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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025	L\$196.4211/US\$1.00	L\$198.1666/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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VP Koung fear citizen's rebellion



-over slow pace of development

P11

Suspended officials risk dismissal, if ...

P11



LACC Chair Cllr. Alexandra Zoe

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Continental News

Religious leaders meet rebel groups in Goma amid rising tensions

A delegation of religious leaders met with rebel group leaders in Goma on Wednesday, as tensions continue to escalate in the wake of the M23's takeover of the eastern Congolese city. The meeting came amid growing concerns over the ongoing violence and the humanitarian crisis unfolding in the region.



The M23 rebels, who are part of the broader struggle among more than 100 armed groups vying for control of Congo's mineral-rich east, have intensified their grip on Goma, marking a significant escalation in their years-long conflict with government forces. The violence has left at least 2,000

people dead in and around the city, according to Congolese authorities. Donatien Nshole, a Catholic priest and political figure, provided a glimpse into the discussions during the meeting, noting that the rebel leaders reassured the delegation that they were not pursuing the division of the country, nor were they

engaged in illicit exploitation of resources. He emphasized that the rebels had clarified their position on these issues, but he also urged for the reopening of key infrastructure such as the airport and port, vital for the region's recovery. "We remain convinced that the solution to this crisis is not military," Nshole added,

stressing the need for peace. Residents of Goma are desperate for a resolution, with many facing the daily fear and uncertainty that come with living in a war zone. "We all need peace, and they are the ones who are empowered to lead and bring peace. May God grant them grace so that they reach it. We will be behind them," said Bahati Faustin, a local resident, speaking on behalf of the community's hopes for a peaceful end to the conflict. However, some residents have expressed frustration at the delayed response to the crisis. Bisimwa Badeja, another Goma resident, noted, "They did well to come, but they are coming late because this started a long time ago... For them to get us out of the situation that we are going through, it will not be easy." The religious leaders' efforts to mediate a peaceful resolution come as the war's impact continues to deepen, leaving the population fearful for their safety and questioning when the violence will finally end. With a combination of political, humanitarian, and religious voices now calling for a ceasefire, there is hope that dialogue may pave the way for a lasting solution to the ongoing conflict in Goma and the broader eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This is what happens to the body when HIV drugs are stopped for millions of people

A generation has passed since the world saw the peak in AIDS-related deaths. Those deaths — agonizing, from diseases or infections the body might otherwise fight off — sent loved ones into the streets, pressuring governments to act.

The United States eventually did, creating PEPFAR, arguably the most successful foreign aid program in history. HIV, which causes AIDS, is now manageable, though there is still no cure. Now the Trump administration has put the brakes on foreign aid while alleging it's wasteful, causing chaos in the system that for over 20 years has kept millions of people alive. Confusion over a temporary waiver for PEPFAR — and the difficulty of restarting its work, with U.S. workers, contractors and payments in upheaval — means the clock is ticking for many who are suddenly unable to obtain medications to keep AIDS at bay. The U.S.-led global response to HIV has been so effective that AIDS wards of people wasting away are a vision of the past. Now health experts, patients and others fear those days could

return if the Trump administration doesn't reverse course or no other global power steps into the void, and fast. "In the next five years, we could have 6.3 million AIDS-related deaths," the U.N. AIDS agency told The Associated Press. That's a shock at a time of rising complacency around HIV, declining condom use among some young people and the rise of a medication that some believe could end AIDS for good. The agency has begun publicly tracking new HIV infections since the aid freeze. Here's a look at what happens to the body when HIV drugs are stopped: **An immune system collapse** HIV is spread by bodily fluids such as blood, breast milk or semen. It gradually weakens the body's immune system and makes it vulnerable to

disease, including ones rarely seen in otherwise healthy people. The surprising emergence of such cases in the 1980s is what tipped off health experts to what became known as the AIDS epidemic. Years of intense advocacy and shocking sights of children, young adults and others dying of pneumonia and other infections led to the response that created PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Twenty million people around the world died before the program was founded. Now millions of people take drugs known as antiretrovirals that keep HIV from spreading in the body.



Teachers across Algeria go on strike to protest low salaries and poor conditions

Teachers throughout Algeria went on strike Wednesday to protest low salaries and deteriorating working conditions. This follows demonstrations staged by students last month in an unusual outpouring of protest.

