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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29 2025	L\$195.6342/US\$1.00	L\$197.2995/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.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

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The New Dawn
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Our nation is in crisis

-CDC tears Boakai's SONA apart



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Jeety Rubber LLC and SRC plantation set ablaze

-Two suspects face police interrogation



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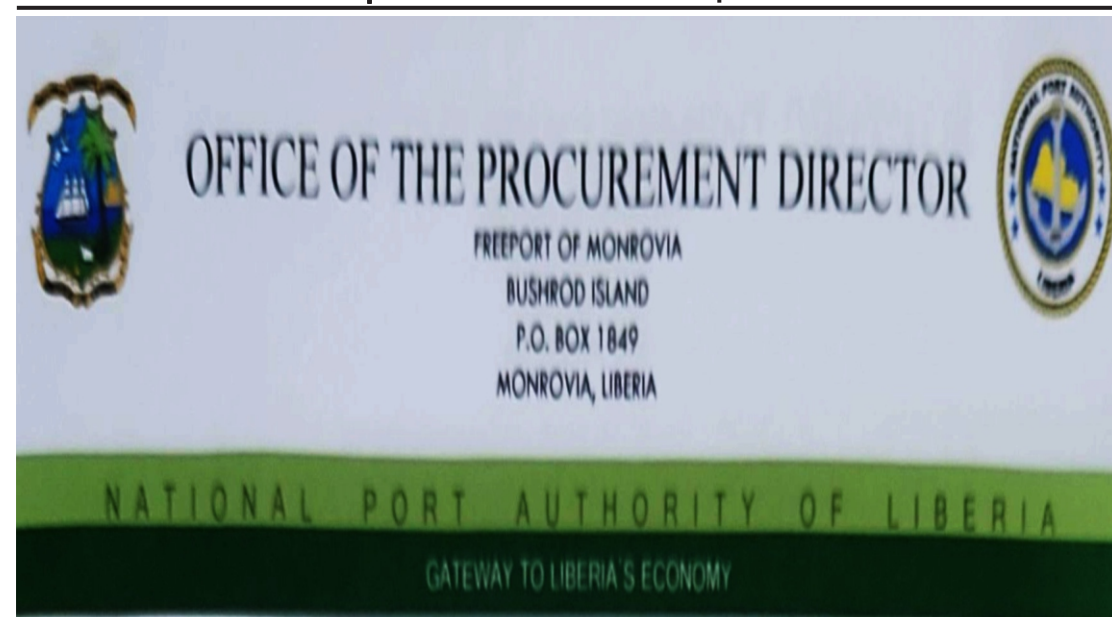
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NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

TITLE: THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PORT MASTER PLAN FOR THE NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY

RFP NO. NPA/QCBS/001/2025

DATE OF ISSUANCE: 30 JANUARY 2025

BACKGROUND

The National Port Authority, with the Free Port of Monrovia as the principal gateway, plays a strategic role in facilitating the country's international trade and driving its economic development. The Free Port of Monrovia, as the largest and most active port, serves as a vital hub for imports and exports, supporting key sectors such as agriculture, mining, and industry. Alongside Monrovia, other significant ports, as the Ports of Buchanan, contribute to regional connectivity and trade facilitation. Each port has its unique role in enhancing Liberia's competitiveness and linking it to global supply chains.

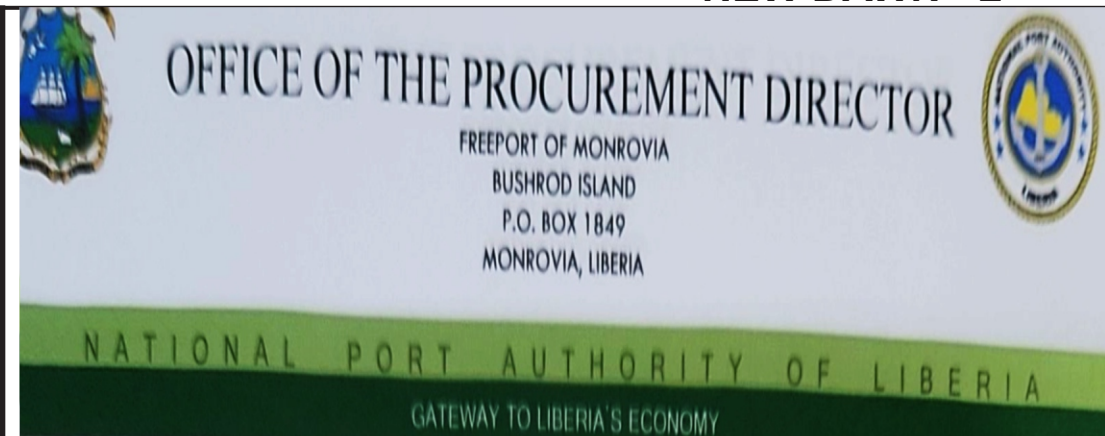
To strengthen the contribution of these ports to the national economy, the **Development of a Port Master Plan 2025-2035 for the National Port Authority of Liberia** aims to establish a strategic framework for their modernization and sustainable development. This plan seeks to address the growing demand for port services, improve operational efficiency, and ensure environmental sustainability. By aligning infrastructure development with best practices in port management, the plan will position Liberia's ports as competitive, resilient, and environmentally responsible trade hubs, supporting the nation's long-term socio-economic growth.

Purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP)

The National Port Authority is launching this RFP to solicit competitive proposals and select a Firm/Organization (hereto referred to as "Service Provider" or "Bidder") to enter into a contract. The selection process aims to ensure that the final selected Service Providers are of the highest caliber professionally, technically and ethically to implement and execute the necessary services.

The National Port Authority now invites qualified consultancy firms, or consortia to submit proposals for developing a **Port Master Plan for the National Port Authority, to include port infrastructure design and development, for the Management of the National Port Authority**. The objective is to create a sustainable and efficient port operations that align with environmental, social, and economic sustainability goals.

All interested eligible firms or consortia may obtain copy of the **Request for Proposal (RFP) Document** from the Procurement Department of the National Port Authority, beginning January 30, 2025, Mondays through Fridays at 9:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M, when a non-refundable fee of **USD 51.50** is paid to NPA's ECO Bank USD Account.



The Account Title and Number are: **National Port Authority; 6100225392.**

Submission and Opening of Proposals

Submission of the Proposal

All interested firms/ Consortia participating in this Request for Proposal, are requested to submit your proposal to the address mentioned below no later than **14 March 2025, 13:00:00 hours (1:00 p.m. o'clock)** hereinafter referred to as "the closing date and time").

Proposals received after the closing date and time will be rejected. All proposals and supporting documents must be submitted in hard copy and also accompanied by a soft copy placed on a USB Drive (ensure that the document placed on the USB Drive is in PDF format) on or before the closing date and time stipulated above.

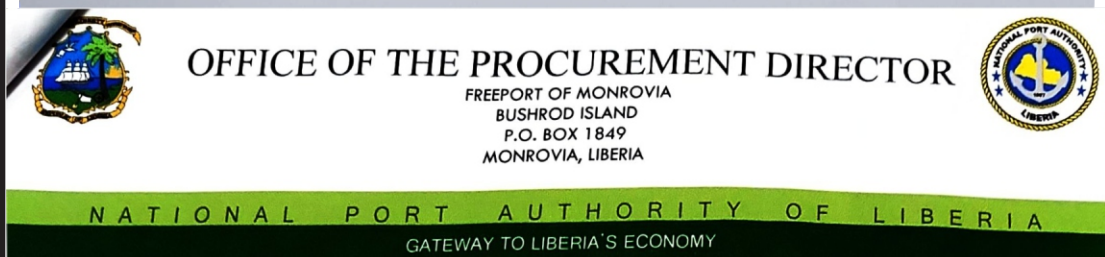
The Executive Director for Procurement
The Procurement Department
National Port Authority
Bushrod Island
Email: info.procurement@npa.gov.lr
Contact number: +231886501319/770777242

Please adhere to the following instructions, unless otherwise provided in the relevant Bid Documents. The Submission must be drafted in **English** and contain:

A **Technical Proposal** and supporting documentation, with clear and concise description of your proposed actions to execute the Scope of Work/Terms of Reference and Deliverables.

