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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 04, 2025	L\$196.0975/US\$1.00	L\$197.8277/US\$1.00

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

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Ghana football fan stabbed to death during match violence

A fan of one of Ghana's biggest football teams, Asante Kotoko, has died after being stabbed to death at a match against their neighbours Nsoatreman. Francis Yaw Frimpong, better

known as Pooley, was killed following a heated argument with an unidentified man during the game, according to a statement from Nsoatreman. "The senseless loss of life is devastating," said his club Asante Kotoko. Violence at football matches has been a persistent issue in Ghana. In 2001, a riot in the capital, Accra, led to the death of at least 120 people. Sunday's match in the central town of Nsoatre was also marred by fan violence, with people throwing objects onto

the pitch. Things escalated when some spectators stormed the field, attacking players and officials. Asante Kotoko said their goalkeeper, Mohammed Camara, was assaulted by "pitch invaders" during the

In response to the incident, the Ghana Football Association (GFA) has banned Nsoatreman from using their home venue, Nana Koramansah Park, until further notice while an investigation is conducted. Additionally, the GFA has postponed the next round of league matches.

"The GFA has been working to improve the overall football experience in Ghana and is keen to ensure that this incident is dealt with swiftly and decisively to send the signal that such acts have no place in Ghana football," the association said in a statement on Monday. The authorities have launched an investigation into Mr Frimpong's death. People have called for stricter security measures at match venues across the country for a league that has lost its appeal in the last few years.

Despite previous sanctions aimed at improving safety, such as fines issued in 2022 for Nsoatreman and Accra Young Wise for breaching safety regulations, and a seven-game home ban handed to Skyy, violence remains a problem. Attacks on match officials and opposing teams persist, raising concerns about the effectiveness of current security measures. BBC



Francis Yaw Frimpong, popularly known as Pooley, was a devoted fan of Asante Kotoko FC

chaos. The match resumed after a brief halt, with Asante Kotoko ultimately losing 1-0 to Nsoatreman. Both teams, Asante Kotoko and Nsoatreman, have condemned the clashes. "The game of football is not a war," said Nsoatreman in a statement. Tributes for Pooley have been pouring in, with his name trending in Ghana on X. A passionate Asante Kotoko fan, he frequently discussed his team on the radio.

Shelling at busy Sudanese market 'fills mortuary with bodies'

Shelling at a busy market near Sudan's capital has filled a mortuary with bodies, medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) says. MSF and the Sudanese authorities said the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) were responsible for Saturday's attack in the city of Omdurman, which killed and injured more than 100 people - a claim the RSF has denied. The majority of those killed at the market were women and children, the Sudanese Doctors' Union says. The RSF and Sudan's army have been locked in a civil war that, over 22 months, has killed tens of thousands and sparked what the UN describes as one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters. In the past few weeks, the army has stepped up its offensive in Omdurman, which lies across the River Nile from capital city, Khartoum, aiming to regain complete control from the RSF. Eyewitnesses told the AFP

news agency that Saturday's artillery shelling had come from western Omdurman, where the RSF remains in control. Saturday's explosion caused "utter carnage" at the nearby Al Nao hospital, which was overwhelmed with injured patients, MSF general secretary Chris Lockyear said. The Sudanese Doctors' Union appealed for nearby medics to assist at the hospital, saying there was an "acute shortage of medical staff". It added that one shell had fallen "metres

away" from the hospital on Saturday. One survivor of the market attack told the AFP news agency: "The shells hit in the middle of the vegetable market, that's why the victims and the wounded are so many." Both sides have been accused of targeting civilians, including health workers, and indiscriminate shelling of residential areas. The recent skirmishes have forced emergency response rooms to shut several health centres, affecting the provision of medical services to thousands of residents. BBC



Fighting in Omdurman has intensified in recent weeks

Trump threatens to cut funding for South Africa over land policy

US President Donald Trump has said he will cut all future funding to South Africa over allegations that it was confiscating land and "treating certain classes of people very badly". Last month, President Cyril Ramaphosa signed into law a bill that allows land seizures without compensation in certain circumstances. Land ownership has long been a contentious issue in South Africa with most private farmland owned by white people, 30 years after the end of the racist system of apartheid. There have been continuous calls for the government to address land reform and deal with the past injustices of racial segregation. South Africa's president responded to Trump with a post on X: "South Africa is a constitutional democracy that is deeply rooted in the rule of law, justice and equality. The South African government has not confiscated any land." He added that the only funding South Africa received from the US was through the health initiative PEPFAR, which represented "17% of South Africa's HIV/Aids programme". The US allocated about \$440m

they're taking away land and confiscating land, and actually they're doing things that are perhaps far worse than that." South Africa's new law allows for expropriation without compensation only in circumstances where it is "just and equitable and in the public interest" to do so. This includes if the property is not being used and there is no intention to either develop or make money from it, or when it poses a risk to people. Land ownership has long been a contentious issue in South Africa for more than a century. In 1913, the British colonial authorities passed legislation that restricted the property rights of the country's black majority. The Natives Land Act left the vast majority of the land under the control of the white minority and set the foundation for the forced removal of black people to poor homelands and townships in the intervening decades until the end of apartheid three decades ago. Anger over these forced removals intensified the fight against white-minority rule. In 1994, leader of the African National Congress (ANC) Nelson Mandela became the country's first democratically elected president after all South Africans



Black people only own a small proportion of South Africa's land

(£358m) in assistance to South Africa in 2023, according to US government data. Elon Musk, who was born and grew up in South Africa and is now a Trump adviser, has also joined in the debate, saying the new law discriminated against white people. "Why do you have openly racist ownership laws?" Mr Musk said to Ramaphosa in a post on X. On Sunday, Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social: "I will be cutting off all future funding to South Africa until a full investigation of this situation has been completed!" He later said, in a briefing with journalists, that South Africa's "leadership is doing some terrible things, horrible things". "So that's under investigation right now. We'll make a determination, and until such time as we find out what South Africa is doing —

were given the right to vote. But until the recently passed law, the government was only able to buy land from its current owners under the principle of "willing seller, willing buyer", which some feel has delayed the process of land reform. In 2017, a government report said that of the farmland that was in the hands of private individuals, 72% was white-owned. According to the 2022 census white people make up 7.3% of the population. However, some critics have expressed fears that the new land law may have disastrous consequences like in Zimbabwe, where seizures wrecked the economy and scared away investors. South African Mineral Resources Minister Gwede Mantashe responded to Trump's comments by telling a mining conference that the country should withhold its minerals if "they [US] don't give us money".

