is this now a "House of Cards"?

ear Father: You know, for the last few months, our chiefs at the Traditional Council have been busy trying to remove their Paramount Chief. Some say, they want to move him because he na want to play ball, others say, ley man can't act like society man, so him mongo.

But ley man too say, him na going anywhere. But ley man da Kru man na. Ley way Kru people get hard hay. Da small pepper they put in da boy noise.

Aah, da lay thing sef there.

But Father, leh put all joke aside, this thing ay serious ooh. They people na turn our Traditional Council into a House of Cards?

Tell me something!

Yes, oh Father. Do you know that ley Footballer people thought they wor going to sacrifice ley Paramount chief, because they say ley man da na their own man?

So, they went to do their math na, they say for ley sake of the Kountry Giant return in 2029, ley Paramount chief being there will put sand in their gari. So, ley best thing to do was to remove him and put him deputy paramount chief there who is from their camp.

Now, while they were doing this, they went in bed with ley Oldman children them, not knowing say one of ley Oldman sons was being prepared to take over as Paramount chief.

Now, you na see ley way power is playing? So, everybody was playing everybody, until boom! Ley Footballer children come to know say that all ley thing them they were doing was to put ley Oldman son in power.

Da where ley Footballer children them having ley problem na. They know say they na come too far to go back.

So, to make things happen quick, quick, ley Papay na step inside-him say ley Paramount chief mon resign.

You say whatin!

Father, da benny seed popping in my mouth! Ley people doing everything to make sure da hard hay Kru man move from there.

What they na do?

Father, haven't you heard da they na remove all ley Blue Uniform people them from around him?

You joking!

Father da na joke ooh. They say even ley Papay and him people them say da ley Chief them who want remove ley Paramount Chief they want to do business with.

Ley other night, ley Papay na go call ley man to him official residence stopping place just to tell him to resign?

You say whatin?

Da Fire, be sitting down there let people be lying to you da ley Papay innocent-puaah because he can act like slow poison?

They say ley Papay say, he na wan work with this Paramount Chief, he wan him own Paramount Chief.

The other day, they mon come go to ley Palavar Hut again. Ley Elder them say, all ley thing them ley chief them doing to remove their Paramount Chief ay wrong.

The next week, ley Papay say, da their own they talking, all him know, he na wan see this man as Paramount Chief-ley man mon resign.

Da lie!

Father, da na joke oo. Ley Papay say, him people say, they wan ley Paramount Chief job for their party so anything they say that what him will go bye-see trouble.

So, what happen to ley people from ley Footballer camp na?

Father, ley people from ley Footballer camp na stick in ley middle. Shame na grab them. So, to put up some dry face, they say, they na suspend their man.

And all this one, ley Kru man say he na going nowhere. Da Kru man hay hard like iron rock. Oh, you na hear ley thing him say ehn. Him say if they leh, they mon move all him security them, all him know, him still Paramount chief.

Hmm, da na small thing happening in your village oo.

Yes, oh, Father. But ley thing here is, ley people na know Kru man. Ley people hay so hard da during ley slave trade, ley slave owner them used to make announcement and say-they mon na bring Kru man because ley Kru people use to bear gee on ley ship and make all ley other slave them to bear gee too.

So, ley only way they had peace was to put ley Kru man in charge on him friend themda how ley started playing their guitar them and today we have highlife music.

You can play with Kru man?

Father da na joke ooh-ley people hay hard.

But ley Oldman too ya, him na see nobody to go mess with but Kru man...

OPINION

by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Three Cheers for Namibia's First Female President

ONROVIA—As Africa's first democratically elected female president, I am more familiar than most people with the significance of breaking the glass ceiling. For decades, the highest political offices in Africa have been the preserve of men. But now Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has done it again, becoming the first woman to lead Namibia after winning November's presidential election.

Nandi-Ndaitwah's election represents a significant shift on the continent: there is a growing understanding that women are just as capable of leading governments as men are. Her victory is more than an important milestone for Namibia; it has offered a renewed sense of pride and possibility for Africa.

When I took office in 2006, I was in uncharted territory. The idea of a female African head of state felt groundbreaking, almost inconceivable to many. In the intervening years, women have stepped into many prominent roles across the continent, reshaping perceptions of what leadership can and should look like. But Nandi-Ndaitwah's successful bid for the presidency reaffirms that the barriers faced by women leaders on the continent are not insurmountable.

A woman assuming a country's highest office transforms the aspirations of countless girls and young women. For years, women across Africa have been told – sometimes subtly, other times bluntly – that politics is a realm reserved for men. But seeing women like Nandi-Ndaitwah ascend to power challenges these entrenched stereotypes.

Her success also underscores the inherent value of having women in decision-making roles. In my experience, female leaders tend to focus on collaboration, inclusivity, and resilience – qualities that are essential for building stronger, more equitable societies. Moreover, a democracy flourishes when its leadership reflects the diversity of its people. Electing women is not about tokenism; it is about unlocking potential and driving meaningful change.

While Namibia celebrates, the significance of this outcome ripples across the continent. It signals that African citizens are ready to embrace women as leaders. Far from an isolated event, Nandi-Ndaitwah's win is part of a broader movement to empower African women and elevate them to positions of influence in politics, business, and civil society. Her journey shows that progress is possible when institutions and communities commit to inclusion.

Despite this, we must not ignore the persistent challenges that women aspiring to leadership roles face. Systemic discrimination, societal biases, and unequal access to resources remain formidable obstacles. Entering politics is still seen as a privilege rather than a right. To change that perception, African governments should enact policies that promote equal representation, including electoral reforms and initiatives to combat gender bias. Societies must root out the harmful norms that discourage women from pursuing elected office, while men must recognize that gender equality benefits everyone.

Nandi-Ndaitwah's presidency is not just an accomplishment to celebrate; it is a call to action. It reminds us that progress requires persistence. Supporting women leaders must remain a high priority, from grassroots activism to national policies. Other African countries should follow Namibia's example, creating political environments where women can thrive and compete on an equal footing. Leadership pathways must be accessible to all who want to serve.

For women already striving to lead, Nandi-Ndaitwah's victory is a source of renewed hope. The fight for gender parity is yielding results. Most importantly, this will inspire the next generation of girls. Seeing a female African president demonstrates that their ambitions are valid and attainable. They, too, can aim for the highest office without apology or hesitation.

This is a defining moment for Africa. The continent, it seems, is increasingly ready to embrace the full potential of its people. Let Namibia's first female president cement our collective resolve to fight for gender equality, embolden women to pursue leadership positions, and energize efforts to build a more inclusive political landscape. Progress may take time, but a future where women are just as likely as men to win elections is within our grasp.

Namibia has opened a new chapter for women's leadership in Africa. The rest of the continent must keep turning the pages.

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Over 100 Police officers to benefit intellectual property training

More than 100 officers of the Liberia National Police are to receive training in intellectual property rights.