The Technical Proposal **should include all supporting documentation, CVs, and company profile) for successful delivery.**

- A **Financial Proposal**
- **All the supporting documentation** in relation to the evaluation criteria.
- Proposals must be submitted in **two separate Envelopes**.
- The Technical Proposal must be named **RFP NO. NPA/QCBS/001/2025-TECHNICAL Proposal**.
- The Financial Proposal must be named **RFP NO. NPA/QCBS/001/2025 -FINANCIAL Proposal**.
- All financial information must **ONLY** be included in the Financial Proposal. No Financial proposals, quotes or any other related financial information should appear in the Technical Proposal.



- Proposals which do not comply with these requirements, e.g. combining the financial and technical proposals in one submission or submitted in any way, other than outlined above, will be rejected.

Late submissions shall be rejected. Non-compliance with the above requirements regarding the presentation of the RFP may lead to the exclusion from the RFP process for this contract.

The proposal must be valid for the period of **120 days** from the deadline of proposals. The bidder shall provide a statement confirming the period of validity of its proposal when submitting the required documents for this RFP.

Signed: 
MANAGEMENT

EDITORIAL

We need a message of hope

Liberians are desperate and yearning for hope from President Joseph Boakai's second annual message or state of the nation address to the 55th Legislature, rightly so because situations in the country in the past one year has been nothing, but chaotic.

From protest by soldiers' wives, standoff between Police and partisans of opposition CDC, bloody riot at Bea Mountain that left several persons dead, to forceful removal from office of officials holding tenure positions and leadership crisis in the House of Representatives that Speaker Fonati Koffa booted out and subsequent fire at the Capitol Building, situations have not been fine in Liberia.

Liberians are looking up to their President to give direction and hope, especially joblessness and economic hardship is visible everywhere. The people need breathing space to rejuvenate their state of mind from despair and doom to optimism.

We believe no one best suited to provide that now than President Boakai who promised to rescue Liberia from stagnation and retrogression.

The government would begin to show by responding or providing low-hanging fruits such as improved security, stabilizing the economy and creating jobs.

A government that is on a mission to rescue should act more and talk less to build public confidence and attract forest investments that this country needs so badly, for we are convenience that government along cannot do it all. We need an enabling environment for economic activities to thrive.

Substance abuse, trafficking and prevalence of hardcore drugs in our country is decimating our future, the youth. The government should move away from mere promises and publicity stunt and get down to real business.

How many more young people have to die before we do something tangible as a nation to halt the scourge of drugs in our nation? Our streets are littered with drug-addicted youths, who are being sent to their early grave by traffickers.

No amount of political speeches can revive hope in their people unless direct and sincere actions are taken on the ground.

Corruption is another melee that s destroying the fabric of our nation, particularly from the public sector. It seems like the nation's wealth is being distributed between the Legislative and Executive, while schools, hospitals, and other vital institutions face neglect. These trend should be reversed to give hope to our people.

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Happy New Year to all our Readers

COMMENTARY

by Stuart P.M. Mackintosh

The Fed Is Running Scared of Trump

WASHINGTON, DC – Donald Trump is back in the White House, and the technocrats are running for cover. Trump has made clear his desire to dismantle the “deep state,” which he depicts as a shadowy network of bureaucrats who “weaponize” the “power of the state” to “persecute political opponents” and thwart their agendas.

But the professional officials, administrators, and policymakers Trump is poised to target play a critical role in government, including by advising leaders, regardless of their political leanings, on how they can achieve their goals legally and constitutionally. These officials must stand their ground.

The Federal Reserve is perhaps the most significant independent economic actor in the United States, given the scope of its monetary and supervisory responsibilities and the global importance of the US dollar. Unfortunately, rather than preparing to defend its positions and prerogatives, it has preemptively surrendered to Trump: on January 17, three days before Trump's inauguration, the Fed Board withdrew from the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS).

The NGFS brings together central banks and supervisors to improve environmental- and climate-risk management in the financial sector. Participation in the group amounts to a recognition of the importance of understanding climate risks, as well as an implicit acknowledgment that these risks fall within central banks' mandate, because they threaten economic and financial stability.

It is hardly a radical position. All major central banks are represented among the NGFS's 143 members: the Bank of England (BOE), the Banque de France, the Bank of Japan, the European Central Bank (ECB), and the People's Bank of China (PBOC). Until the Fed's withdrawal, the NGFS covered 100% of global systemic banks and 80% of the internationally active insurance groups. But the Fed has now broken with its peers and headed for the exit, arguing that the scope of the NGFS extends beyond its mandate.

The idea that central banks should not account for mounting climate risks is plain wrong. Economic and financial stability depend on ecosystem and climate stability. With greenhouse-gas emissions continuing to grow, atmospheric carbon-dioxide levels have reached record heights, and global temperatures are on track to rise well past 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The impact of climate change –more frequent and intense storms, floods, droughts, and wildfires –is already apparent.

While estimates of the precise economic and financial costs vary, the overall picture is sobering. The Institute and Faculty of Actuaries forecasts that climate change will mean global GDP losses of 50% between 2070 and 2090. Prefer a lower estimate? Swiss Re predicts GDP losses of 18% by 2050 if no action is taken. Whichever forecast you choose, there is no doubt that the costs of climate change are rising – and not at a steady pace. Instead, costs rise gradually, then sharply, propelled by climate-related disasters. In a bleak but telling coincidence, the Fed's withdrawal from the NGFS comes at a time when California is experiencing this firsthand, as wildfires turn thousands of homes, businesses, and ecosystems to ash.

The micro-prudential risks are obvious. Those burned structures were mostly under mortgage. But insurance is unlikely to cover the full cost of rebuilding even for those with coverage, and many property owners were under- or uninsured, precisely because rising risks due to climate-fueled disasters have driven up rates and caused some insurers to refuse to offer coverage. If the destroyed properties are not rebuilt, the associated mortgages will not be repaid, and the local and national banks that issued the loans will suffer heavy losses.

This observation cannot be dismissed as tree-hugging political correctness. On the contrary, given its potential to destabilize the financial system, it clearly warrants central bankers' attention. That is why the BOE and the ECB are stress-testing supervised firms, banks, and insurance companies for climate risk, and imposing standards for climate disclosure, methodologies, processes, and governance. The PBOC, for its part, is incorporating climate change into financial regulation and oversight, and developing green lending rules.

But the Fed – the world's most important central bank – has other plans. By withdrawing from the NGFS and turning its back on climate-risk scenarios and analyses, it has effectively announced that it plans to close its eyes and ears to the dangers of the climate crisis. This increases the likelihood of future systemic failures, because Fed officials are less likely to detect risks that are materializing right in front of their bank supervisors' eyes, whether in California, Louisiana, Florida, or Texas.

The Fed's leadership constantly stresses the importance of “data dependence.” Yet the central bank has decided to ignore a huge – and rapidly growing – pile of data showing that climate risks are economic risks, in order to appease a president who might not even know the NGFS exists. The Fed Board could have maintained its NGFS membership and bided its time. There was no reason to jump before being pushed.

But the Fed is running scared. Withdrawing from the NGFS suggests that its decision-making will at least partly reflect political pressure, not independent, data-driven analysis. That does not bode well for the next four years –and beyond.

CDC’S RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT JOSEPH N. BOAKAI 2025 STATE OF THE NATION’S ADDRESS

Honorable J. Fonati KOFFA, Speaker of the 55th National Legislature
Members of the National Legislature
International Development Partners
Members of the National Opposition Community
Members of the Press
Our Fellow Liberians

Today, the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), for the first time in its history as a political party, is delivering a speech in response to the State of the Nation Address delivered by a Liberian President. Yesterday, President Joseph N. Boikai delivered his second State of the Nation’s Address, and this is our official response. We choose to speak directly this time to the Liberian people because of the grave instability and uncertainty that now hang over our democracy and economy. Our nation is in crisis. The state of the nation is weak, divided and polarized, and this was evident yesterday, when about eight Senators, more than 25 representatives, and the entire Supreme Court bench boycotted President Boakai’s SONA. This is deeply troubling.

Liberia is in decline. The democratic and economic gains we made in the last six years are being eroded. We now see the Unity Party trapped in the very lies they sold the Liberian people to get elected. There is too much confusion and disunity in the land. All of these require a spoken response that expresses the raw emotions and feelings of our people during these turbulent times.