OP-ED

By Moisés Naím

What Does Trump 2.0 Mean for Venezuela?

WASHINGTON, DC - Venezuela's future will be largely shaped by US policymakers and lobbyists over the next year. Although Donald Trump's administration has yet to formulate a unified position on the country, it will probably do so sooner rather than later, given the many important US interests at stake. These include Venezuela's vast oil reserves and high prevalence of drug trafficking and organized crime; its government's assault on democracy and human rights (which has resulted in heavy US sanctions); the historic exodus of millions of Venezuelans; and China's growing influence in the region.

In Trump's White House and broader orbit, there are three differing views on how to engage with Venezuela. One group, led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, views the restoration of democracy as the main US policy objective. By contrast, pragmatism defines the approach of Richard Grenell, whom Trump recently appointed as his presidential envoy for special missions, a new position focused on some of the world's "hottest spots," including Venezuela and North Korea. A more hawkish view, espoused by a variety of informal groups and individuals, supports military action against Venezuela. Two former presidents of Colombia, Álvaro Uribe Vélez and Iván Duque Márquez, have recently espoused this view.

Rubio, a former presidential hopeful who ran against Trump in the 2016 Republican primary, has ample foreign-policy experience, having been a longtime member of the Senate Intelligence and Foreign Relations Committees. Perhaps most important, Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants and a staunch anti-communist, has devoted considerable attention to Latin American affairs, thus bringing a deep knowledge of the region, its problems, and its leaders to his post as the top US diplomat.

As Rubio explained during his confirmation hearing, the United States must rethink its approach to Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's regime, which he views not as a government, but as "a narco-trafficking organization that has empowered itself [as] a nation-state." Rubio lambasted Trump's predecessor, Joe Biden: "I was in strong disagreement with the Biden administration because they got played the way that I knew they would get played." Maduro reneged on the promises he made during negotiations with the US, including by holding a sham election last July and cracking down on opposition leaders and protesters after they disputed the result. Moreover, Rubio added, the US granted special licenses to Chevron and other oil firms to operate in Venezuela, which are "providing billions of dollars" for "the regime's coffers."

But Grenell, who served as US ambassador to Germany during Trump's first term and was briefly acting director of national intelligence in 2020, doesn't see the harm in maintaining open lines of communication. On the day Trump was sworn in, Grenell wrote on X: "[D]iplomacy is back. I've spoken to multiple officials in Venezuela today and will begin meetings early tomorrow morning. Talking is a tactic." Recently, he flew to Caracas where he met with Maduro and secured the release of six American detainees. Meanwhile, Mauricio Claver-Carone, Trump's designated envoy for Latin America, insisted that there was no "quid pro quo ... it's not a negotiation in exchange for anything."

The third and more aggressive option is US military intervention. While none of the top officials in Trump's cabinet publicly supports this idea, it is still bandied about in policy circles. Since all peaceful means have been exhausted, the thinking goes, the only alternative is to unseat Maduro and his cronies by force. But proponents of military action in Venezuela have offered no realistic proposals, leaving more questions than answers about how this would work in practice.

Most fundamentally, it seems unlikely that the Trump administration will act militarily against the Maduro regime. On the campaign trail and now as president, Trump has repeatedly pledged "no new wars." As he put it in his inaugural address: "We will measure our success not only by the battles we win but also by the wars that we end - and perhaps most importantly, the wars we never get into. My proudest legacy will be that of a peacemaker and unifier."

But Trump's promises and statements leave the door open for the US to make full use of the cyber, commercial, financial, diplomatic, and, yes, military tools at its disposal. But officials should learn from the Biden administration's abject failures. For example, the sanctions imposed on Venezuela during Biden's presidency were poorly designed and executed by bureaucrats who had limited access to the centers of power. Other countries played a diminished, and mostly symbolic, role in these efforts.

As for which view will prevail, I suspect the answer is probably a mix of all three. There will inevitably be tension between those who advocate leaving Maduro in power while negotiating aggressively with him, and those who regard his ouster as non-negotiable. Regardless, it seems reasonable to expect a flurry of diplomatic activity, the use of well-worn tools, lobbying by business interests, and - given Trump's capriciousness - some unprecedented measures.

OPINION

By Otaviano Canuto,
Rim Berahab

How to Make Carbon Pricing Work for Africa

RABAT - Carbon pricing is a crucial climate-policy tool. By assigning a monetary value to greenhouse-gas emissions, it creates incentives for firms to emit less and generates revenue that can be spent on sustainable development. More than 70 jurisdictions worldwide have already implemented carbon taxes or emissions-trading systems, as a way to reconcile economic growth with climate objectives.

The international community has recently focused on strengthening the frameworks for global carbon markets. At last year's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, countries finalized negotiations on Article 6 of the Paris climate agreement, which aims to standardize such markets. This involved adopting rules to facilitate cross-border cooperation on emissions-reduction projects.

While the transparency and accountability provided by these rules will almost surely build trust in carbon markets, a standardized framework poses some risks for Africa. Specifically, it could fail to address the continent's needs, exacerbating inequality and impeding development. Nearly 600 million Africans still lack access to electricity, while biomass accounts for 45% of the continent's energy supply, leaving rural and low-income households particularly vulnerable to carbon-pricing policies that are not tailored to Africa's unique socioeconomic and environmental realities.

A flat carbon tax, for example, that is not accompanied by targeted subsidies, government investment, and international financing could disproportionately burden rural and low-income households, keeping them in poverty and hindering electrification efforts. The shift to renewables requires significant upfront spending on infrastructure, and carbon pricing must be structured to facilitate, not obstruct, this transition.

Moreover, Africa is acutely vulnerable to climate shocks, as shown by recurring droughts in the Sahel and catastrophic floods in Mozambique. African countries on average lose 2-5% of GDP per year to climate change, and many divert up to 9% of their annual budget to respond to extreme weather events, putting a severe strain on their economies.

To tailor carbon-pricing models to Africa's realities, policymakers should push for the strategic reinvestment of any resulting revenue in essential sectors such as education, health care, and renewables. In South Africa, proceeds from the country's carbon tax have been channeled into clean-energy projects, expanding access to solar power in underserved regions. Such "revenue recycling" mitigates carbon pricing's regressive effects while also tackling energy poverty and fostering inclusive development.