By Kruah Thompson

2024 - Over 100 officers of the property club competition. Liberia National Police (LNP) are The initiative was conducted in by the Liberia Intellectual Property Office here.

The training, a joint initiative between the World Intellectual Property audience. Organization (WIPO) and the African Intellectual Property Organization intellectual property laws in Liberia.

Speaking at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs, and Tourism (MICAT) regular press briefing on Thursday, December 12, 2024, Garmai Koboi, Director General of the Liberia Intellectual Property Office, revealed that the training program is a collaboration with the LNP.

outlining the partnership has been term economic benefits for themselves

onrovia, Liberia, December 13, exercise and a high school intellectual

poised to enhance their understanding Montserrado, Grand Bassa, and Nimba of intellectual property rights through a counties, combining face-to-face specialized training program organized outreach efforts, radio programs, an influencer campaign, and distribution of flyers and brochures to ensure that key messages reached a wide and diverse

Outreach activities included providing education covering the fundamentals of (AIPO), aims to strengthen capacity of IP law, the importance of trademarks law enforcement officers to uphold and copyright protection, and the potential value of locally-created products, brands, and innovations.

"We estimate that in these three counties, we interacted directly with approximately 5,000 individuals through our one-on-one discussions. These personal engagements allowed participants to ask questions, share concerns, and learn how safeguarding Koboi discloses that a draft agreement their creative works can promote long-



prepared, with plans underway to and their communities." finalize and sign the document.

the training remain undisclosed, she notes that the initiative would be may not have been able to be reached conducted in two phases.

Phase one will involve online sessions, allowing police and customs officers to gain foundational knowledge of intellectual property rights. This will be followed by in-person training to deepen application.

National Police Training Academy, emphasizing the importance of equipping officers with the necessary Liberia Intellectual Property Office." tools to combat intellectual property violations.

In another development, she reveals that in the past three months, the Liberia Intellectual Property Office (LIPO) undertook serious efforts to raise awareness about intellectual property, with a goal of promoting public understanding of the economic benefits of intellectual property to foster respect for intellectual property rights among the population.

These efforts according to her, culminated in a three-month Intellectual Property awareness

She continues that they estimate a While the specific dates and venue for combined audience of more than 100,000 individuals that listened, who physically, saying "We estimate that a combined audience of more than 100,000 individuals listened to these interviews across all participating stations."

"We distributed over 5,000 flyers and their expertise in its practical brochures at local markets, educational institutions, public offices, and among Meanwhile, LIPO director-general individuals. These materials, designed discloses that the police have requested in accessible language and featuring inclusion of intellectual property rights illustrative examples, provided concise training in the curriculum at the guidance on protecting intellectual property rights and how to seek more information or assistance from the

In total, Garmai estimates that the awareness reached more than 2000 people, when influencer campaigns digitally are added.

She says feedback so far suggests that the public awareness campaign has improved Liberians' understanding of the basics of Intellectual property. "Thus, many Liberians can now express a clearer understanding of why protecting one's creative works and innovations is vital." Editing by Jonathan Browne



USAID DATA, EVALUATION, LEARNING, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (ACTIVIT

Vacancy: Voice Transcriber-TESTS Activity- Midterm Evaluation

IBI is an international economic development consulting firm based in the United States that specializes in economic growth, governance, monitoring and evaluation, and human and institutional performance improvement. Established in 1996, IBI has successfully implemented some 50 projects in over 70 countries. To learn more please visit our website at www.ibi-usa.com. IBI is a woman-owned small business.

In Liberia, IBI is implementing the USAID-funded Liberia Data, Evaluation, Learning and Technical Assistance (DELTA) Activity with the goal to provide an innovative degree of analytical and advisory services to USAID/Liberia's Office of Program and Project Development (PPD) and Development Objective (DO) teams in support of the Mission's project design, performance monitoring and evaluation, and operational learning and adapting.

IBI is seeking for a highly skilled and innovative Voice Transcribers to support the TESTS Activity evaluation team transcribe voice recording from KIIs and FGDs during field data collection. The transcribed voices will be used to analyze primary data for the TESTS Midterm Evaluation using software to power the qualitative data analysis, which requires faithful transcripts to input into the programming. Transcription will run concurrent with data collection, with nightly sharing of the audio recorded files via cloud storage.

The candidates must be fluent in standard and Liberian English the ideal candidate must be a high school graduate, though a bachelor's degree is preferred, well versed in Microsoft Office software, especially Word, and proficient at typing. This is a short-term consultancy with an estimated level of effort (LOE) of 12 days for a period of performance from Dec 23 2025 to January 31, 2025.

Interested applicants are encouraged to visit the Executive Mansion website for detailed information and submit CVs to Procurements <u>procurements@liberia-delta.org</u> clearly outlining relevant competencies with the subject line "[First initial] [Last initial] Voice Transcriber Application"

Interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis. CVs must be submitted by December 18, 2024, 5p.m. GMT.

Only selected candidates will be contacted for an interview.

Liberian professionals who are resident in Liberia are strongly encouraged to apply.





US<mark>AID</mark> DATA, EVALUATION, LEARNING, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Title: Graphic Designer

Duration: January 2025 – January 2027

LOE: 60 days annually

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The USAID/Liberia DELTA Activity is seeking a skilled graphic designer to develop high-quality digital assets to be used across multiple platforms. The designer will be responsible for transforming complex quantitative and qualitative data into sivally compelling graphics, fact sheets, learning briefs, and presentations. This role requires flexibility as requests will be made on an as-needed basis by the DELTA team. The graphic designer will report to the Strategic Communications and Learning Advisor and collaborate closely with other team members.

Interested applicants are encouraged to visit the Executive Mansion website for detailed information and submit Letter of Application and CVs to Procurements procurements of a procurements of the subject line "[First initial] [Last initial] Graphic Designer Application"

Applications and CVs must be submitted by January 5, 2025, 5p.m. GMT. Only selected candidates will be contacted for an interview.



USAID DATA, EVALUATION, LEARNING, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

ICT and Program Support Assistant

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IBI seeks a motivated and dynamic Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Program Support Assistant to support the USAID-funded DELTA Activity in Liberia. The ICT and Program Support Assistant will play a pivotal role in managing all ICT and knowledge management (KM) tasks for the activity. This includes maintaining ICT infrastructure, providing user support, ensuring data security, and facilitating knowledge-sharing practices, and supporting the development and administration of the DELTA web-based Development Resources Hub.

Interested applicants are encouraged to visit the Executive Mansion website for detailed information and submit Letter of Application and CVs to Recruitment deltarecruitment@ibiworldwide.com clearly outlining relevant competencies with the subject line "[First initial] [Last initial] ICT and Program Support Assistant Application"

Applications and CVs must be submitted by December 29, 2024, 5p.m. GMT. Only selected candidates will be contacted for an interview.