Our fellow Liberians, our distinguished international development partners, in November of 2023, President George Manneh Weah conceded political power to President-elect Joseph N. Boakai. This concession was made several days before the National Elections Commission completed the announcement of election results. In conceding to President-elect Boakai, President Weah demonstrated an act of supreme patriotism. He broke ranks with Liberia’s bitter past of contested elections, which were often marred by violence and Supreme Court challenges. He signaled the dawn of a new day in Liberian peace and democracy. Where before others believed that our democracy was weak and fragile, President Weah showed that Liberia too was capable of democratic and electoral strength we see in advanced democracies such as the United States, Britain or Germany. President Weah handed President Boakai a peaceful country and democracy, a Liberia in which the rule of law was respected, in which no president, legislator, or justice was above the law.

One year after this most peaceful democratic transfer of political power, Liberia now lies in a democratic and rule of law mess. The Unity Party administration of President Boakai is now teaching the Liberian people that the rule of law has no meaning or no value; that the law is whatever the President and his legislative friends say the law is; that only ordinary common Liberians are supposed to respect and uphold the law while the Unity Party bigshots disregard, disrespect and violate our laws.

Our fellow citizens, because the rule of law is so important to the working of any society—to how citizens’ rights to justice, healthcare, or education are nourished and protected; and to how foreigners and investors perceive the role the law plays in protecting their investments—the Unity Party’s destruction of the rule of law has now affected every aspect of Liberian social and political life since President George M. Weah left office.

Today, citizens are confused as to where the country is headed under Joseph Boakai. Today, citizens are beaten and wounded if they dare to get into the streets to exercise their constitutional rights to free speech and assembly. Today, whatever the Supreme Court says is no longer the law. Today, opposition personalities and former government officials are being witch-hunted and unjustly imprisoned. Today, the country has both a constitutionally elected speaker and a quote-unquote majority block Speaker who was illegally selected. Despite these violations, the Executive has imposed this illegally selected Speaker upon the Government and people of Liberia, while at the same time seeking the resignation of the duly elected Speaker. What a mockery of democracy and the rule of law!

Was this conflict necessary? Did we have to push this crisis to this extent? We say no. It has been four months since this conflict erupted and there has been a total breakdown of the rule of law. Instead of focusing on placing volunteer teachers and health workers on the Government payroll; instead of working to increase budgetary allocations to key sectors of our economy; instead of working to bring down high prices affecting our people, the Unity Party Government has invested its effort in prolonging a legislative crisis that is destroying our country.

How did Liberians get into this big political mess?

Of course, we got here because the Unity Party packaged a massive bundle of lies and sold those lies to the Liberian people. They lied that harmonization was bad and upon taking office they would have reversed it immediately; that the CDC was the importer of drugs in the Country and they would have solved the drug problems in six months; they said that no car was going to get stuck in the mud in the first 100 days of the Boakai administration; they promised Liberians never to use private jet for presidential travels; they promised to bring down the prices of basic commodities in one year; and of course, they said they were going to bring down the US dollar- Liberian dollar exchange rate down to its lowest.

As if this was not enough during the campaign, President Boakai repeated many of these promises in his first State of the Nation address. One year after falsely raising the hopes of the Liberian people, the reality has now set in for the Unity Party.

- The very harmonization policy they demonized they now accept as impossible to reverse, since they know it is not possible to go back to the UP-era Basic Allowance and General Allowance systems.
- The “kush” they were supposed to stop has now grown into Zombie and satellite drugs with no hope for the rehabilitation of our children who are affected by this national calamity.
- In the first 150 days we saw cars being stuck in mud more than ever before in the

history of Liberia to the extent that a bus caught fire in the mud.

- Today, President Boakai is not just using private jets for international travels; he is using them for domestic travels as well, and his latest private jet has improved to the most expensive type.
- Fellow Liberians, today the price of basic commodities has not just increased, but the UP Government has admitted in the illegally passed 2025 National Budget that the exchange rate may reach as high as LRD 219 to US\$1.00 in 2025.

The economic reality we present above shows that the “country is hard,” that the “Rescue Mission has now become the Excuse Mission” and that Liberians should prepare for the worst economic situation in 2025. Fellow Liberians, as you all now know, President Boakai’s speech yesterday was packed with misinformation in so many areas. As expected, we will correct the misinformation today and pose some tough questions. First, the Government says it collected \$734 million in total revenue last year but spent on US\$661.4 million. This means, we have \$72.6 million of surplus that the Government should declare in the 2025 budget as the CDC administration used to do. But we know that the 2025 budget has no surplus or balance brought forward. So, two things are possible. Either the US\$ 72.6 million was blown off in massive act of corruption or everything the president said about 2024 revenue was false and misleading. We leave the UP to choose which is which. Accounting for the money through a GAC audit or admitting that they lied to the Liberian people? We wait for the response. Second, the President said that he decreased the price of rice. This one, we leave them with the Liberian people to judge. It was Liberians who were paying LR\$3,100 for a 25kg bag of rice when the UP took over in January 2024, and who are now paying LR\$3,500 as we speak. There is no way to lie about the price of rice in Liberia.

Third, Mr. President, harmonization is still the prevailing policy in Liberia, and if you say quote “people were facing extreme hardship because of harmonization,” unquote, then you are admitting Mr. President that people, are still facing extreme hardship under you as president,” since harmonization has not been reversed by your administration. Fourth, information that 6,000 ghosts were removed from the payroll is misleading. The Unity Party has provided misinformation to the International Monetary Fund on this. The maximum number of ghost workers on the existing Government payroll cannot be more than 1000 persons. So, the maximum that can be saved due to ghost removal is about \$1.8 million. In fact, instead of removing 6,000 workers, the UP has hired about US\$6,000 workers, increasing the Government payroll by about US\$10 million. For all these reasons, the UP administration has been hesitant to release actual expenditure information before the SONA. The UP is afraid that its promise to the IMF to bring salary to US\$270 million by end 2024 would soon be proven a lie. Compensation will end at US\$310 million or more, which will cause a big problem for the Government under the IMF program. The Government said it added US\$15 million to ‘increase salary.’ But how can you add US\$ 15 million to US\$ 310 million and still produce US\$315 million in the Draft 2025 budget. There is too much confusion and cooking of the numbers happening within the Government. And fifth, the international climate financing we heard about yesterday in the speech was secured by the CDC administration. And the UP Government should give due credit for this. The West Point Project, or the Monrovia Metropolitan Climate Resilience Project is a US\$25 million project financed by the Green Climate Fund. All this was secured by the CDC administration. Let the UP not take credit for a project they did not initiate. Mr. President your people misinform you. Fellow Liberians, having corrected some of the key misinformation in yesterday’s SONA, we move on to compare and contrast CDC’s first year achievements verses those of the Unity Party. President Boakai said very little about what the UP achieved under its 100-day program or in its first year.

In 2018, the CDC inherited a broken economy, with declining international aid, underperforming domestic revenue, and a two-payroll system that widened inequality among Government workers. Despite these challenges, the CDC administration stood on this weak foundation to achieve the following in its first year and handed the UP a solid foundation by end 2023:

- We constructed more than 75 kilometers of community roads
- Placed more than 2,300 health workers on the Government Payroll
- Increased the salary of medical doctors from US\$700 to US\$2000
- Kept the price of 25 Kg bag of rice at US\$13 per bag.
- Sent more than 20 medical doctors for special training abroad.
- Declared Free Tuition for college students at public universities and Free WASSE for high school students.
- Broke Ground for Military 14 Hospital which was completed the following year.
- Launched the Pro-Poor Agenda for Transformation in nine months.
- Digitized registration at the University of Liberia.

We then set out to work to produce a strong economic foundation for the Unity Party to inherit. We want to commend President Boakai for acknowledging in his speech yesterday that his government is building on the foundation laid by the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) under president George Manneh Weah. Today, we summarize the foundation that President Boakai referenced in his speech yesterday:

- We increased domestic revenue to US\$640 million, surpassing the Unity Party’s highest domestic revenue of \$460 million during its 12-year rule;

- We stabilized the exchange rate and inflation, and handed UP an inflation of 10 percent, though UP handed CDC an inflation of 12% in 2018.

- We harmonized a broken Basic salary and General Allowance wage system. System ensuring fairness and reducing the wage bill by US\$32 million.

- We handed the UP Net International Reserves of US\$240 million, compared to US\$150 million handed to the CDC by the Unity Party after its first 12 years in office.
- We maintained the price of a 25kg bag of rice at US\$13, for more than four years. It had to take global crises like COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war to move prices higher.
- We handed UP an economic growth rate of more than 4.5 percent but had to stand on a growth rate of 2.5 percent in 2018.