Pursuing the phased implementation of carbon-pricing models, with initially modest prices, would enable African countries to adapt gradually to the demands of a green economy, without stifling growth. At the same time, the slow and steady development of frameworks for measuring, reporting, and verification would make it easier to identify and rectify errors, resulting in more robust and trustworthy systems. This approach minimizes the economic shocks often associated with abrupt transitions, offering a practical pathway to sustainable development.

Public-private partnerships are a powerful tool for mobilizing investment in green technology and carbon-credit projects and for aligning environmental and social objectives. For example, Rwanda's clean-cooking initiative, which uses private-sector expertise and funding to distribute efficient cookstoves, has reduced emissions and improved health outcomes for rural households. Leveraging nature-based solutions is equally important. Africa's rainforests, wetlands, and peatlands store vast amounts of carbon, with the Congo Basin alone holding more than 30 billion tons of carbon dioxide. These assets could generate high-quality carbon credits, which would attract international financing and preserve critical ecosystems. Under the multi-donor, UN-hosted Central African Forest Initiative, Gabon's pioneering carbon-credits program has conserved huge portions of its forests. As a result, Gabon secured a commitment of \$150 million over ten years through a 2019 agreement with CAFI.

While carbon pricing has immense potential to address Africa's climate and development needs, barriers to implementation remain, and overcoming them will require carefully targeted interventions. For starters, institutional weaknesses could undermine robust measurement, reporting, and verification, which are essential for ensuring credibility and attracting investment. International organizations such as the UN Environment Programme and the World Bank could assist with the operationalization of carbon-pricing mechanisms in African countries by providing technical training and supporting the development of necessary infrastructure.

Ensuring the social acceptance of carbon pricing is another challenge for African countries. Because these policies can trigger a public backlash if they are perceived as unjust, or even just poorly explained, governments must be



Invitation for Bids [IFB]

Forestry Development Authority/TSF Project

IFB Number: LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/001/2024
Purchaser: Forestry Development Authority (FDA)
Project: Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in Secondary Wood Processing Industry_ Phase II
Contract title: " Provision of Additional Machines/Tools and the Installation to Three (3) Share Facilities"
Country: Liberia
Grant No.: 5900155018403
Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding National (OCBN)
OCBN No: LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/001/2024
Issued on: January 28, 2025

1. The Government of Liberia through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has received financing from the African Development Bank Group hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of the Scaling up the Participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry_ Phase II, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Provision of additional Machine/Tools to three Shared Facility. “For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank’s Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing.
2. The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply of **Machines/Tools**

Lot No. 1	Description	Quantity
i	Machines/Tools	Various

3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding National, (OCB-N) method as specified in the Bank’s Procurement Policy Framework for Bank’s Group Funded operations² dated October, 2015, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
4. The bidding document in English may be collected by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below
5. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **1:00 PM, February 25 2025**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below
6. All Bids must be accompanied by a **“Bid-Securing Declaration”**.
7. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder’s beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
8. For any further clarification, please contact:
Attn. Project Coordinator
Project Implementation Unit
Forestry Development Authority
Whein Town, Bernard Farm
Montserrado County
Liberia

Email Address: emmanuellew965@gmail.com
0775-841-431/0886-570-320

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



Invitation for Bids [IFB]

Forestry Development Authority/TSF Project

IFB Number: LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/005/2024
Purchaser: Forestry Development Authority (FDA)
Project: Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in Secondary Wood Processing Industry_ Phase II
Contract title: " Provision of Electric Planing, and Sandpapering Machines Kits to 1,108 Registered Members "
Country: Liberia
Grant No.: 5900155018403
Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding National (OCBN)
OCBN No: LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/005/2024
Issued on: January 28, 2025

1. The Government of Liberia through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has received financing from the African Development Bank Group hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of the Scaling up the Participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry_ Phase II, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the **Provision of Electric Planing, and Sandpapering Machines Kits to 1,108 Registered Members**. “For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank’s Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing.
2. The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply of **Electric Planing, and Sandpapering Machines Kits**

Lot No. 1	Description	Quantity
i	Electric Planing, and Sandpapering Machines Kits	Various

3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding National, (OCB-N) method as specified in the Bank’s Procurement Policy Framework for Bank’s Group Funded operations² dated October, 2015, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
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EPA Celebrates World Wetlands Day 2025

- Calls for Stronger Protection Measures

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia has celebrated World Wetlands Day 2025 in Marshall City, Margibi County, under the theme "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future."

Marshall, Margibi County, Grand Cape Mount County, February 4, 2025/ The event aimed to raise awareness about the critical role wetlands play in environmental conservation and economic activities such as fishing, farming, and tourism.

Liberia is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on

Grand Cape Mount County, Kpatawee Wetland in Bong County, and Gbendi Wetland in Nimba County.

In recognition of the day's importance, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai issued a Presidential Proclamation, declaring Monday, February 3, 2025, as World Wetlands Day in Liberia. The

Providing an overview of the occasion, Mr. Levi Z. Piah, Focal Point of the Ramsar Convention in Liberia, explained the historical background of the convention. He highlighted that Liberia, as a member, has an obligation to protect its wetlands and implement policies that prevent degradation.

Piah raised concerns over the continuous destruction of wetlands in Liberia, particularly in Margibi County, where unregulated construction, illegal waste disposal, and deforestation threaten these critical ecosystems. He stressed the need for urgent action, noting that wetlands are essential for sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience.

As a guest speaker, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Yin Chengwu, reaffirmed his country's commitment to environmental protection and wetlands conservation. He emphasized that wetlands play a vital role in ecological balance, support livelihoods, and mitigate climate change impacts.

Ambassador Yin highlighted China's long-standing partnership with Liberia in various sectors, including agriculture, infrastructure, and environmental protection. He pledged

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

Sister Aid Liberia trains journalists on public health bill

Paynesville, Liberia, February 4, 2025 - Sister Aid Liberia, with support from the African Population Health and Research Center (APHRC), takes a significant step here in enhancing capacity of journalists in Liberia. Liberian journalists are being educated on the importance of the revised public health bill, which is currently before the Liberian Senate.

A clear understanding of the revised public health bill will better equip journalists to report accurately on its potential implications for the country's healthcare system, and help foster an informed public debate.