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Liberia to include ICT education in cur

President Boakai calls for inclusion of Information Communication Technology in curricula of schools across Liberia.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah (contributing writer)

onrovia, Liberia, December 13, 2024 In response to growing demand in the digital transformation Project (LDTP) discloses digital economy, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai calls Chief Information Officer in for inclusion of ICT the Ministry of Post and education in school Telecommunications curricula and community leading the charge.

will be key to the success of this initiative," President Boakai reminds while stressing the importance of a unified approach, with team and the Office of the

took place across the

Mr. Abdullah L. Kamara, Chairman of the Liberia Digital Transformation that 10,073 participants were part of the program both physically and online. He emphasizes that the digital transformation



programs across Liberia.

innovative thinkers.

especially in developing the ICT training. nations like Liberia, with The Digital Transformation The Minister of Education, President further and commission. underscores.

the Ministry of Education to digital skills training. work closely with the Samuel A. Stevquoh, program is important, as Digital Transformation Minister of State for Special skills acquired will enhance Project and other partners Services, spoke on behalf productive engagement, to integrate digital training of the President and foster innovation. and into high school programs. revealed that seed funding provide sustainable As part of this initiative, was awarded to the first livelihoods for the the government will group of 50 trainees whose beneficiaries. expand ICT centers across proposals were deemed Despite the success of the the country, with agencies worthy of support. He program, there remains a such as the Liberia encourages the youth to be significant demand for Telecommunications innovative and contribute digital training among Authority (LTA), Liberia to Liberia's development. young Liberians. The Telecommunications The event was attended by project faced some Corporation (LTC), and the representatives of the logistical challenges during Ministry of Posts and L i b e r i a implementation, but the Telecommunications Telecommunications government remains (MoPT) tasked to prioritize Authority (LTA), Ministry of committed to expanding establishment of ICT Education, Ministry of Posts opportunities for youth sectors throughout Liberia. and Telecommunications across the country. Editing "Collaboration and (MoPT), Ministry of Youth by Jonathan Browne coordination across and Sports, and beneficiary government ministries, students from Montserrado

The President further initiative is not just about The President emphasizes highlights collaboration training but preparing the that government's vision is between the National next generation for a to position Liberia as a hub Identification Registry and rapidly evolving global of digital talent to get the Digital Transformation economy. Mr. Kamara global attention for its Project to establish a reveals plans to train half a skilled workforce and robust identity million youth in the next management database, three years, with ongoing He stresses the importance which will be managed by discussions to make digital of equipping young people, those who have completed education a core subject of

exposure to ICT. "The Project will also Dr. Jarso Jallah, recognized potential of our youth is collaborate with various the significant impact of immense, and it is crucial sector areas to ensure ICT this initiative, noting that that we prepare them for is integrated into every it opens new doors for digital competency," the Liberian ministry, agency, e m p l o y m e n t a n d

To ensure the awards ceremony held on part of the global digital benefit. transformation reaches December 12, 2024, at the transformation. every corner of the country EJS Ministerial Complex in A representative from the and increases ICT job Congo Town, more than Ministry of Youth and Sports opportunities nationwide, 10,000 youth were says the collective efforts President Boakai directs recognized for completing to empower young He emphasized the timeliness of the

agencies, and commissions County. Similar ceremonies

Liberians through this

the high school curriculum.

IWL, Irish Government sign US\$170,000 grant

The Government of Ireland and Integrity Watch Liberia have penned a US\$170,000 grant to enhance governance in the country.

By Lewis S. Teh

2024 - Integrity Watch Liberia (IWL) and the Government of Ireland through its Embassy in Liberia have officially signed a US\$170,000 over the next five years, there's still a \$3 governance here.

implement the project, "Strengthening Resource Accountability in Liberia."

Monrovia on Wednesday, December 9, Aidoo, described the collaboration as a and development in Liberia. critical step towards enhancing transparency, accountability, and strategy in Liberia since establishing the sector.

"This partnership reflects a shared including Liberia," he said. commitment between Integrity Watch The Ambassador highlighted Ireland's governance challenges and foster other donors. sustainable development in Liberia," Mr. He noted that organizations like Aidoo stated.

policies and agreements related to natural resources, supporting civil society advocacy for transparent and accountable resource governance; strengthening oversight functions of regulatory bodies to ensure compliance with established policies, and promoting inclusive decision-making by engaging marginalized groups, including women Ambassador Considine reiterated and youth, in governance processes.

Target beneficiaries include lawmakers, regulatory institutions such as the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Bureau of Concessions. Community leaders, civil society actors, The one-year project is expected to entrepreneurship, ensuring and local communities affected by At the certification and that Liberian youths are resource management decisions will also

> citizens to hold decision-makers Browne accountable," Aidoo added.

initiative, particularly as Liberia implements its new five-year onrovia, Liberia, December 13, development framework, the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development, which requires \$7.6 billion in financing. "Even with the \$5 billion we can raise grant agreement to strengthen billion gap. Programs like this help us address such challenges, enabling us to Specifically, the grant will be used to negotiate better concessions, ensure tax compliance, and strengthen governance Inclusive Governance and Natural within the Natural Resource Center," he explained.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in For his part, Irish Ambassador, Gérard Considine, reaffirmed the Government 2024, IWL Executive Director, Harold M. of Ireland's dedication to governance

"This is part of our second five-year governance in Liberia's natural resource embassy in 2018. Governance is a pillar of Ireland's work across all countries,

Liberia and Irish Aid to address critical focus on addressing gaps not covered by

Naymote and the Governance He outlined the project's objectives, Consortium CENTAL would play a pivotal which include: Enhancing the Liberian role in fostering accountability and Legislature's capacity to scrutinize enabling citizens to access information on resource and budget utilization.

> "This project is also aligned with Liberia's efforts to ensure that revenues from its natural resources are managed effectively and equitably. It's about making sure the Liberian people benefit directly from their country's wealth," he underscored.

> Ireland's support for institutional strengthening, stating, "Institutionbuilding is vital, and we believe this initiative will significantly contribute to Liberia's sustainable development goals."

enhance Liberia's natural resource governance framework, ensuring that resources are managed for the benefit of "The project will create spaces for all Liberians, while addressing critical dialogue and engagement, empowering financing gaps. Editing by Jonathan



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Officials asked to present progress reports

By: Kruah Thompson onrovia, Liberia, December 13, Ministry of Information, Tourism (MICAT) members and

their respective made the announcement since taking office.

addressed to the Director 2023. Cultural Affairs, and General of the Cabinet, Reading from a prepaid MICAT asks officials to text, Mr. Sando stresses requests cabinet appear at one of its that as the government's regular press briefings to communication arm,

ministries and agencies during MICAT's regular press briefing here on 2024 - The In an official letter Thursday, December 12,

> MICAT is committed to ensuring that the public is informed about the administration's achievements and ongoing activities.

> He stresses that those, who are directing the affairs of the government in various sectors let the people know what is happening in their sectors since they took office.