CDC’S RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT JOSEPH N. BOAKAI

- We handed the UP a declining poverty profile according to the World Bank 2024 economic report. According to this same report for the year 2017, the CDC inherited an increasing poverty profile in 2018.
- We handed the unity party completed road works from Ganta to Saclepia, and major contracts from Tapeta to Toe Town, and Town Toe to Zwedru, with all financing and secured. We also handed UP the Fish Town-Zwedru corridor contract and financing frameworks.
- For our urban beautification and infrastructure improvement, we handed the unity party the SKD Boulevard, and the ministerial complex overpass contracts and framework.
- We also handed the UP the RIA road corridor.
- We handed the UP a completed central Monrovia water supply project and revenue generation infrastructure.
- We handed the UP 10-year World Bank financing for electricity transformation.
- The CDC passed the MCC scorecard three times, paving the way for Liberia’s Compact eligibility. In contrast, the UP handed the CDC a weak MCC eligibility database in 2018 which led to Liberia failing the scorecard.

In contrast, the Unity Party inherited a stable and growing economy but has squandered this opportunity. Of course, Liberians now understand that ‘squandering opportunity’ is a specialized skill of the Unity Party. During year one of the UP administration, we have seen:

- No projects implemented in its first year which was why the President did not mention his 100 achievements.
- A sharp decline in fiscal transparency, as highlighted by the U.S. Department of State’s 2024 Fiscal Transparency Report. To date no factual and actual information on the 2024 budget execution is available and the UP administration is cooking the budget numbers as contained in the illegally submitted draft budget.

- Only a 1.5 % growth in domestic revenue from the CDC domestic revenue high of US\$661 million in 2022.

- A salary crisis where compensation of Government workers is expected to rise to US\$325 million for which the UP is refusing to release the numbers.

- More than 1,000 workers were illegally dismissed due to perceived political affiliation. Yet yesterday, President Boakai said he is running a government of inclusion. How can you run inclusive government while targeting people you believe are affiliated with the CDC?

- Misinformation provided to the International Monetary Fund that the Government Wage bill for 2024 will end at US\$270 million when it is ending at more than US\$310 million.

- Scandals in scholarship and investment programs, undermining public trust.
 - Illegal budget manipulations and procurement violations, multiple instances of corruption involving tens of millions
- Poor Budget Execution and Management.

Our fellow citizens, the Unity Party Government’s mismanagement of the national budget has resulted in severe inequities in resource allocation. While senior government officials enjoy exorbitant allowances and benefits, Liberia’s healthcare, agriculture and educational systems remain critically underfunded. When the data finally comes in, we will see that budget execution for 2024 has been a disaster. Critical entities at the frontline of service delivery, especially in health and education, receiving as low as 50 percent of their budgetary allocation.

The nation’s 23 public referral hospitals, which serve over 5.2 million citizens, lack essential medical supplies and critical services, and have unpaid health workers. This stark disparity in resource distribution reflects a government disconnected from the realities of its people.

For the Unity Party, budget execution is about personal benefits and allowances. The UP uses the budget to ensure Government officials receive large amounts of gas coupons, scratch cards, and other benefits. Under the CDC, these benefits were cut to make room for spending that impacted the mass of Liberians who do not work for the Government.

The Parade of Investment Deception

The year 2024 saw no new foreign direct investment and no serious effort to resolve business climate challenges that can boost both local and foreign investment. Instead, we saw ‘investment by showmanship,’ publicly packaged misinformation deceiving Liberians into believing that their Government is bringing investment into the country.

The real challenge Liberia faces is to continue to work to change our business and investment climate. Investments require serious work that inspires confidence. Investments do not flourish in environments where the rule of law is being violated and where the opinion of the Supreme Court is discarded on the whim of politicians. Investment is not showmanship, the attempt to impress Liberians that the President has external relations and is about to bring investments because of his personality.’ We have seen a parade of deceptive announcements that were supposed to impress Liberians that the Unity Party was about the solve the country’s investment challenge. These were all deceptive.

The Mirage of the HPX Deal

First, there is the HPX ‘investment deal.’ Earlier in the year, on February 20, 2024 the government announced an ambitious partnership with HPX and Guma Africa Group, promising an investment of \$3 billion to \$5 billion to develop the Liberty Corridor. This investment is still hanging, and we are yet to see this materialize.

The Yellow Machine Procurement Saga

Then came the yellow machine brouhaha. Back in July, Monrovia witnessed a spectacle of its own. On July 15, a convoy paraded promising 285 earth-moving machines and dump trucks, heralded as the first tangible proof of the administration’s ARREST Agenda. Crowds cheered as the sample of the 285 yellow machines was paraded to a military barracks, a supposed display of progress.

But as the fanfare subsided, the truth emerged. There was no signed contract, no formal agreement, and no financial commitment. When pressed, the President offered only a vague explanation, attributing the initiative to a casual conversation with an unnamed “friend.” The parade was a mirage, a spectacle designed to mislead.

This was a serious violation of our procurement laws and the people’s trust, riddled with corruption. The machines were valued at US\$80 million but we now know that the real value is around US\$20 million. The President was misled. The remaining US\$60 million were kickbacks for officials of Government.

Another Hollow Promise: The Great Bus Deception

On June 24, 2024, the Boakai administration put on yet another show, claiming to have found the solution to Liberia’s transportation crisis. They proudly paraded two buses, billed as samples from the Brazilian manufacturer “Marcopolo,” with promises that 300 more would follow in just 40 days.

This whole bus saga was Vlah” as we say here in Liberia.

The China Charade

Then the China charade was to follow. September brought another round of grand proclamations. Upon returning from the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the Unity Party Government announced a \$3 billion memorandum for an oil refinery in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

Once again, the truth fell far short of the rhetoric. The grants, valued at 200 million RMB, were roughly US\$28 million in U.S. dollars. The debt waiver was a mere US\$900,000, and even the food assistance package, initially celebrated as US\$30 million, was less than US\$5 million. Instead of celebrating modest gains, the administration inflated figures to craft a narrative of triumph.

The MCC Compact Rebuff

Lastly comes the MCC Compact announcement. On December 19, 2024, Liberians awoke to what seemed to be an extraordinary announcement. Social media buzzed with celebratory posts: the government claimed to have secured a \$500 million grant from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). For a country grappling with economic challenges, this was presented as a watershed moment, a sign of Liberia’s bright future under President Joseph Nyuma Boakai’s leadership.

By afternoon, the jubilation turned into confusion. The MCC released a statement, calmly dismantling the government’s claim. There was no grant, no \$500 million, and no MCC compact funding. That eligibility does not guarantee a Compact as the government propagated. What Liberia had witnessed was yet another act in the administration’s theater of deception, a desperate attempt to distract from its lackluster governance and dwindling credibility.

This was no isolated incident. Within the first year of governance, the UP administration has repeatedly used misinformation as a political tool, leaving a trail of empty promises and unfulfilled dreams. They used this lying and deceptive playbook to win the election; they aimed to use it to govern the Liberian people. But they are now trapped in their own lies.

Fight Against Corruption and Accountability

Our fellow citizens, the CDC welcomes the fight against corruption but such a fight cannot be on a selective basis. The UP Government has shown no serious commitment to fighting corruption and its current fight pertains to witch-hunting former officials of the CDC administration and aiming to use the weight and influence of the Government against them where there is no basis. Currently, several cases of corruption involving the National Port Authority, the Liberia Revenue Authority, the Ministry of Public Works, the LRRRC, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Central Bank of Liberia, and the Liberia Telecommunications Authority, and the Ministry of Agriculture, involving tens of millions of US dollars remain unaddressed by the Unity Party Government.

We praise and thank the UP Government for appointing an Ombudsman to oversee compliance with the Code of Conduct but we see serious conflict and contradiction here. The same Government appointing Ombudsman is the same Government fighting the Ombudsman. What message is the UP administration sending on the code of conduct? You either agree to scrap the code of conduct or you strengthen its enforcement. You cannot both support and legally undermine the code of conduct at the same time. This is why we say your fight against corruption is insincere, partisan and unserious.