The diverse participants were urged to step up efforts in advocating for the passage of the bill.

The media's involvement is seen as essential in raising awareness and garnering support for the

bill, which aims to improve public health delivery and ensure health rights for all citizens.

During a media engagement workshop hosted by Sister Aid, in Paynesville, outside Monrovia, participants discussed the importance of this legislation for enhancing

transparency and improving public health delivery in the country.

The event took place at the organization's headquarters, aimed at equipping journalists with the necessary knowledge and tools for effective advocacy. The training

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Sister Aid Liberia sensitizes journalists on health bill before the Senate.

Transformational change in Liberia is illusive

-World Bank Manager calls for shift from business as usual

The World Bank says change in Liberia is illusive.

By Stephen G. Fella juah

Monrovia, Liberia, February 4, 2025 - The World Bank's Country Manager for Liberia, Georgia Wallen, highlights a critical challenge the country faces in achieving significant progress, noting "Transformational change in Liberia is illusive." She emphasizes difficulty of moving beyond incremental, routine improvements toward substantial, long-lasting development. In this context, "business as usual" refers to the continuation of existing systems and practices, which may not be sufficient for the kind of radical change needed to truly transform Liberia's economic, social, and political landscape.

Her call to "shift from business as usual" suggests a need for fundamental rethink of how policies and strategies are approached. This might include reimagining governance structures, improving infrastructure,

growth and social progress. This could involve investments in education, skill development, healthcare, and, enabling Liberians to contribute to sustainable development.

The Bank's Country Manager notes the new partnership framework and the upcoming five years of the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive development (AAID) suggest that there is a renewed commitment from international stakeholders, including the World Bank to support Liberia's growth.

However, Ms Wallen says "These partners are demanding more impactful outcomes". This means the focus will likely shift from just providing aid or resources to ensuring that investments translate into measurable improvements on the ground, whether in terms of job creation, infrastructure development, or improved living standards for ordinary Liberians.



World Bank Country Manager Georgia Wallen

boosting education and healthcare systems.

Also, fostering an environment conducive to private sector growth and investment. Essentially, it's about moving beyond small-scale reforms and adopting bold, innovative solutions that can fundamentally alter the trajectory of the country. Wallen emphasis on investing more in the Liberian people pinpoints a key area for transformational change: human capital development, by fostering capacity of the population to participate more actively in the country's development.

Liberia could create a more empowered workforce, which in turn could drive economic

She says Liberia has the lowest level of learning in just one year than any country in the world, highlighting a critical gap in the country's educational system.

"This is a pressing issue because education is the foundation for economic and social development", she notes, indicating that without a skilled and educated workforce, Liberia will struggle to meet the demands of a modern economy and address broader issues like poverty, inequality, and unemployment.

Her remarks outline some of the most significant challenges facing Liberia, and the World Bank's approach to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

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No back-biting

-Commerce Ministry employees told

Workers Association of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have been urged to do away with back-biting and focus on the job.

By Wise Wesseh

Monrovia, Liberia, February 4, 2025 - Newly inducted chairperson for the workers association of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), Oliver Sonah, charges employees of the Ministry to do away with back-

long MoCI employees have been without voice to represent them at top-level, while affirming the Association's commitment to working with the Commerce Ministry to ensure Employees' welfare remains paramount. Oliver Sonah, chairman, and others including: Mercy Duplay-

workers of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry capacity are built in effective trainings, and to create a clear policy on gender-sensitive working environment be crafted to allow more female participation, in senior Ministerial roles, Sonah also pleaded. Civil Service Agency Director Josiah Joekai, assured that the Civil Service will protect and ensure employees' welfare.

He said the Agency is committed to creating, maintaining and managing employees' jobs, while charging employees to work effectively and be more professional in their service, reminding them of the slogan, "Do your work and keep your job."

Commerce Minister Magdalene E. Dagoseh, vows a coordinated and cordial working relationship with the employees. She says collective efforts with employees will ensure pro-activeness, productivity and progress of the Ministry of Commerce.

Minister Dagoseh committed to leave no stone unturned for under-performing employees, who will be shifted and replaced immediately.

"Despite there wouldn't be illegal dismissal, but we wouldn't also encourage under-performing staff, as our commitment to ensure the effectiveness of this ministry in line with our government's ARREST Agenda", Madam Dagoseh said. She describes employees as heartbeat of the Ministry, but warned against negative propaganda.

"There will be no room for gossip, and we wouldn't speak with everyone of you, but with



bitting and undermining one another to gain favor from top officials, something he warns, will hinder their own welfare. In his acceptance speech over the weekend, Mr. Sonah, urged colleagues to cultivate a culture of respect for one another, while enhancing the high-standard of professionalism every time. "I must say this: without favor, we MoCI employee must cultivate culture of mutual respect for each other and do away with back-biting. We cannot afford back-biting, blackmailing to gain favor at the expense of [fellow] colleagues. Let us exhibit a high standard of professionalism," he urged. Sonah laments that for far too

Vice Chair for Administration, Randy M. Nyemah, Assistant Secretary, Mirel G. Monger, Treasure and Christopher Nyemah, Financial Secretary, all have three-years mandate to lead the Association.

Sonah pledges to work with integrity, fairness, transparency and credibility in line with Civil Service Standing Order to ensure employees' the welfare. He pleaded with the Ministry to prioritize capacity-building, which will enhance productivity of staffers to execute their functions, efficiently.

"To the Minister, I want to use this time to plead to you and enables deputies to ensure

Starts from page 6

Transformational change

addressing them is crucial for the country's long-term development. These key challenges include access to healthcare, infrastructure development, institutional strengthening and governance, and job creation and legal system.

Remarking further, she disclosed current program involving 19 projects across 14 sectors shows a holistic approach, aiming to tackle these interconnected

challenges. By addressing everything from healthcare and energy to governance and job creation, the World Bank is laying the foundation for long-term growth.

However, the real focus is on creating tangible change for the average Liberian. There is a demand for visible improvements in people's daily lives, and that's where the impact of growth needs to be felt, she told the forum. Georgia Wallen was speaking recently when the

French Republic, through its Embassy in Liberia, held a day-long roundtable symposium for development partners in Monrovia.