The exercise starts on Tuesday, December 16, with a briefing by Civil Service Agency Director government officials to outline progress only of General, Josiah F. Joekai. present year-end the government in the Editing by Jonathan Browne.



progress reports,

last ten to eleven months. d e t a i l i n g Deputy Minister for Public accomplishments of Affairs, Daniel Sando,

Commerce Minister promises economic growth

Minister Dagoseh has vowed transparent, inclusive leadership as Liberia's new Commerce Minister.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah onrovia, December 13, 2024: Liberia's ▼ Inew Commerce Minister, Magdalene Dagoseh, has officially assumed leadership at the Ministry of Commerce, vowing to create new opportunities and stimulate economic growth.

Minister Dagoseh spoke on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at the EJS Ministerial Complex, during a ceremony marking her official takeover.

The event was attended by representatives from the ruling Unity Party (UP), deputy and assistant ministers, staff, and wellwishers.

During her inaugural speech, Minister Dagoseh outlined her key priorities, focusing on price stability. She vowed to ensure the affordability of essential goods and services and to tackle inflation through

"I will encourage innovation and expansion in the industry to foster new opportunities and

fair trade practices.

stimulate growth," she affirmed.

The commerce minister

further emphasized her commitment to strengthening trade relations, enhancing the nation's port export potential, and positioning Liberia as a preferred destination for investment. Addressing her colleagues and ministry staff, Minister Dagoseh said, "With sincerity and commitment, together we will build a system that is strong, dynamic, and

She expressed gratitude to President Joseph Nyuma Boakai for the opportunity to

the Liberian people."

lead the ministry.

Minister Dagoseh highlighted the significant role the commerce sector plays in the nation's economy, industry, and global trade.

Dagoseh laid out her vision for a transparent, inclusive, and sustainable commerce sector, underscoring the importance of collective dedication and unity in building a robust economy.

"This responsibility requires the collective dedication, sincerity, and togetherness of all of us," she said.

She also thanked her predecessor, former Minister Amin Modad, for his responsive to the needs of leadership and efforts in laying the foundation for the ministry's work.



LNBA's new SG vows to promote transparency

Cllr. Forkeyoh, the LNBA's new SG, has managed corporate, governmental, and non-governmental entities before his election.

By Lincoln G. Peters onrovia, December 13, 2024: The newly V elected Secretary General of the Liberia

National Bar Association (LNBA) Cllr. Elisha Forkeyoh has promised to promote transparency in all operations of the Bar.

Cllr. Forkeyoh believes that this will enhance collaboration and access to justice.

The LNBA recently in Ganta City, Nimba County, elected new badge of officers for the next three years.

Those elected to run the affairs of the association are Cllr. Bornor Varmah, President; Cllr. F. Juah Lawson, Vice President; Cllr. Elisha Forkeyoh, Secretary and Art. Yemi General; Shobayo-Williams, Treasurer. Speaking in an interview with the judicial report on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, Cllr. Forkeyoh vowed to implement efficient administrative systems.

He spoke of supporting professional growth and developing a digital identification system for all With this resounding vote of confidence, Cllr. Forkeyoh has managed corporate, governmental, and nongovernmental entities.

Electing Cllr. Forkeyoh as SG for the Bar is essential because he has computer skills including Microsoft Office, Windows, and Excel, among others, that made a gain in the legal system.

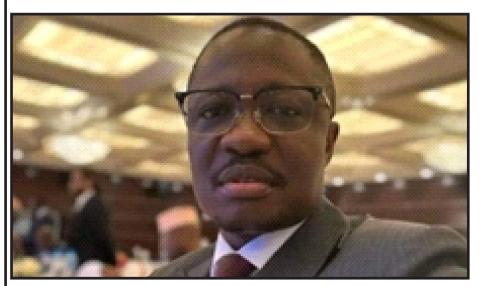
The legal luminary who served in many capacities in the legal profession has worked with the Elbert Law Firm as Senior Managing Partner from September 4, 2023, up to the present.

Cllr. Forkeyoh at the law firm supervises all activities as a corporate institution supervises all employees and monitors their adherence to the standard operating procedures of the firm.

He has served at the level of former and current associate justices and chief justices of the Supreme Court of Liberia.

He is an adjunct professor at the James A.A. Pierre Judicial Institute from February 2018 -

He has served as a Lecturer of Criminal Procedure Law, I, II &



lawyers of the LNBA.

streamline communication Cllr. Forkeyoh has also served at accountability.

collaborative work culture as 2016. the haul mark for the day.

understanding of inter-office management, record keeping, leadership ability, and good interpersonal relationships necessary for efficient operation of will perform greatly. reputable institutions.

He teaches both practical and Cllr. Forkeyoh swore to theoretical aspects of the law.

and encouraged the Public Defense Program as a Defense Lawyer for Montserrado He promised to foster a County from March 2013 to July

He served as legal For over 23 years, he has representative for indigent demonstrated an defendants undergoing criminal investigation at police stations and zones around Montserrado County.

With this tremendous work from diverse institutions and legal the smooth, effective, and areas, Cllr. Forkeyoh at the LNBA

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Le Sénat libérien lance les auditions sur le projet de budget national 2025

Moyens, Finances et Budget du Sénat libérien ouvre ce jeudi 12 décembre 2024 les auditions publiques sur le projet de budget national pour l'exercice fiscal 2025.

FRIDAY

tiennent dans la salle de du jeudi 12 au samedi 14 décembre.

a Commission des Voies, 851 millions de dollars américains. Elles se concentreront sur deux volets essentiels : les recettes et les dépenses.

Un calendrier structuré

Selon le Bureau de presse et des affaires publiques du Sénat, les Ces consultations, qui se auditions sur les recettes s'étaleront

La première session de ce jeudi commencera à 10 heures avec la comparution du ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement ainsi que de l'Autorité fiscale du Libéria (LRA). Cette phase initiale sera suivie à 11 heures par l'Autorité des télécommunications du Libéria (LTA), dont l'intervention est prévue jusqu'à 13 heures.

L'après-midi sera marqué par les interventions conjointes de plusieurs entités clés, notamment la Liberia Petroleum Refinery Corporation (LPRC), le Fonds routier national (NRF), l'Autorité de régulation pétrolière du Libéria et la Compagnie pétrolière nationale du Libéria (NOCAL), entre 14 heures et 15 heures.

Le Service d'immigration du Libéria (LIS) prendra la parole de 15 heures à 16 heures, suivi des ministères des Transports et du Travail, programmés entre 16 heures et 17 heures.