The Government’s Asset Recovery program is another example of an unserious and politically motivated path to fighting corruption. Upon taking office, the Government without regards to rule of law went about seeking to retrieve legally acquired and legitimate assets from former Government officials. These were all part of the culture of ‘parade’ and ‘showmanship’ that this Unity Party administration is well noted for. Today, the Unity Party Asset Recovery has failed as was expected and the team itself has been battling allegations of corruption in the use of resources assigned to it.

The Dangers of Misinformation

While undermining the rule of law, the UP aimed to use misinformation and propaganda to mislead the Liberian people and this is dangerous for our democracy. We publicly warn the UP Government to desist from this pattern. Misinformation is harmful. It corrodes public trust, undermines governance, and distracts from real progress. The UP administration’s pattern of deception poses significant dangers:

1. Eroding Public Trust: When citizens can’t rely on their government for honesty, democratic participation weakens.



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

VANCANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
CODE: MFD/MP/24/01/25

EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT

POSITION : NATIONAL COORDINATOR
APPLICATION START DATE : FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025
APPLICATION END DATE : FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025

CONTEXT

The Government of Liberia (GoL) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) are embarking on a roughly three-year process to develop a five-year investment and policy program (Compact) to reduce poverty through economic growth. The **NATIONAL COORDINATOR** will lead these efforts, in close coordination with other members of the Liberia Compact Development Core Team and with the MCC Team in Washington, DC.

NATIONAL COORDINATOR

During the development of a compact program, each eligible country must mobilize significant financial and human resources, data and information, and critical inputs from its public sector, private sector and civil society. The National Coordinator leads these processes by managing the detailed day-to-day work of the specialized staff on the Compact Development Team and by engaging key stakeholders across government ministries and agencies, the business community and civil society organizations.

To be successful, a National Coordinator must be able to manage and respond to demands from multiple stakeholders, including politicians, business leaders and other influential segments of the public; coordinate multiple streams of complex tasks; delegate tasks without losing sight of details; communicate clearly and effectively; and inspire and motivate stakeholders and staff. A National Coordinator must be authorized to make decisions on compact-related matters and must have access to the highest levels of decision-makers within the Government in order to ensure compact development proceeds efficiently.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Master’s or Doctorate Degree in management, business administration, public administration, finance, economics, law, communications or another relevant professional field.
- Ten (10) or more years of prior experience in senior management positions in a high-profile or strategic public sector or private entity.
- Demonstrated ability to manage a large institution, program or project with a staff of ten or more personnel and a budget of more than \$1 million annually.
- Outstanding leadership and organizational skills and the ability to work in large, multi-cultural teams. Ability to work well under the pressure of ambitious deadlines and high expectations.
- Prior experience in briefing high-level Government officials and supporting complex public-sector decision-making processes. Strong capacity to identify solutions to competing priorities.
- Significant prior experience working on economic development planning or the execution of economic development projects is strongly preferred. Experience working with international donor organizations and a combination of experience inside and outside Government also preferred.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.

DESCRIPTION OF MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Coordinate closely with senior Government officials to understand and effectively represent Liberia’s priorities in the development of a compact program.
- Serve as the primary point of contact for the exchange of critical operational information between the Government and MCC, to include developing a clear and complete understanding of MCC’s compact development process, requirements, and investment criteria.
- Manage the entire compact development process on behalf of the Government, to include guiding the initial analysis and assessment of economic development challenges; leading the identification of concept projects that will address those challenges, promote poverty alleviation and raise economic growth; coordinating the development and design of agreed projects that satisfy MCC’s investment criteria and other requirements.
- Recruit well-qualified, specialized staff for a Compact Development Team and provide high-level executive leadership, management and coordination over its day-to-day work.
- Build, maintain and leverage effective relationships with key officials, offices, individuals and staff throughout the Government to ensure the dissemination of information, secure the commitment of all necessary information and resources, and motivate the timely completion of critical tasks.
- Report periodically to the Minister of Finance and Development Planning and to the President of Liberia as may be appropriate to provide timely updates on the status of the compact development process, obtain high-level support and approval for key decisions, and identify and resolve issues.
- Actively engage important political stakeholders, private business leaders, civil society organizations and international donors throughout the compact development process, and otherwise serve as a visible public representative of the Government’s compact development efforts.
- Plan and implement periodic visits by MCC personnel and senior officials.

LEVEL OF EFFORT:

The **National Coordinator** should be available on a fulltime basis throughout the compact development process, which generally lasts up to three years. The role is rigorous and demanding, and for that reason, the National Coordinator should not have significant competing responsibilities during this time.

COUNTERPART STAFF:

The National Coordinator will work directly with MCC’s Country Director (CD) for Liberia.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE :

All applications **MUST** be submitted via email at to mcc_recruitment@mfdgov.lr by Friday, February 7, 2025, at 5:00pm GMT electronically **ONLY**.



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

VANCANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
CODE: MFDP/MCC/24/01/25

EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT

POSITION : SENIOR ECONOMIST
APPLICATION START DATE : FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025
APPLICATION END DATE : FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025

CONTEXT

The Government of Liberia (GoL) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) are embarking on a roughly three-year process to develop a five-year investment and policy program (Compact) to reduce poverty through economic growth. The **SENIOR ECONOMIST** will help lead these efforts, in close coordination with other members of the Liberia Compact Development Core Team and with the MCC Team in Washington, DC.

SENIOR ECONOMIST

During the development of a compact program, each eligible country must assess its macro- and micro-economic environment to identify binding constraints to economic growth and their associated root causes, select projects that are likely to reduce poverty through economic growth, and identify the specific economic impacts and beneficiaries of each proposed project. The Senior Economist will support these efforts by gathering and assessing evidence on impacts of proposed projects, leading the development of the economic justification for selecting one or more proposed projects, and participating in the beneficiary analysis and economic rate of return calculation for agreed projects.

The **Senior Economist** will also work closely with technical and monitoring and evaluation specialists to develop a results framework, define indicators, document existing baseline data for relevant indicators and project targets, and assess existing data quality and data needs. Ultimately, the Senior Economist will be responsible for ensuring that each project in the compact program meets MCC’s strict requirements for expected increases in economic growth and poverty reduction, with a particular emphasis on how proposed projects are likely to impact poor households and disadvantaged groups—including women—i.e., how projects will alleviate poverty through economic growth.

To be successful, the Senior Economist must be able to work collaboratively with interdisciplinary teams; lead and organize complex analytical exercises; gather, synthesize, and assess large amounts of data and information; reach conclusions in an environment of uncertainty and tight timelines; and communicate and write clearly and effectively.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Master’s or doctoral degree in economics, public policy or administration, or a closely-related discipline.
- Five (5) or more years of experience in an economics or monitoring and evaluation position, preferably including work with international donors.
- Demonstrated ability to acquire, assess the quality of, and analyze data from local institutions such as government ministries and statistical agencies.
- Demonstrated ability to identify and analyze the factors determining or constraining economic growth, employment, firm investment and productivity *and/or* to analyze, and quantify the economic benefits of development projects in different sectors.
- Experience conducting economic research, cost-benefit analysis and beneficiary analysis is desirable
- Capacity to manage a variety of analytical tasks and demands with limited supervision and in a responsible and flexible manner, and to interact productively with government officials and other stakeholders.
- Demonstrated experience in Excel and in one or more of the following software packages for statistical analysis or database management, such as STATA, SPSS, R, SAS, CSPRO, or Access.

DESCRIPTION OF MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Work with MCC Economists and other staff to conduct growth diagnostics to identify the key constraints to economic growth in Liberia (and potentially, to growth of specific sectors), including accessing and working with government/ministry data and other data. Subsequently, work with MCC to carry out root cause analysis (through stakeholder focus groups and interviews) to understand the factors behind the constraints.
- Build an economic justification for any potential projects to address the constraints and their root causes, including a clear explanation of the ways in which projects will increase economic growth and reduce poverty. Provide a rationale for the use of public funds and a clear explanation of the ways in which projects will impact economic growth, poverty, and regional trade.
- Contribute to the development of a detailed project logic (theory of change) for the proposed projects, working in close collaboration with other members of the MCC and Compact Development Teams.
- Work with MCC Economists to conduct a detailed analysis of the economic impacts of any proposed projects, including assessing the likely economic costs and benefits associated with each, disaggregated by income level/poverty status, social group, and gender.
- In collaboration with the MCC Economists and other members of the MCC and Core Teams, gather all required data and evidence to develop a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) model for each proposed project. Based on the CBA model, articulate a rationale explaining how proposed projects will impact intended beneficiaries. In particular, provide quantitative estimates of how the benefits of proposed projects are likely to be distributed among various beneficiaries, particularly poor households and disadvantaged groups—including women. For all of these tasks, liaise with MCC Economists to ensure that methods and approaches used are consistent with best available evidence and local context.
- Lead the Compact Development Team in identifying key indicators to measure the expected outputs and outcomes of proposed projects. Document baselines and targets for the indicators, based on sector-specific evidence, work plans, the CBA model, and anticipated results.
- Review existing data sources, particularly administrative data collected by government entities, for potential monitoring and evaluation indicators to assess availability of data, quality of data, frequency of reporting, and levels of disaggregation. Assess the quality of existing data systems and prepare any necessary proposals for addressing data quality gaps.