The forum aimed at identifying priority interests and sectors within the Government of Liberia's five-year ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID) and the County Development Agendas (CDAs) for support and implementation. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 6

EPA Celebrates World Wetlands Day 2025

China's support for wetlands restoration, conservation initiatives, and capacity-building programs in Liberia.

"If people care for nature, nature will surely reward them in return," he said, emphasizing China's success in wetland restoration and its

International Mangrove Centre (IMC), established in 2022 to promote global mangrove conservation.

Delivering special remarks, EPA Executive Director Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo underscored the importance of wetlands and Liberia's

commitment to the Ramsar Convention. He noted that wetlands play a crucial role in climate regulation, biodiversity conservation, and economic activities, yet they continue to face severe threats from human activities.

Sen. Dillon's Rehab Center provides TVET skills to 13 females

Thirteen drug-addicted females complete rehabilitation here.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Paynesville, Liberia, February 4, 2025 - The Center for Rehabilitation and Reintegration (CFRR) established in 2021 by Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon, has graduated its fifth batch comprising 13 of 30 females.

The fifth batch is the first all-female graduates of the Center, who successfully completed rehabilitation and detoxification process after undergoing approximately six months of intensive care. As part of their rehabilitation and reintegration into society, the young women also received psychological and medical support, along with vocational training skills to help them start a new life upon returning to their respective communities. The graduation ceremony, held on Friday, January 31, 2025, in the City of Paynesville near Monrovia, was attended by parents, foreign guests, government officials, community members, local leaders, and former CFRR graduates.

The graduates shared their painful experiences endured for

"Today is not about me, and it should not be. All thanks go to the clients. Out of 30 clients recruited for the program, we now have 13 people graduating because some had escaped during the rehabilitation process and returned to the streets. We had some people who jumped over the fence and escaped only because they were not willing to be reintegrated", the Senator noted. Dillon also addressed public concerns about his salary allocation, clarifying that the funds he once pledged to Montserrado County are now being directed toward the rehabilitation center.

"When I was campaigning, I promised the people of Montserrado County that I would take only \$5,000 from my salary and return the rest to the county. After establishing this rehab center in 2021, I redirected that money toward maintaining this institution and rehabilitating our vulnerable youth," he explained. He emphasized that this statement should serve as a final clarification for those questioning his financial contributions, adding that that CFRR recruits clients regardless of their political or



years, some for over a decade suffering from substance abuse and living in isolation. However, they vowed never to return to the life of addiction that once condemned, devalued, and demoralized them for years. Speaking on behalf of her colleagues, Graduate Jameslu Tucolon urged her fellow graduates to remain steadfast in their commitment to staying clean, emphasizing the severe consequences of relapse.

"We're tired of the life we lived before. We were condemned, demoralized, and had lost our families' respect and trust. As we re-enter society and face the pain we caused our families, we must maintain a positive mindset, bring hope and joy to our families and communities, and show society that we are now changed individuals who can be trusted again," she said. Senator Dillon, chief financier of the Center, reaffirmed his continuous support in its mission to rehabilitate and reintegrate drug-addicted youths.

social backgrounds, highlighting that his initiative is purely humanitarian. He lauded Senate Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence for advocating for the inclusion of female addicts in rehabilitation, acknowledging that she had provided a facility in Grand Bassa County to increase the number of youths benefiting from the program. "This is where my salary is going. I will not explain this again. If you, the graduates, and your parents—who are the direct beneficiaries—cannot serve as ambassadors for this initiative, then I won't justify myself any further," he asserted.

Speaking at the event, on behalf of the people of Montserrado County district #6, the Chair of the Montserrado County Legislative Caucus, Representative Samuel Enders, commended Senator Dillon for rescuing what he described as a "drug-infested community."

"In Liberia, we don't know how to appreciate people because everything is about politics."

Français

Des sénateurs contestent la nomination de Boakai à la tête de la Banque Centrale

Le Président Boakai prononce son deuxième discours annuel sur l'état de la nation

Le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai s'apprête aujourd'hui à adresser son

le chef de l'État est tenu de présenter, le quatrième lundi ouvrable de janvier, un rapport sur la situation économique, sociale et financière de la République, ainsi que les priorités législatives de son administration pour l'année à

concrètes de la part d'un gouvernement élu sur la promesse de sortir le pays de ses nombreux défis économiques, sociaux et infrastructurels. Un discours pour traduire les promesses en actions



deuxième discours annuel sur l'état de la nation devant la 55^e législature, marquant la première année de son mandat entamé le 22 janvier 2024. Conformément à l'article 58 de la Constitution de 1986,

venir. Les Libériens, tant au pays qu'à l'étranger, suivent avec attention cet événement prévu à 15h00. À travers les ondes radio, les chaînes de télévision et les plateformes en ligne, ils attendent des annonces

Ce deuxième discours, couvrant une année entière de gouvernance, est particulièrement attendu. Contrairement à son allocution inaugurale,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Le programme ITEC de l'Inde : un tremplin pour les infirmières libériennes

Un groupe de 27 infirmières libériennes partira prochainement pour Chandigarh, en Inde, afin de suivre une formation spécialisée en leadership et gestion des soins infirmiers au Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), dans le cadre du programme de Coopération Technique et Économique Indienne (ITEC). Ce programme vise à renforcer les compétences des professionnels libériens et à introduire les meilleures pratiques mondiales dans le secteur de la santé du pays. L'Ambassade de l'Inde au Liberia a organisé, le 24 janvier, une session d'orientation pour ces infirmières, en présence du Dr Teyah Moore, ministre adjoint des Services Curatifs au ministère de la Santé du Liberia. Cet événement marque une étape importante dans la consolidation des relations de coopération entre les deux nations dans le domaine de la santé. Un programme essentiel pour

le secteur de la santé libérien Ce programme, qui se déroulera à Chandigarh, est conçu pour doter les participantes de compétences avancées en gestion et en leadership dans les soins infirmiers. L'objectif est de renforcer le système de santé libérien en formant des professionnelles capables de mener des réformes dans leur domaine et de promouvoir des standards internationaux de soins. Le Dr Teyah Moore a exprimé sa reconnaissance envers le gouvernement indien pour son soutien continu dans la formation des professionnels de santé. « Ce programme ne se limite pas à un enrichissement

des compétences, il renforce également les liens entre nos deux pays et soutient notre vision d'un système de santé plus efficace et plus équitable », a-t-il déclaré. L'importance du programme ITEC dans la coopération internationale L'ambassadeur de l'Inde, Manoj Bihari Verma, a souligné la portée et l'impact du programme ITEC, créé en 1964. Ce programme a permis de former plus de 200 000 professionnels dans des domaines variés tels que la santé, l'agriculture, l'éducation et la gestion, dans plus de 160 pays. « Ce programme spécial



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

Français

Les partenaires internationaux se concertent sur l'Agenda ARREST

Moins d'une semaine après le lancement du programme quinquennal de développement ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID) par le président Joseph Boakai, l'Ambassade de France à Monrovia a réuni des partenaires internationaux lors d'une table ronde visant à renforcer la coopération bilatérale et à aligner les priorités de développement du Liberia.