Les recettes au cœur des discussions

Les auditions reprendront

CONT'D ON PAGE 9



du Capitole, portent sur un budget proposé d'un montant de mercredi 18 décembre 2024.

conférence de l'ancien bâtiment L'examen des dépenses débutera le lundi 16 décembre pour s'achever le

n ministre du Commerce s'engage pour la relance économique du Libéria pour le pays.

onrovia, 13 décembre 2024 - La nouvelle ministre du Commerce du Libéria, Magdalene Dagoseh, a officiellement pris ses fonctions jeudi 12 décembre 2024. Lors de son investiture au complexe ministériel Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (EJS), elle a affirmé sa détermination à stimuler la croissance économique et à favoriser de nouvelles opportunités

Priorité à la stabilité renforcer la croissance économique et au commerce équitable

Dans son discours inaugural, Mme Dagoseh a présenté ses priorités, notamment la stabilité des prix et l'accessibilité des produits de première nécessité. Elle s'est engagée à lutter contre l'inflation et à promouvoir des pratiques commerciales justes.

« Nous devons encourager l'innovation et l'expansion industrielle pour ouvrir de

nouvelles perspectives et économique », a-t-elle déclaré.

Elle a également souligné son ambition de renforcer les relations commerciales, de maximiser le potentiel d'exportation des infrastructures portuaires du Libéria et de positionner le pays comme une destination privilégiée pour les investisseurs étrangers. Une vision de gouvernance transparente et inclusive



Editorial

<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 gu'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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rançais

Starts from page 8 Le Sénat libérien lance les auditions

DECEMBER 13

interviendra ensuite, de 11 heures à de 15 heures à 16 heures. 12 heures.

partir de 15 heures.

La composante recettes des Clôture des auditions auditions s'achèvera samedi 14 Les séances publiques se concluront ministère des Finances, consacrée à institutions stratégiques. la législation fiscale.

Analyse des dépenses : un agenda l'Agriculture interviendront de 10

L'examen des dépenses débutera 15 heures, respectivement. Enfin, lundi 16 décembre avec une session les ministères de la Justice et de la du ministère des Finances, prévue Défense clôtureront la journée avec de 10 heures à 12 heures. Le des interventions programmées de ministère des Affaires étrangères 15 heures à 16 heures et de 16

vendredi 13 décembre avec le prendra le relais de 13 heures à 14 ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie, heures, suivi des interventions attendu de 10 heures à 11 heures. combinées de la LRA et du ministère L'Autorité maritime du Libéria de l'Administration intérieure (MIA),

2024

Le mardi 17 décembre, les L'Autorité portuaire nationale sera ministères des Travaux publics et de entendue de 12 heures à 13 heures, l'Éducation seront entendus suivie de l'Autorité nationale des respectivement de 10 heures à 12 pêches et de l'aquaculture (NaFAA) heures et de 13 heures à 15 heures. de 14 heures à 15 heures. La journée L'Université du Libéria interviendra se terminera avec les présentations ensuite de 15 heures à 16 heures, de la Police nationale et du Service suivie de l'Agence de lutte contre les national des incendies, prévues à stupéfiants de 16 heures à 17 heures.

décembre par une nouvelle mercredi 18 décembre avec les comparution de la LRA et du comparutions de plusieurs

> Les ministères de la Santé et de heures à 12 heures et de 13 heures à heures à 17 heures.

Starts from page 8 La ministre du Commerce s'engage

sur la nécessité d'un l'excellence leadership fondé sur la Dans un appel passionné, la

aux besoins du peuple libérien résultats concrets. », a-t-elle affirmé.

du secteur du commerce dans redevabilité. le développement Défisàrelever économique et l'intégration La prise de fonctions de Mme mondiale du Libéria.

initiatives positives déjà en américains. place.

Elle a également mis en avant Dagoseh se montre résolue à l'importance de l'unité et de la dynamiser le secteur du coopération pour atteindre commerce, moteur essentiel les objectifs fixés dans le de la croissance économique cadre de l'Agenda ARREST, un et du développement durable programme développement inclusif.

La ministre Dagoseh a insisté Appel à la responsabilité et à

transparence et l'inclusion, ministre a insisté sur les tout en appelant à la valeurs de responsabilité et collaboration et à de transparence, qu'elle l'engagement de son équipe. considère comme les piliers « Ensemble, avec sincérité et du progrès. Elle a exhorté le détermination, nous personnel du ministère à construirons un système travailler avec sérieux et solide, dynamique et adapté dévouement pour garantir des

« La réussite exige une Elle a exprimé sa gratitude au sincérité sans faille et un président Joseph Nyuma engagement total », a-t-elle Boakai pour la confiance qu'il ajouté, tout en réaffirmant lui accorde, tout en l'importance d'une gestion reconnaissant le rôle crucial fondée sur l'excellence et la

Dagoseh intervient dans un Hommage à son prédécesseur contexte marqué par la Mme Dagoseh a salué les controverse. Elle succède à efforts de son prédécesseur, Amin Modad, qui a Amin Modad, qu'elle a démissionné en octobre remercié pour les bases dernier à la suite d'un solides qu'il a posées au sein scandale lié à l'achat d'un du ministère. Elle s'est véhicule officiel de luxe d'une engagée à poursuivre les valeur de 98 000 dollars

> Malgré les défis, Magdalene d e du Libéria.

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Le CDC expulse Thomas P. Fallah pour indiscipline grave, au cœur de la crise parlementaire



e Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC) a annoncé l'expulsion immédiate de Thomas P. Fallah, vice-président de l'Assemblée nationale, en raison de violations des règles disciplinaires internes.

Dans un communiqué officiel, l'ancien parti au pouvoir a expliqué que cette décision fait suite à une enquête approfondie et aux recommandations du Comité national de discipline du CDC. Cette expulsion survient alors que Fallah se retrouve au centre des tensions liées à la tentative de destitution du président de la Chambre des représentants, Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa. Cette crise parlementaire a exacerbé les divisions au sein de l'opposition.

Le CDC a indiqué que Fallah a enfreint les principes de discipline au sein du parti, commettant des actes incompatibles avec la conduite attendue de ses hauts responsables. Le parti a également précisé que son Comité exécutif national a donné un ultimatum de sept jours aux députés suspendus, les sommant de revenir au sein du parti, sous peine d'expulsion.

Cette décision intervient alors que la crise de leadership à la Chambre des représentants se poursuit. Le CDC a réaffirmé sa reconnaissance de Cllr. Fonati Koffa en tant que président légitime de la 55e législature, rejetant l'élection de Richard Koon par le bloc majoritaire

soutenu par le Parti de l'Union (Unity Party), qu'il juge anticonstitutionnelle. Le CDC a exhorté Fonati Koffa à ne pas démissionner, soulignant que toute démission serait une violation de l'intégrité constitutionnelle du pays, conformément à l'arrêt de la Cour suprême du 6 décembre 2024.

Le parti a également exprimé des préoccupations concernant le processus d'adoption du budget national. Il accuse le bloc majoritaire d'intentions de détournement des ressources nationales et a mis en garde le président Joseph Boakai contre la signature de ce qu'il appelle un "budget traître", menaçant de le rendre responsable, lui et ses alliés, de l'instabilité nationale et de la détérioration économique.