COUNTERPART STAFF:

The Senior Economist will work directly with MCC’s Economics Analysis staff.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE :

All applications MUST be submitted via email at to mcc_recruitment@mfdgov.lr by Friday, February 7, 2025, a5:00pm GMT electronically ONLY.

Français

Boakai se félicite des progrès économiques et de la stabilité du pays

Le président affirme que l'inflation est maîtrisée et l'économie en plein essor

Monrovia, Libéria, 28 janvier 2025 – Dans son deuxième discours à la nation, le président Joseph

entreprises pour redresser l'économie du pays, en mettant l'accent sur les progrès réalisés en matière de contrôle de l'inflation, de croissance du produit intérieur brut (PIB) et d'augmentation des réserves internationales.

inégalités. Il a rappelé que ces problèmes étaient exacerbés par des prix alimentaires et énergétiques en hausse, une dette publique importante et des déficits commerciaux accrus.

Des mesures décisives pour rétablir l'économie

Le président Boakai a précisé que, sous la précédente administration, la croissance économique avait ralenti à seulement 4,6 %, tandis que l'inflation avait atteint 10,1 %. Le déficit commercial, à son tour, avait représenté 26,4 % du PIB, et les réserves internationales étaient dangereusement faibles, à seulement 2,1 mois d'importations. Parallèlement, le pays faisait face à une dette publique de 2,5 milliards de dollars, soit 54,6 % du PIB.

Il a également fait état des difficultés vécues par les fonctionnaires du pays, qui ont souffert de retards de paiement de salaires en raison de la « harmonisation » des rémunérations, les exposant ainsi à des prêteurs informels. En réponse à ces défis, le



N. Boakai a mis en avant les succès de son gouvernement en matière de croissance économique et d'amélioration des conditions de vie des Libériens. Il a souligné les réformes politiques

Devant la 55^e législature et la nation, le président a expliqué que son gouvernement avait hérité d'une situation économique dégradée, caractérisée par une inflation élevée, un chômage croissant et une augmentation des

La Cour suprême brille par son absence lors du discours du président Joseph Boakai

L'absence remarquée de la juge en chef Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh et des juges associés de la Cour suprême lors du discours annuel du président Joseph N. Boakai devant la 55^e législature suscite de vives interrogations sur la coopération entre les trois branches du gouvernement libérien.

Si le pouvoir judiciaire justifie l'absence de la juge en chef par sa participation à un symposium international au Caire, en Égypte, l'absence simultanée des quatre juges associés, sans explication officielle, alimente la polémique et soulève des doutes quant aux relations institutionnelles au sein du pays. Une absence totale et inexplicable

Le lundi 27 janvier 2025, aucun représentant du pouvoir judiciaire n'était présent lors de l'adresse du président Boakai. Les juges associés Jamesetta H. Wolokolie, Yussif D. Kaba, Yamie Q. Gbeisay Sr. et Ceaineh D. Clinton Johnson étaient tous absents, sans qu'aucune communication officielle ne

justifie leur non-participation.

Face aux spéculations, le directeur de la presse et des affaires publiques du pouvoir judiciaire, Darryl Ambrose Nmah Jr., a réagi sur les réseaux sociaux. Dans un message publié sur sa page officielle, il a démenti toute intention de boycott et attribué cette absence à des engagements institutionnels.

« Pour information, la juge en chef participe à une rencontre de haut niveau réunissant 58 chefs de cours suprêmes et constitutionnelles d'Afrique et du Moyen-Orient, organisée annuellement au Caire à cette période », a précisé M. Nmah.

Le président Boakai plaide pour une meilleure collaboration

Dans son allocution, le président Boakai a rappelé l'importance du respect de la séparation des pouvoirs et de leur coopération, conformément à l'article 3 de la Constitution libérienne, qui définit le gouvernement comme un régime républicain reposant sur trois branches distinctes mais interdépendantes.

« Nous devons renforcer la coopération et le dialogue entre toutes les branches du gouvernement, dans un esprit de transparence et de respect mutuel. Ensemble, nous devons œuvrer pour améliorer la vie du peuple libérien. Nous devons rester focalisés sur notre objectif



Éditorial

Un message d'espoir pour un Liberia en quête de renouveau

Par Daron Acemoglu

Les Libériens attendent avec une grande impatience le second discours annuel sur l'état de la nation du président Joseph Boakai devant la 55^e législature. Après une année tumultueuse marquée par des crises répétées, cette adresse est perçue comme une occasion cruciale pour tracer une voie d'espoir et de renouveau.

L'année écoulée a été marquée par des épisodes troublants : manifestations des épouses de militaires, affrontements entre la police et des partisans de l'opposition, émeutes meurtrières à Bea Mountain, éviction forcée de fonctionnaires sous mandat, crise de leadership à la Chambre des représentants aboutissant au renvoi de Fonati Koffa, et incendie au Capitole. Ce climat d'instabilité a exacerbé les frustrations d'une population déjà éprouvée par le chômage de masse et les difficultés économiques.

Aujourd'hui, les Libériens attendent du président Boakai qu'il fournisse des orientations claires et des solutions tangibles. Leur besoin d'espoir est d'autant plus urgent que le pessimisme gagne du terrain.

Le président, qui s'est engagé à sortir le Liberia de la stagnation et du déclin, est à un tournant de son mandat. Il doit traduire ses promesses en actions concrètes. L'amélioration de la sécurité, la stabilisation de l'économie et la création d'emplois sont des priorités immédiates qui pourraient, à elles seules, insuffler un vent d'optimisme.

Cependant, les discours ne suffiront pas. Seuls des résultats tangibles permettront de restaurer la confiance du public et d'attirer les investissements étrangers indispensables à la relance économique. Il est essentiel de créer un environnement propice au développement des activités économiques pour sortir durablement de l'impasse actuelle.

Par ailleurs, la lutte contre la toxicomanie et le trafic de drogues doit être érigée en priorité nationale. La prolifération des substances illicites décime la jeunesse, pilier de l'avenir du pays. Les rues sont envahies par des jeunes en détresse, victimes des trafiquants, et condamnés à une mort précoce. Il est impératif que le gouvernement abandonne les annonces spectaculaires et passe à des actions concrètes et ciblées.

La corruption constitue un autre fléau majeur qui mine les institutions et freine le progrès. Les richesses nationales semblent se concentrer dans les cercles restreints du pouvoir exécutif et législatif, tandis que des secteurs essentiels tels que l'éducation et la santé sont négligés. Cette injustice systémique doit être corrigée de toute urgence pour redonner aux citoyens un sentiment d'équité et d'espoir.

Le Liberia est à un moment décisif de son histoire. Pour répondre aux attentes de la population, le gouvernement doit adopter une approche proactive, pragmatique et transparente. Il s'agit non seulement de résoudre les crises actuelles, mais aussi de jeter les bases d'un avenir plus stable et prospère.

Les Libériens méritent des actions à la hauteur de leurs sacrifices et de leurs aspirations. Il revient au président Boakai de transformer ce moment critique en une opportunité historique de redressement et de renaissance.

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Happy New Year to all our Readers

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Sen. Chie seeks amendments of Dual Citizenship and other laws

Senator Albert T. Chie of GrandKru County proposes amendments for several laws in the constitution, including the Law on Dual Citizenship here.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, January 29, 2025 - Grand Kru County Senator Albert Tugbe Chie, has written the Liberian Senate, reintroducing and proposing eight amendments to the

Referendum on December 8, 2020, but were not approved by the electorates. Although all the proposed amendments received majority votes of Liberians, who participated in the national referendum, they however, fell short of the

Senators from nine (9) years to seven (7) years.