Une concertation stratégique sur les priorités nationales. L'Ambassade de France au Liberia a organisé un symposium d'une journée réunissant les acteurs du développement afin d'identifier les secteurs prioritaires du programme AAID et des Agendas de Développement des Comtés (CDA), dans le but de mobiliser un soutien ciblé et d'optimiser leur mise en œuvre. Présidée par l'ambassadrice de France au Liberia, Isabella Le Guellec, la réunion s'est tenue dans la salle de conférence de l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD) à Monrovia. L'événement a réuni des participants en présentiel et en ligne sous l'égide du Conseil Local de Développement au Liberia.

Parmi les personnalités présentes figuraient Georgia Wallen, directrice-pays de la Banque mondiale, Joel Chiedu Okwuokei, représentant résident du Fonds monétaire international (FMI), Alious Mamadou, représentant résident du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD), ainsi que Alice E. Williams, assistante du ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement,

chargée des ressources externes. Renforcer la coopération entre la France et le Liberia

L'objectif de cette réunion du Conseil Local de Développement était de définir une stratégie de coopération entre la France et le Liberia en tenant compte des priorités exprimées dans l'Agenda ARREST. Elle visait également à assurer une meilleure coordination entre les projets des partenaires au développement et les initiatives gouvernementales, en veillant à leur alignement stratégique.

Au cours des discussions, les représentants du gouvernement et des institutions partenaires ont présenté leurs domaines d'intervention et les projets en cours en lien avec l'Agenda ARREST.

Dans une interview exclusive accordée à NEW DAWN, l'ambassadrice Isabella Le Guellec a précisé que cette initiative s'inscrit dans une démarche annuelle de l'Ambassade de France visant à suivre les progrès des projets en cours et à ajuster les priorités aux besoins du pays.

« Tous les partenaires présents à cette conférence sont engagés dans des projets qui s'inscrivent dans le programme de développement du gouvernement libérien. Nos actions s'alignent sur ces initiatives, avec un soutien actif et des interventions ciblées », a-t-elle expliqué.

Elle a également souligné l'intérêt particulier des États membres de l'Union européenne pour le développement de la formation technique et professionnelle, un levier essentiel pour renforcer l'employabilité des jeunes Libériens et stimuler la croissance économique.

« La France a défini trois priorités stratégiques pour son engagement au Liberia : l'environnement (incluant la protection des forêts, la biodiversité et la lutte contre le changement climatique), l'éducation, et la santé », a-t-elle ajouté. gouvernement libérien à bâtir une économie plus résiliente et inclusive, tout en consolidant ses partenariats avec les acteurs internationaux du développement.



French Ambassador to Liberia, Isabella Le Guellec

Le CENTAL critique le discours du président Boakai

Le président Joseph N. Boakai est sous le feu des critiques après son discours prononcé devant la 55^e Législature ce lundi, notamment pour son manque d'action concrète contre la corruption, un problème majeur pour le Liberia.

Le CENTAL dénonce l'inaction du président face à la corruption

Le Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) a sévèrement critiqué l'absence de mesures tangibles de la part du président dans la lutte contre la corruption, malgré les progrès qu'il a soulignés dans d'autres secteurs.

« Si le président Boakai peut se vanter de certaines réussites dans divers domaines, il échoue lamentablement lorsqu'il s'agit de lutter contre la corruption, la problématique la plus grave du Liberia », a déclaré l'organisation dans un communiqué.

Lors d'un podcast diffusé en direct sur Facebook le 28 janvier 2025, le directeur exécutif du CENTAL, Anderson Miamen, a déploré l'inaction du président concernant les allégations de corruption au sein de son gouvernement.

« Le président n'a pas su traduire ses engagements en actions concrètes contre la corruption », a-t-il ajouté. Des progrès économiques, mais des doutes persistent Dans son discours, Boakai a mis en avant des progrès dans des secteurs clés, tels que l'économie, les infrastructures, l'agriculture et l'éducation, mais ses déclarations ont été reçues avec scepticisme par une partie de l'opposition et des acteurs politiques.

Le président a rappelé que, lorsqu'il a pris ses fonctions, le pays était confronté à une croissance de seulement 4,6 %, une inflation à 10,1 % et une dette nationale de 2,5 milliards de dollars. Il a également souligné les difficultés rencontrées par les fonctionnaires, en



particulier les retards de salaire et la déséquation des rémunérations, des problèmes ayant conduit une grande partie de la population à recourir à des systèmes financiers informels.

Des mesures économiques et sociales, mais des critiques sur leur efficacité

Le président a cependant insisté sur les mesures prises pour améliorer la situation : augmentation des salaires des travailleurs de la santé, des enseignants et des policiers, ainsi qu'une révision à la hausse de la croissance économique, qui a atteint 5,1 % en 2024. Il a également annoncé une réduction de l'inflation, passée de 10,1 % en 2023 à 7,7 % en 2024, avec une prévision de baisse à 6 % pour 2025.

Les réserves internationales du Liberia ont augmenté à 458,9 millions de dollars, tandis que le dollar libérien a gagné 4,7 % contre le dollar américain. Le président a aussi souligné que la Banque centrale avait réduit son taux directeur de 20 % à 17 %, ce qui a renforcé la confiance dans le système financier et permis une augmentation de 9,1 % du crédit au secteur privé.