Face à cette situation tendue, le CDC a appelé au calme et au respect des droits constitutionnels. Le parti a exprimé son soutien aux manifestations pacifiques, tout en demandant au gouvernement de garantir la sécurité des citoyens souhaitant manifester pacifiquement. Le CDC se positionne ainsi comme un défenseur des libertés démocratiques et dénonce les actions qu'il considère comme menaçant l'unité du pays.

L'expulsion de Thomas P. Fallah intervient dans un contexte de rumeurs sur son état de santé. Des informations font état de son hospitalisation après un AVC présumé, bien que son bureau ait démenti ces

Monrovia accueille la 15º Conférence ministérielle du CPCO

a 15° Conférence ministérielle des pêches du Comité des ■pêches pour le Golfe de Guinée Centre-Ouest (CPCO) s'est ouverte mercredi à Monrovia, rassemblant des dirigeants régionaux, des experts techniques, ainsi que des partenaires internationaux.

L'événement, qui se déroule sur trois jours, du 11 au 13 décembre, s'articule autour de deux jours de discussions techniques avant de culminer avec une session ministérielle, prévue vendredi au complexe ministériel de Congo Town, dans la banlieue de Monrovia. Lors de la cérémonie d'ouverture. M. William Y. Boeh, Directeur général adjoint des services techniques de l'Autorité nationale des pêches et de l'aquaculture (NaFAA), a salué la présence des participants venus d'Afrique, d'Europe et d'autres régions du monde. Il a qualifié la conférence de « moment décisif » pour le Liberia, qui accueillera la présidence du CPCO.

« En assumant la présidence du CPCO, le Liberia réaffirme son engagement en faveur d'un leadership régional fort et d'une coopération renforcée. Nous sommes honorés de jouer un rôle central dans ces discussions essentielles et de travailler aux côtés des autres États membres pour faire progresser des solutions concrètes », a déclaré M. Boeh.

Défis majeurs pour la pêche dans le Golfe de Guinée

Le Golfe de Guinée Centre-Ouest fait face à des menaces importantes, notamment la surpêche, la pêche illégale, non déclarée et non réglementée (INN), le changement climatique et les lacunes en matière de gouvernance. Selon M. Boeh, ces défis mettent en péril la sécurité alimentaire et les moyens de subsistance des populations

« Ces problèmes exigent une action concertée et une coopération solide entre les États membres. Ensemble, nous devons développer des approches durables pour préserver nos ressources marines et en garantir une utilisation équitable pour les générations futures », a-t-il



ARTICLE ARTICLE

The Liberian government: Understanding the Collaborative

houghts, Politics, and People is a column that should attract the participation of Liberians intellectuals and functional arms of Government. It is against the issues of national concerns that I sought permission to make a contribution and detail what Mr. Hne sought to provide. It is my conviction that others would follow suit. I believe that there is a lack of understanding on the part of most of our compatriots and citizenry about the collaborations that exist between the Executive and Legislative branches of government. This assertion is informed by the loose statements people often make when given their evaluations of the overall performances of the three branches of Government.

Owing to this lack of understanding also, our people in most instances tend to exclusively give all the credits to the President alone for successes made by the Government of the day, thus leaving out the role played by the Legislature in the achievement of the successes made by Government.

Whether crediting the President exclusively for all the good works of the Government is done out of ignorance or for the sole purpose of blackmailing the lawmakers, the fact remains that many of our compatriots and constituents just do not understand the inner workings of the collaborations that characterized the works of the Executive and Legislative branches of Government. It therefore behooves us as Legislators to put in place the necessary framework to educate the public about our scope of work as provided for by the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia.

By this means, our people would gradually come to understand and know that both the Legislative and Executive branches of Government have distinct roles to play in the processes of governance and, that until there is coordination between these two key branches of Government, the development of the Country becomes elusive.

The intent of this article is, therefore, to provide some basic insights for our people to know and understand the processes of coordination between the Legislature and the Executive, and how such coordination has accounted for the on-going development of this country.

By the operation of the 1986 constitution of the Republic of Liberia, there are three distinct, but coordinate branches of Government that make up what is referred to as the "Government of Liberia"

Of the three branches of Government, the Legislature, which is considered the first branch and the Executive, the Second branch must closely work in Coordination with each other to fully constitute the Government of the Republic of Liberia. By this Constitution, we mean, all of the laws that brought into existence ministries, agencies, commissions, and all Courts of record were made possible as a result of the process of coordination between the Legislative and Executive branches of Government.

The Constitution of Liberia vests the Executive authority of the State in a President who is also considered Head of State and Commander in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia.

The Armed Forces of Liberia include the Military and all paramilitary organizations created by an Act of the Legislature and the President of the Republic of Liberia. The same Constitution under Article 29 vests the Legislative authority in a Legislature comprising of two distinct Houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives each of which must agree and pass on all legislations and major policy decisions before becoming binding laws on the people of Liberia.

In the spirit of coordination, the Constitution requires that for all laws agreed and passed upon by the Legislature to become binding on the Liberian people, same must be signed by the President and printed into handbills for circulation, so that everyone will know what the laws say about a specific subject matter. The intent of the above-mentioned illustration is to explain to our people in simple terms that the lawmakers and the President are duty-bound to work together for the enhancement of development in our country.

Since the purpose of this Article is to deal with this collaborative process between the Executive and Legislative branches of Government and the extent to which such collaboration has impacted the development drive of the country, let us examine the process of collaboration within the context as to how the debts of

Liberia were waived.

Liberia has been indebted to other nations and International financial lending institutions over a period of time in the Sum of US\$3.8 billion United States Dollars. This debt was monies that accumulated over a period of time with interest. The 3.8 billion was credited by successive political leaderships in the names of building good road network, health care delivery system, better educational facilities, and so forth.

The loan short landed in the pockets of selected group of people at the helm of power while the vast majority on whose behalf the monies were credited continued to live in abject poverty. Looking at the size and population of Liberia within the context of how the 3.8 billion was used, one would realize that the monies were never used for the intended purposes.

It is worth mentioning that these loans were obtained at a time when the mining sector of Liberia was in its vibrancy. Resources such as Iron ores, diamonds, and gold were much needed for substantial portion of the country's revenue potential.

As if squandering 3.8 billion dollars at the detriment of our people was not enough, revenues generated from iron ore, rubber, gold, and diamond were also grossly mismanaged. Due to the long years of denial of our people couple with the perpetration of other social vices against them, disenchantment and disillusionment set in and later germinated into the 14 years of civil crisis this country had to go through.

After 14 years of self-destruction, major international actors under the auspices of the International Contact Group on Liberia intervened to bring to an end our nightmare. As a means of re-uniting the Country under centralized political



leadership, disarmament, demobilization, resettlement, and elections were held out of which this Government came into being.

Since coming into being, the preoccupation of the Government and International actors have been to put in place systems backed by laws to ensure that this country does not revert to its ugly past anymore. In order to put the country on course, major reform measures were proposed by Liberia's development partners. These reform proposals required the Government of Liberia to repeal and/or pass new laws that are sensitive to the development goals and objectives of Liberia.