"Proposed Amendment 3: To amend Article 47 of the Constitution to provide for election of a President Pro-tempore and other officers of the Senate for a term of five (5) years; Proposed Amendment 4: To amend Article 48 of the Constitution to provide for the reduction in the term of Members of the House of Representatives from six (6) years to five (5) years", Senator Chie urges. He suggests that they amend Article 49 of the Constitution to provide for election of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and other officers of the House of Representatives for a term of five (5) years and Article 50 of the Constitution to provide for the reduction in the term of the President from six (6) years to five (5) years. He further calls for proposition to amend Article 83 (a) of the Constitution to change the date for General Elections from Second Tuesday of October to Second Tuesday of November in each election year and urges amendment of Article 83 (c) of the Constitution to reduce the timeframe for resolution of complaints emanating from General Elections from thirty (30) days to fifteen (15) days.



Constitution which were submitted for National Referendum on December 8, 2020. In his communication, read in open session on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, captioned "Review and Re-submission of Constitutional Amendment Provisions for National Referendum", Chie seeks to amend some provisions of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia. "I propose to Plenary to review the following eight (8) proposed amendments to the Constitution which were submitted for National

required two-thirds of the total votes as mandated in Article 91 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, and consequently could not take effect", he notes. The Grand Kru County Senator proposed Amendment one, which seeks to amend Article 28 of the Constitution to provide for inalienability of citizenship of natural born citizens of Liberia (Dual Citizenship); Furthermore, he also proposed Amendment two, which aims to amend Article 45 of the Constitution to provide for reduction of the term of

Liberia's fragility is no longer an excuse

- Police IG Coleman

The Liberia National Police reiterates its commitment to fighting crimes across the country, regardless who's involved.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, January 29, 2025 - The Inspector General of Police, Gregory Coleman, warns that the fragility of Liberia's peace and democracy will no longer be an excuse for individuals to commit crimes and get away with their bad deeds and behaviors, while vowing to investigate and prosecute all those linked to the Capitol Building fire incident.

The Liberia National Police (LNP) recently wrote the House of Representatives, requesting the appearance of several lawmakers identified as "persons of interest" in connection with the fire incident at the Capitol. Lawmakers summoned include Representatives Dixon Seboe, Marvin Cole, Frank Foko, Precilla Cooper, Abu Kamara, and embattled House Speaker

J. Fonati Koffa. Speaking in an interview with Journalists at the Liberia National Police Headquarters in Monrovia on Monday, January 27, 2025, IG Coleman assured the public that in accordance with law, people will answer for crimes they committed. "I want everyone to know this; we will no longer use the

fragility of our peace and democracy, as an excuse for individual to commit crimes and get away with their bad deeds and behaviors. We have fought war and all those have gone and so, we can't continue to close our eyes on crimes on the basis of fragile peace. We will investigate and if those lawmakers invited are found guilty, they will be charged and forwarded to court." He maintains.

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House summons health authorities

The House of Representatives summons two senior authorities in the health sector for questioning over poor conditions and services.

By Bridgett Milton

Monrovia, Liberia, January 29, 2025 - The House of Representatives has summoned the Minister of Health, Dr. Louise M. Kpoto, and Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Catherine Thomas Cooper, to address pressing issues in the public health sector.

The officials are expected to appear on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, following a complaint by Grand Bassa County District #1 Representative, Isaac G. Bannie.

In his communication to Plenary, Rep. Bannie raised serious concern about operations of public hospitals, including reports of additional charges imposed on patients despite budgetary allocations in the 2024 National Budget meant to

complex emergency cases that require the expertise of those specialized medical doctors?" The lawmaker asks, emphasizing the negative implications of these assignments on the overall health system.

Rep. Bannie urges his colleagues to prioritize the issue, noting that public health is a cornerstone of national development. He also stresses a need for transparency and efficiency in the use of public funds allocated for healthcare services.

"This Honorable Body must ensure that public health facilities deliver the required services without placing undue burdens on citizens," he continues.



support these facilities.

"Our people are faced with a situation where authorities of various public hospitals are demanding referred cases to buy fuel and pay for operation fees before they can be attended to", the lawmaker laments. He describes the practice as unacceptable and a violation of citizens' access to essential healthcare services. He also flags an alarming trend of assigning specialized medical doctors to administrative positions, leaving critical gaps in specialized care.

He cites examples from Montserrado, Nimba, and Grand Cape Mount counties, as well as the current EPI Director at the Ministry of Health.

"What happens when there are

Meanwhile, the plenary of the House of Representatives has granted Rep. Bannie's request, mandating Dr. Kpoto and Dr. Cooper to explain the reported hospital practices and reassignment of specialists to non-clinical roles. Lawmakers hope the appearance will shed light on these concerns and outline a path for corrective actions.

This development comes amid widespread complaints about challenges facing the health sector, including inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, and a shortage of personnel. Patients, especially in rural areas, continue to bear the brunt of systemic inefficiencies, sparking growing calls for reform. Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Liberia: Amazing Place for Aquaculture Production”

-Head of Egyptian delegation discloses

Barnga City, Bong County, January 29, 2025 / - Egyptian Aquaculture Experts have completed their assessment of



Photo Caption: Egyptian Delegation along with NaFAA's Department of Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries Team standing before Lake Piso in Grand Cape Mount

World, producing 1.6 million metric tons of farmed fish. “in Egypt, we lose between 10 to 15 percent of our fish production annually because of the cold waves during the winter and the hot waves in summer. For Liberia, the temperature is naturally good for aquaculture production”. Moreover, commenting on how the Egyptian Government intends to enhance Liberia’s aquaculture development, Dr. Ahmed Sadek mentioned that they are prepared to transfer their technical knowledge to help transform and enhance aquaculture production across Liberia as it is currently in Egypt. The head of the three-man Egyptian delegation from the Lake and Fish Resources protection and Development Agency mentioned that his government is prepared to help Liberia benefit technically from its four decades of technical knowledge to increase aquaculture production through capacity building at all levels

and ensure quality production across the country.“ we can transfer our knowledge, all that we have over the last four decades to raise aquaculture production, and capacity and ensure quality production from aquaculture across Liberia” At the same time, He narrated that from quality aquaculture production, Liberia can fill in the protein resource gap for its citizens, create jobs in the sector, and also export the excess of fish production to other countries. Currently, Liberia is a net importer of fish products, importing around 90 thousand metric tons of fish annually, despite its extensive coastline and enormous biodiversity. The three-man Egyptian Aquaculture delegation is headed by Dr. Ahmed Saneyeldin Mohammed Sadek, Head of Central Department of Fish Resources Development of the Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency of Egypt. Others on the delegation include Engineer Hany Mohammed Mabrouk Ibrahim, General Manager for Fish Resources of the Authority for Fish Resources Development, and Dr. Dawlat Ali Hassanin Mohamadin, Veterinarian of the Lake and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency of Egypt. Aquaculture activities in Egypt are practiced in different production systems including semi-intensive, intensive culture in ponds, and tanks, intensive production in cages, and traditional extensive production systems.

Liberia’s fragility is no longer an excuse

According to the Police IG, the Liberian civil war had long ended, for individuals to be committing crime under the garment of the peace is so “fragile”. He clarifies that investigation conducted by the Joint team in the Capitol Building fire incident is void of political influence, adding that they are following pieces of evidence therefore, where the evidence leads toward the crime that is where they will follow. He clarifies that investigation conducted by the Liberia National Fire and Rescue Service and the Liberia National Police and others is not

targeting, neither connected to any political party, as claimed by the former ruling CDC. He discloses that those who are called by the LNP, are people of interest that have acted independently and they are not charged, but rather people of interest. “Liberian citizens stand on the Democracy to act, they were elected on the basis of democracy; if you are called by the police, they have to honor the call. Those Representatives of the 55th national legislature invited are people of interest. This is the first step by the LNP investigators and honoring the investigation and providing

information to Police is another step.” However, IG Coleman says the former ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) is assured that the investigation process has not been manipulated, but if the party has disagreement, they are allowed to seek court attention based on their position as an accredited political party. The Police also alarm that there are lots of misinformation and disinformation campaign that are being carried out to undermine ongoing investigation and individuals that are behind those campaign will be arrested by the LNP.