Concernant les infrastructures, Boakai a mentionné l'expansion de la route de l'aéroport Roberts, la construction de routes entre Sanniquellie et Logatuo, ainsi que des travaux financés par la Banque mondiale sur le projet RETRAP. Dans le domaine de l'éducation, il a reconnu les défis hérités de son prédécesseur et détaillé les investissements de son gouvernement pour apurer les arriérés de bourses et améliorer l'alphabétisation et les compétences en mathématiques des élèves de troisième via un partenariat avec l'USAID. Les critiques du CENTAL : l'absence de mesures contre la corruption Malgré ces annonces, Anderson Miamen a vivement contesté l'absence de mesures contre la corruption. Il a rappelé que le président avait révoqué l'ensemble du conseil de la LTA (Liberia Telecommunications Authority) après des accusations de corruption, mais qu'il n'avait pris aucune action contre l'actuel président intérimaire, cité dans un rapport d'audit de la Commission générale de l'audit.

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LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: *Fighting drugs addiction in Liberia*

By Naneka Hoffman

President Boakai mentioned in his Annual Message recently that his government is committed to the war against dangerous drugs being brought into the country. Ordinary Liberians gave their views on the President's commitment on paper and what is obtaining on the ground in the country. Read their comments as compiled below.



Morris Simoni

"I think the drugs issue is getting serious in the country. President Boakai, last time took the lead to do drugs test but that is not stopping drugs from entering in the country. Speaking on it at in his SONA is good. But we all need to

fight this drugs business in the country. It's not about saying it but the drugs law need to be implemented. We all know that the drug is spoiling our youths; secondly, not only the youths; we feel bad too at times because more often when our brothers and sisters take in the drug, they don't even want to know about human beings. They take human beings as chicken in their eyes. At times they will even be walking sleeping in the street. So we all will help President Boakai to fight drug in our country. And we all are willing to go from ghetto to ghetto to see how best we can take drugs from various communities."



Jeremiah D. Duah

In my view, President Boakai's statement was not wrong. It is good that he says he will fight drugs but, he should implement the drugs law by taking actions

against dealers, because we are still seeing more drugs coming in our country. These few days, police officers in Margibi County arrested a lady and a boy with drugs. That is good but there should be vigorous enforcement of the law. Also, taken away zogos from the streets id not too bad, but they should build a rehabilitation area where they will get people that will learn trade to be able to build themselves, so that they will not come back in the street. And that will be one of the best ways to limit this drug business."

"The statement from President Boakai at the SONA to fight drugs in the country is welcoming, as we all know it is good for a leader to be exemplary, so as a leader, you set the example and you inspire other people. The drug issue is seriously increase in Liberia. So we're so happy mainly me; I am happy that our President actually says he will fight drugs from all angle. Most communities, if you observe, you will see young people just gathered together getting hard and doing all types of things. So the drug issue in the country is very much important because the youthful generation has to be



Hartzel Seton

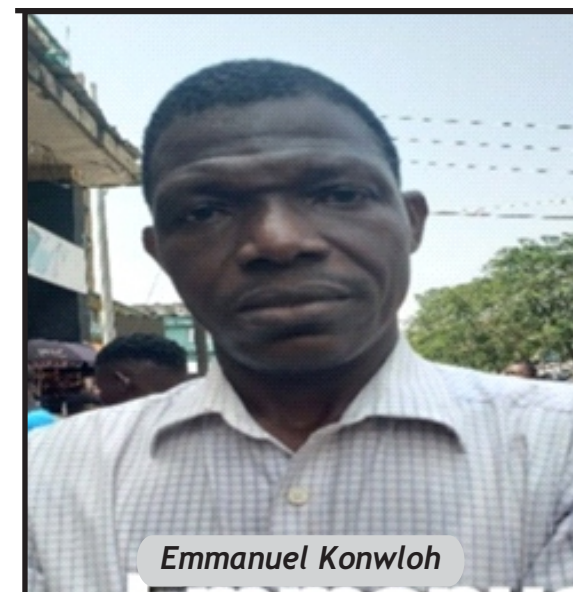
fully prepared for the generation to come. But if they are overwhelmed by drugs, that means they will not be able to do anything good."

"The speech of President Boakai is fine and good. But firstly, the issue of drugs will not finish now, because fighting drugs is a collective work. You can't be arresting drugs sellers then you say you want to fight drugs. I think they should be dealing with dealers then we know they are serious to fight drugs. Drug is not a very good thing and I am not in support of that. My advice is that everyone should be security on security for themselves, mostly the LDEA; that is the only way drugs will be



Alex Tyee

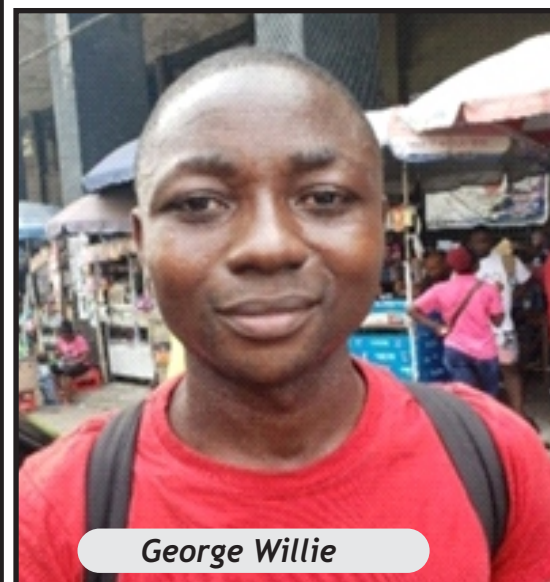
restricted in our country."



Emmanuel Konwloh

"The statement from President Boakai that he will fight drugs; but he along can't fight this drugs issue. His regime needs to empower the LDEA and make each one of the as security on security. I think this is the only way this drugs issue will be

limited in the country. All the LDEA officers need to do drugs test. That will show that he is serious about fighting drugs in the country, because drugs are taking over the country. It is making our country to not have any youthful generation. It is affecting our children, from even day one, we ourselves will have no future. Communities have to help because it is communities that keeping those ghettos. If they were bringing report to the government, saying oh, this person has ghetto in my area; I mean the government will help to stop those people. So, everybody has to put hands together to stop this drug business in our county."



George Willie

"President Boakai regime needs to go in ghettos and break them down, and give more punishments to those drugs dealers, because these are some

of the promises they made to us during the campaign that they were going to take Kush out of the country. So we want to know who all in the Kush business so we can quarantine them until the Kush leaves their body. When you talk the talk, you must walk the walk. It was very much disappointing that President Boakai didn't mention about people with disabilities in his SONA. The bread and butter issues are what we are waiting for. By now, we expected the rescue price; let the rice price come down for the poor people."