The Passage of these new laws as a way of making Liberia debt free and credit worthy could not have been made possible without the collaboration of the Legislative and Executive branches of Government.

The first benchmark Legislation was the passage of the Forest Management Act and the Community Rights Law which led to the lifting of the ban on all forest products. The intent of the Forest Management Act and the Community rights law is to ensure that the communities in which the forest concessionaire operates get just social services benefits; something that was not done in the past. Following the passage of these laws, portion of Liberia's debt was waived and grants were given to the Government to underwrite the cost of some of its development programs.

Another benchmark legislation passed by the Legislature for debt waiver is the passage of a law that created the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC). The rationale for the creation of this Commission is to ensure that contracts that the Liberia Government desires to award to companies and contractors are bided for and awarded on the basis of merit.

In the past, political leaders awarded contracts on the basis of

friendship and not on the basis of the ability of the contractor or company to perform. As a result of this, many contracts were compromised at the detriment of a country that stood in need of rapid developments.

The PPCC therefore requires a competitive bidding process in which due diligence is done on all bidders, so that the ability to perform can clearly be determined. These capabilities take into account technical know-how, financial capability and the willingness of bidders to substantially contribute to the implementation of the project (s), in keeping with corporate responsibility.

Another crucial piece of legislation was the Security Sector Reform Act passed by the Legislature and approved by the President of Liberia for the entire security sector of this country to undergo reform. The intent of this law is to create a security force sensitive to the civic responsibilities of the Liberian people and to ensure the creation of a security force that will be free of regime influences.

During the course of our civil crisis, the security forces were divided along fractional lines, thereby, making them to hold loyalty to only their commanders and those that control them from the political point-of-view. These forces committed wanton atrocities and other forms of abuses against the citizens; thereby, making public confidence to erode in them. As a result of the passage of the Security Sector Reform Act, the army and Police forces are today being re-organized and restructured to reflect the changing times and changing realities.

Following this, a portion of Liberia's debt was waived and additional grants given to underwrite the cost of the reconstruction of roads and other meaningful projects. The intent of these grants is to help the Government of Liberia to carryout development, since the Government was not yet credit worthy.

Another Crucial benchmark legislation for debt waiver was an Act passed by the Legislature to create the Independent Human Rights commission which was created and charged with the responsibility to implement the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with the view to making recommendations to the legislature for abuses committed during the course of the war to either be punished or forgiven.

It is worth noting that for every step taken to meet up with these reforms requirements as proposed and agreed upon by and between the Government of Liberia and development partners, portion of our debt was always waived and additional grants given for development.

Benchmark legislation for the HIPAC Completion processes was the passage of the Investment Incentive Code Act by the Legislature and approved by the President. The object of this Act is to grant investors tax holidays and create a business-friendly atmosphere to attract more investors into the economy of Liberia.

Liberia is blessed with abundant of resources, so it cannot be developed only by the giving of grants through the international community, but through the creation of a viable, conducive investment atmosphere; thus, making full use of these naturally endowed resources.

Benchmark legislation was the passage into law by the legislature the Public Financial Management Act, an Act that calls for clear-cut financial policies and practices, so that when Liberia becomes credit worthy these will serve as guides that will not allow us to revert to things that led the country into plunder. Following the passage of this Act, Liberia debt was waived and declared credit worthy. These illustrations are made to pin-point at how the Legislature and the Executive on the one hand have interacted with our development partners in waiving the 3.8 billion dollars debt.

Without the collaboration and interactions between the legislature and the Executive, the legal processes leading to the waiver of Liberia's debt would not have been realizable. Furthermore, the impressive levels of achievements would not have been possible. For one to therefore credit the President alone for all the good works and refer to the Legislature as not doing anything further exposes, in no uncertain terms, the limitation of the vast majority of our people in the governance process.

The GAC must also be credited for carrying out audits that were purely intended to expose lapses and wastes in five of our Ministries and agencies which were also basic requirements for the waiver of our debts. These ministries and agencies include, but not limited to Lands and Mines, Finance, Education, Health, and the National Investment Commission.

CSA lacks authority to hear dismissal complaint --NEC says

The NEC has accused the employees of coordinating and making disturbing noises and other unruly acts during work hours.

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh onrovia, December 13, 2024: The National Elections Commission (NEC) says the Civil Service

the public that it had opened a hearing into the case brought by the 25 dismissed NEC employees.

However, the NEC has denied

complaint in a representative capacity -- as an attorney-infact on behalf of any current or former employee, the NEC suggested that he would need



Agency (CSA) lacks subject matter jurisdiction over a complaint filed by some NEC employees alleging wrongful dismissal.

The NEC, through its lawyer, has argued that the 1973 Act that established the CSA as an agency within the Executive Branch of Government does not grant the CSA any authority to direct or review any employment-related matter concerning the NEC.

The Commission stated that it was established as an independent commission under Article 89(B) of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia.

"Because the 1973 Act does not grant the CSA such authority, the CSA cannot, via a Standing Order, assume such authority," the NEC

The NEC's statement comes against the CSA's press statement dated December 10, 2024, revealing that it had received a complaint from 25 employees alleging that they had been dismissed by the NEC.

Having received such a

the allegation and asked the CSA to dismiss the complaint.

The NEC stated that assuming that the CSA had a degree of authority, Mr. Rennie B. Gleegbar, who filed the December 3, 2024 "wrongful dismissal" complaint, is a current employee at the NEC and has not been dismissed.

"Hence, Mr. Gleegbar lacks the capacity to factually and legally file a complaint of "wrongful dismissal" against the NEC," the Commission noted.

Further, the NEC said it does not have any section or group called "The Aggrieved Workforce" of the NEC.

It therefore contends that

a complainant from such a group has not presented any instrument to the CSA showing that the said name/group is legally registered as an incorporated or unincorporated association to so operate.

Moreover, the NEC said Mr. Gleegbar, who signed the complaint, is not a lawyer to file a "wrongful dismissal" complaint on behalf of another

complaint, the CSA informed If Mr. Gleegbar wanted to file a

written authorization from that person designating and authorizing him to do so.

Because Mr. Gleegbar allegedly failed to plead and annex the necessary instruments, the NEC believes that the complaint must be dismissed for lack of legal capacity.

As per the 1973 CSA Act and Standing Orders of 2012, the NEC insisted that a person who was not appointed under the authority of the said 1973 Act and has not passed the Civil Examination has no right to appeal any action to the Examining Committee or the Board of Appeal of the CSA.

The NEC informed the CSA that the complainant herein was not appointed under the authority of the 1973 CSAAct.

According to the NEC, the complainant was hired under the authority granted to the NEC under the New Elections Law of 1986, as amended.

"Hence, the complaint must be dismissed, and the NEC has simultaneously filed along with this response a motion to dismiss the complainant's complaint," the commission noted.

Starts from back page Heath workers reject US\$50 pay

sets declaration by business through a World Bank project that people.