House probes GSM companies

-Sets up Ad-hoc committee

By Bridgett Milton

Margibi, Liberia, January 29, 2025 - The House of Representatives has established an ad hoc committee to investigate persistent telecommunications network issues in parts of Liberia, particularly in the southeastern region. The committee has been tasked with probing GSM providers Lonestar Cell MTN and Orange Liberia, along with regulators such as the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. The decision to establish the committee was triggered by communications from Maryland County Electoral Districts 2 and 3 lawmakers, who highlighted the devastating impact of unreliable network services on citizens in the southeastern region. They

connectivity nationwide.

Jean Marius Yao, CEO of Orange Liberia, apologized for the persistent network issues in several regions, particularly Maryland County in the southeast, but also extended his concerns to other areas facing similar challenges. “We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience caused by the network issues, and we are committed to improving the quality of our services across Liberia”, CEO Yao pleaded. He assured the public that Orange’s technical teams are actively addressing the situation, and highlighted ongoing efforts, including infrastructure repairs, adding that some areas remain a work in process. Yao also underscored that since Orange took over the Circle network, it has invested over \$245 million in infrastructure to expand



reported that the poor network has significantly disrupted daily life, causing economic hardships, impeding business operations, and affecting mobile money services, critical for financial transactions. According to the lawmakers, the lack of stable communication infrastructure has resulted in financial losses for entrepreneurs and traders, while citizens face continuous challenges in coordinating essential activities. The committee is chaired by Rep. Ivar Jones and includes Rep. Foday Fahnbulleh, Rep. Drwohn Gleekia, Rep. Austin Taylor, and Rep. Anthony Williams, who will serve as resource persons. Meanwhile, mobile network operators and the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) have acknowledged ongoing challenges with network coverage throughout the country, particularly in the southeastern region, promising to improve

and maintain its network.

Rahul De, CEO of Lonestar Cell MTN, also spoke about the company’s ongoing efforts to improve service quality nationwide, including Maryland County and other underserved areas. He confirmed that Lonestar is aware of the coverage challenges and has been upgrading its infrastructure to enhance network availability. “Currently, our network availability is at 95%, but we are striving to achieve 99% quality across Liberia.” He said Lonestar Cell MTN is in the process of upgrading microwave connections and expanding its infrastructure, with plans to complete the necessary upgrades by mid-year. However, De acknowledged that weather-related disruptions and issues related to cash availability for mobile money services have

CDC tears Boakai's SONA apart

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, on Monday, January 27, 2025, delivered his second State of the Nation Address before the National Legislature as part of his Constitutional duties.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah
Wednesday, January 29, 2025/ Former ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) has painted a gloomy picture of

years under their watch are being eroded, noting that it now sees the Unity Party trapped in the very lies they sold the Liberian people to get elected.



Pres. Boakai

Sen. Nathaniel-McGill

Liberia one year under Boakai's presidency, saying that grave instability and uncertainty now hang over the country's democracy and economy. In its response to President Boakai's SONA on Monday, the CDC points out that the nation is in crisis. The state of the country is weak, divided, and polarized. The former ruling party said this was evident on Monday, when about eight Senators, more than 25 representatives, and the entire Supreme Court bench boycotted President Boakai's SONA, which is deeply troubling. In the statement, which was read by Margibi Senator Nathaniel F. McGill, a former Minister of State for Presidential Affairs under the George Weah regime, the CDC said Liberia is in decline. The party noted that democratic and economic gains made in the last six

"There is too much confusion and disunity in the land. All of these require a spoken response that expresses the raw emotions and feelings of the people during these turbulent times," the CDC said. Recounting, the party said that in November of 2023, President George Manneh Weah conceded political power to President-elect Joseph N. Boakai. "This concession was made several days before the National Elections Commission announced election results." "In conceding to President-elect Boakai, President Weah demonstrated an act of supreme patriotism. He broke ranks with Liberia's bitter past of contested elections, often marred by violence and Supreme Court challenges. He signaled the dawn of a new day in Liberian peace and democracy. Where before others believed that the democracy was weak and

fragile," CDC continued. The CDC argued that former President Weah showed that Liberia, too, was capable of democratic and electoral strength being seen in advanced democracies such as the United States, Britain, or Germany. "President Weah handed President Boakai a peaceful country and democracy, a Liberia in which the rule of law was respected, in which no president, legislator, or justice was above the law." However, the CDC noted that one year after this most peaceful democratic transfer of political power, Liberia now lies in a democratic and rule of law mess. "The Unity Party administration of President Boakai is now teaching the Liberian people that the rule of law has no meaning or no value; that the law is whatever the President and his legislative friends say the law is; that only ordinary common Liberians are supposed to respect and uphold the law while the Unity Party bigshots disregard, disrespect and violate our laws. Today, opposition personalities and former government officials are being witch-hunted and unjustly imprisoned. Today, the country has both a constitutionally elected speaker and a quote-unquote majority block Speaker who was illegally selected. Despite these violations, the Executive has imposed this illegally selected Speaker upon the Government and people of Liberia while at the same time seeking the resignation of the duly elected Speaker. What a mockery of democracy and the rule of law!" They continue. See full text of CDC response on pages 4&5

Jeety Rubber LLC and SRC plantation set ablaze

The Management of Salala Rubber Plantations here reports an arson attack on its plantations, leaving about 150 rubber trees burnt.

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr in Margibi

Margibi, Liberia, January 29, 2025 - Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) in Margibi County reports an arson attack on its facilities here. According to the Corporation, its plantations were allegedly set ablaze by two suspects at 2:00 AM on January 28, 2025. The individuals, who are in police custody, undergoing investigation, were arrested by the plantation's fire service team and subsequently turned over to the Liberia National Police. They include Suspects Abraham Kpannah and Joe Bono, who, during preliminary investigation, allegedly admitted to committing the act, Police said, but they didn't state motive behind their action. About 150 rubber trees are fear burned, while management calculates the damage caused by the fire as more than US\$35K.

The SRC Plantation Management has, however, issued a stern warning that the economic impact of such attack could lead to closure of the plantation, if there were recurrences. Management warns further that it could further lead to loss of jobs for locals, if the plantations were shut down. The SRC which is now owned by Indian businessman Mr. Jetty, owner of Jetty Rubber LLC, was shut down after arson and looting that caused a huge damage to the company in 2024, emanating from protesting workers' dissatisfaction against the former management. The violence happened before Mr. Jetty bought and reopened the plantation, creating jobs for Liberians and restoring hope among the local population. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Happy New Year to all our Readers

House probes GSM companies

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also affected service in some confirming that the LTA is closely monitoring the telecom operators' plans to expand service. Massaquoi emphasized that the LTA is particularly focused on improving service quality and regulating network reliability, noting that consumers' protection laws are now in place to guarantee companies meet service expectations. "We are working with all telecom operators to ensure that there is no

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CBL boss faces senate hearing

proposed that the communication be accepted and received by the Liberian Senate. However, he proposed that all issues regarding the suspended Central Bank Governor, J. Aloysius Tarlue, be settled. "Madam Presiding, I move that this Communication be accepted and received by the Liberian Senate and sent to the Committee on Banking and Finance, but with all issues regarding the status of the suspended Central Bank Governor duly settled," he pleaded. Following his motion, Maryland County Senator J. Gbleh-bo Brown, urged that the communication be rejected until unresolved issues the Senate has with the Central Bank of Liberia are duly addressed.

"This Senate has issues with the Central Bank of Liberia, and every one of us knows about it," Sen. Brown noted. "Now, my amendment to this motion made by my colleagues is that the Communication should not be sent to the Committee until the issues we have with the Bank can be satisfied," he insisted. For his part, Margibi County Senator Nathaniel McGill said that if the letter should be received and accepted by the Senate, the President should tell the tenure of the nominees. "The positions at the CBL are all tenure positions. What I didn't hear the President saying in his communication is the time limit for each of them," McGill pointed out. By the law and status, the senator said he knows that the

governor has a status tenure. "And so, let the President tell us how long they are going to be there for," he reiterated. However, providing clarification on the matter, Grand Bassa County Senator and President Pro-Tempore, Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence, said the communication couldn't be rejected. Instead, she suggested that it could be sent to committee room while issues regarding the bank were settled. "What you do is to receive and accept the communication from the President, and make a request regarding the concerns which should be dealt with by the committee and brought back on the floor for you to debate and vote. If that is not done, you have the right to reject it," she advised. Editing by Jonathan Browne