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Gov't anticipates US\$2.1b resource mobilization

The funds will enhance electricity supply and road infrastructure development for investments and job opportunities.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) Minister, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan

together energy compass, it's the development plan of a strong foundation for the superstructure being laid," said Minister Ngafuan.



says the government anticipates mobilizing from its development partners US\$2.1 billion to address the 33% access to electricity to 75%. The funds will also enhance road infrastructure development for investments and job opportunities. Addressing graduates of the Banking Institute of Liberia over the weekend, Minister Ngafuan assured Liberians of job opportunities. He noted that even though some of the graduates have jobs and others don't, eventually, all of them will have jobs based on what the government is doing. "So, when you hear development plan, putting

He added that now is the time to act and the government has started to act now. "When we put out a plan, ask how it fits you. And one of the majors is that you need a job," continued. According to Minister Ngafuan, one of the major problems to Liberia's development and investment is electricity or power, citing it as the highest cause of business. For the economy to expand, Ngafuan suggested the need to reduce that burden. "Now, only 33% of Liberians have access to electricity," Minister Ngafuan stated. He disclosed that in the government's ARREST development plan over five years, they intend to mobilize

about US\$ 2.1 billion from international partners to increase electricity access to 75% or above to help businesses expand. "I want us to be a little positive about our country. I go around other countries; they don't do better than us," said Ngafuan. Generally, he observed, they are more positive about their country. "We know if we sit and our eyes are trained on finding and escalating the bad, we will get too many bad things to talk about," the Finance Minister argued. However, he stated that if your eyes focus on the good, you will get good things to talk about. "One of the good things that is happening in Liberia is the graduation of those professionals because it's good news for the country." He noted the government's commitment to providing job opportunities across the country. Minister Ngafuan assured that they will be working to address road infrastructure challenges across the country and other issues. Ngafuan noted that it's their vision that people can drive from Monrovia to Cape Palmas in Maryland County on asphalt pavement. "It will happen and not at a too long distance from now. We are working to ensure that. Watch that and see." Minister Ngafuan urged the graduates to uphold integrity, describing it as a virtue that takes anyone beyond. He added that it takes integrity and courage to see millions when you are hungry and don't even have rental fees.

Liberia: Bishop predicts more hardship

A Liberian Bishop predicts more hardship for Liberia, under President Boakai.

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr. in Margibi

Zorzor, Liberia, February 4, 2025 - The Bishop of the Christian Inter-denominational Assemblies or CHRIDA, Aloysius W. Kpadeh, Sr., predicts that Liberia will be tough this year. According to Bishop Kpadeh, there will be hardship under the leadership of President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, especially this year. He painted the bleak picture while speaking to a group of Lofa citizens from various parts of the county, including Zorzor, at a program organized by the church on Feb 2, 2025. The ceremony was intended to ordain, commission, consecrate and offer prayers for different leaders of the church held in the Zorzor Women Activities Hall, Zorzor district. Bishop Kpadeh with his message of doom, continued that a lot of evil will happen in 2025 but God will still reveal some positive things. According to him, many things are

during elections brings catastrophe upon the country. However, Bishop Kpadeh says Christians can save the nation by praying and changing evil people in leadership, who continue to strangle the country. He added that leaders are not thinking about solving problems, but fighting for themselves. The Bishop laments that he was very disappointed when lawmakers were accused and called for questioning in regard to their alleged involvement in the recent Capitol Building fire incident. He urges the church members to repent from evil and service God. Liberians, he urges, can only be saved when they turn to Jesus Christ in prayers and faith, as the only savior. Liberians are seriously decrying escalating trend in hardship under the Boakai Administration, but in his recent State of the Nation Address, the President bragged about economic stability with specific reference to increment in



happening in the world and Liberia is not an exception, so Liberians should not be surprised when they face hardship. He referenced waves of recent national events that have brought the country's name to public ridicule, citing the absence of the judiciary at President Boakai's 2nd Annual Message, burning of the Capitol Building, deportation of Liberians and other nationals as part of the vices that are geared toward making the country very difficult. He notes that most Liberian leaders have cursed the nation with their involvements in blood sacrifices during elections because the blood they spilled

incentives of health workers, teachers and security. The exchange rate between the Liberian Dollar and the United States Dollar has climbed to L\$195 to US\$1 with upward changes in transportation fares, gasoline and diesel prices, rice and other basic commodities. Many say the hardship, which was inherited by President Boakai from former President George Manneh Weah, is tougher than before. According to Boakai's recent report, his predecessor left a broke economy and a debt of US\$2.5 billion. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Gongloe appeals to Trump

respect the historical relationship and diplomatic ties between both countries."I want to appeal to U.S President Donald Trump to rethink his decision and treat Liberia as a special case regarding the planned mass deportation and aid halt to the world," said Gongloe. "Liberia is a country that came out of the U.S historically and we are still trying to recover from war," Cllr. Gongloe explained. According to him, many Liberians are in that category because they were escaping the war and seeking safety. Commenting on the issue of the aid halt, the Liberian People's Party (LPP) political leader appealed that President Trump and the People of the U.S. consider Liberia because the country heavily relies on aid for development activities. "We want to also call on President Trump and the people of the U.S to consider Liberia on the issue of aid halt," he continued. "Liberia depends on aid for its education,

health, and agricultural sectors, which are critical and most important to our heart." "We want you to consider us, not looking at the government's violation of human rights, corruption, and [violation of the] rule of law. Put us in a special category," he noted. Meanwhile, the LPP political leader also called on Liberian President Joseph Nyuma Boakai to consider the topics of mass deportation and aid halt as a wake-up call. "I also want to call on President Boakai to take the topics of aid halt and mass deportation as a wakeup call to manage the country's resources well to the benefit of the majority of the Liberian people," Gongloe indicated. He urged President Boakai to pass an Executive Order reducing the salary and benefits of government officials from the over US\$30,000 they are earning.

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-Against Liberians' deportation, aid halt

By Lincoln G. Peters

regarding his decision to carry out a mass deportation and halt aid to the world. The United States Department of Homeland Security recently released



The move is part of the Trump Administration's crackdown on illegal immigration.

While being honored over the weekend as Politician of the Year by a local newspaper, Cllr. Gongloe pleaded that President Trump rethinks his decision.

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