However, the Commissioner General is optimistic that if the country can invest in the revenue mobilization system, they can achieve the US\$1 billion revenue envelope, disclosing he had alternative discussion with senators and some members in the Executives to change the financing mechanism of the Revenue

He says instead of installing them in the budget where it's a game of chance, he proposed that the LRA law be amended to allocate a percentage of the domestic revenue that they will mobilize as their operating budget annually, something, he believes will give them the space to be able to invest in material and human resources to stop leakages.

"If I don't get the resources, I will not do it. To tell you the truth senator, it is getting disappointing because you know what can be done. There are things that can be done easily so that we can be able to close the leakages to be able to bring more revenue in; you can't do them because you don't have the resources. It's really, really difficult."

He points out that one of the major challenges at the LRA is its operations outside of Monrovia, with customs offices operating in counties, but are not connected to the tax paying system, leaving people to collect taxes and keep it for months before being sent to head office in Monrovia because of lack of connectivity, which is dangerous.

He says the Authority has acquired 50 pieces of Star Links devise

they are installing to ensure access to connectivity to do real time revenue collection and increase transparency, adding that these are some of the reasons they needed the funds, noting that GST or General Service Tax is also part of the plan.

"We need to rollout electronic building machines so that when companies make their sales, everybody will be required to make their sales through the system that we will provide. LRA wants the resources, so that we can invest in those equipment. With that, we will get real time information. If we really want to hit this as World Bank, IMF and others have projected that in the next three years, that can happened when we invest because the leakages are many" CG Jallah underscores.

He indicates that the system provides for business individuals to operate and after that, they will be the one to tell the LRA what they have made, and so, the only way they can be tracked is for the LRA to institute an audit and the LRA is very short of auditors.

"Because of that, you have many taxes payers who go unaudited for a protracted period. Also, we have status of limitation, which provided that if you don't audit until five years, you can no longer go back and audit them. That is why I thought that the audit functions and the back office function is really so crucial and so, we needed to urgently be able to hire. Unfortunately, we have not been able to get the resources", Jallah reminds the Senate. Editing by Jonathan Browne.

Cllr. Johnson further seeks that the high court declares the actions of Koon and members of the Majority Bloc null and void, noting that their sessions, hearings or decisions are in violation of the Court's ruling and final judgment, ultra vires and unconstitutional.

He indicates that the Attorney General Tweh, has contributed to the Majority Bloc's violation of the Court's Ruling by publicly issuing a legal opinion on December 10, 2024 addressed to the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs in which the Minister

of Justice falsely asserted that the Supreme Court ruling and final judgment concluded that the sittings, actions and decisions of the Majority Bloc are lawful.

He says the action of the Minister of Justice has further exacerbated the situation, saying, "A copy of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General's opinion is hereto attached.

2.3. Informants submit that collectively the Majority Bloc's action undermines the authority of the honorable Court, the framework of our constitutional system of government and the stability of the entire

Cllr. Johnson also underscores that by supporting the Majority Bloc's actions, the Minister of Justice and Attorney

General has emboldened unconstitutional behavior and deepened the legislative crisis.

Koffa defies Executive Branch

-returns to Supreme Court with Bill of Information

Embattled Speaker Fonati Koffa is challenging the executive's opinion on the recent advice by the Supreme Court of Liberia in the ongoing leadership crisis in the House of Representatives, filing a Bill of Information thru his lawyer.

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, Liberia, December 13, 2024 -One of the lawyers representing embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, files a Bill of Information to the Supreme Court of Liberia, asking to publicly recall the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Liberia, N. Oswald Tweh's opinion, for misinterpreting the high court's recent ruling in the case involving the Speaker and Majority Bloc of the House of Representatives,

Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson argues in his Bill of Information that the Supreme Court should grant any further relief that it may deem proper to restore the Constitution and uphold the rule of law in Liberia.

He also prays the Supreme Court to determine actions of newly-elected "purported" Speaker Richard Koon, Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah, and other members of the Majority Bloc in defying the Court's ruling and final judgment as contemptuous.





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others.

-for failure to raise revenue envelop to US\$1 Billion

The Liberia Revenue Authority says it couldn't meet its revenue projection of US\$1 Billion because the Senate failed to approve funding requested for.

By Lincoln G. Peters

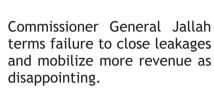
onrovia, Liberia, December 13, 2024 -The Commissioner General of the Liberia Revenue Authority James

Responding to senators' question here on Thursday,

"This august body through the Pro-temp, Senator Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence assured me that we could have gotten the financial resources. In fact, in my second appearance, I even gave my appreciation to the Senate for the commitment on the additional fund. But, when the budget finally came out, we saw that we were allocated US\$2 million. When the recast was done, US\$1.4 million of that amount was removed", he explains in disappointment.

Jallah laments that because of that, he has not been able to hire a single soul to enable him beef up the back office function that is really crucial to the LRA, adding that the manner in which the Liberian tax system is structured, it

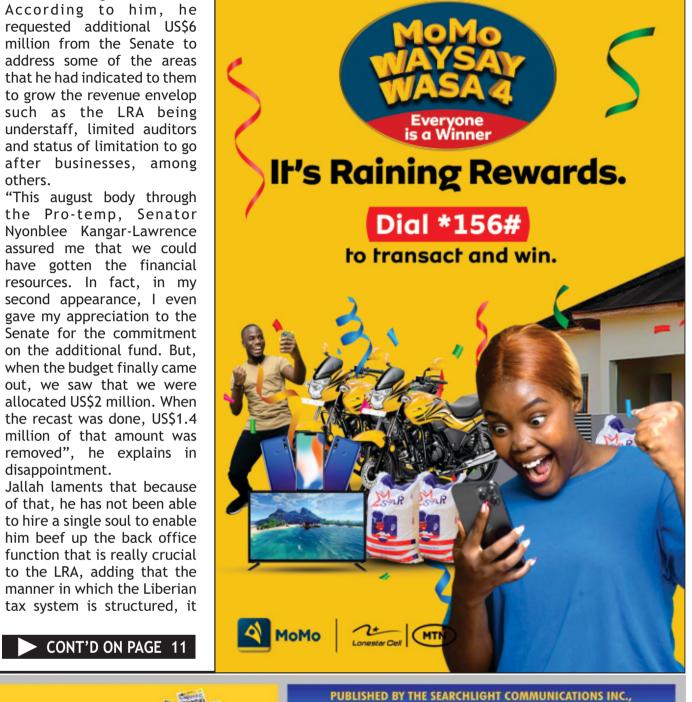
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the revenue envelop to US\$1 billion, as bragged and targeted during the 2024 draft National Budget hearing.

raise the Liberian economy to US\$1 billion as promised, Jallah said the spirit and ambition to move the revenue envelop to US\$1 billion is still











UN Drive, P. O. Box 1266

Opposite the National Investment Commission