Students stood outside shuttered classrooms and roamed aimlessly on Tuesday when teachers started a two-day strike. Teachers and students are taking action at a time when public criticism of the government is becoming rarer. Teachers say the strike is significant amid a gradual shrinking of rights, including for women, the press, and opposition parties. The right to strike is "a right enshrined in the constitution," said Hafidha Amiréche, a long-time trade unionist. Gas-rich Algeria has long taken pride in its free education system and the opportunities it affords students and teachers. Yet

To address economic malaise, President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has raised wages throughout his time in office, including for public sector workers like teachers who saw their salaries go up by 37% during his first term. But teachers' unions say starting salaries were barely more than the minimum wage or unemployment stipends, and are hoping for more increases. In 2019, demonstrators from across Algerian society took to the streets to protest a status quo that concentrated political and economic power in the hands of a small number of political and business elites. Public criticism of government officials and their policies has since become rarer in Algeria, which has increasingly clamped down on activism and the country's once-muscular trade unions.



despite investing more in education than its neighbours—the country only spends more on its military—the school system has become a target of popular anger toward larger government problems, including rising costs, corruption, and a lack of jobs for skilled and educated workers like teachers. Teachers say they're underpaid and educated young people are increasingly trying to emigrate out of the country in search of opportunities, with European visa applications steadily rising.

Last month disillusioned students went on strike, organizing protests both at their schools and on social networks like TikTok to express anger about costly supplemental courses and old-fashioned curriculums they argue aren't equipping them to maintain stable, well-paying jobs. "We're Generation Z and the AI revolution is already permeating our daily lives," says Lilya Saoudi, a second-year high school student. Algeria's new Minister of Education, Mohamed Seghir Sadaoui has pledged to address some of the curricular concerns following a report from federal auditors highlighting the system's "dysfunctions."

EDITORIAL

Editorial: Lawlessness triumph on Capitol Hill

Majority lawmakers from the House of Representatives have reached the peak of their desperation for power by violently breaking into the offices of embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, who they had illegally removed to forcibly occupy the premises.

The majority bloc, backed by the Executive, took action without a warrant from the court, demonstrating their utter disregard for the rule of law and respect for the Constitution of Liberia, though they are supposed to be lawmakers.

Unfortunately, their action displayed on Monday clearly contradicted their professed responsibility as lawmakers. The sheer hooliganism and uncivilized behavior have gone down in history as an infamous act.

The House chair on rules, order, and administration appointed by the Majority bloc, Representative James Kolleh, argued that the action was necessary following several written communications sent to embattled Speaker Koffa to turn over the office failed. However, what he did not say is whether to have taken armed police officers to burst open the embattled Speaker's office without a court warrant was within confines of the law.

Despite the Supreme Court of Liberia's recent opinion that actions by both parties in the leadership battle at the House of Representatives were “ultra vires,” majority lawmakers are so desperate to have their way by ensuring that their elected Speaker, Richard Nagbe Koon, occupies the office, outside the law.

And this why embattled Speaker Koffa said recently that they may use the same illegal means to evict him from the office like they did by electing a new speaker while he stills remains the legitimate Speaker of the 55th Legislature of Liberia.

These illegal actions have left many Liberians wondering whether Liberia is still a country of law or a country of men who are obsessed with green and power with a focus on their personal interests rather than the interests of the people they represent.

We wonder whether members of the majority bloc don't have eyes to see that their actions have caused the full bench of Supreme Court of Liberia to distance itself from their activities. Do they care what message the Judiciary sends to the public by keeping a distance from what's happening in the House?

The greed for power seems to have made our national leaders willfully send wrong signals for generations by believing that circumventing the laws of the land to achieve selfish desires is the prudent way to lead.

No matter what they might have achieved by flagrantly violating the Constitution to have their way, the truth is what is not legally done is not done at all.

COMMENTARY

by Daniel Gros

The Revolt Against Regulation

MILAN – Deregulation is back in vogue on both sides of the Atlantic. It is a major plank of US President Donald Trump's agenda, with one executive order requiring government agencies to eliminate ten regulations for every one they introduce. It is also a priority for the European Commission, which has pledged to reduce “administrative burdens” by at least 25%. And it is all over the media, including the cover of The Economist. But is deregulation really the boon for economic competitiveness that its proponents claim?

The quest to lessen the burden of regulation faced by businesses is hardly new. Almost every US president can claim to have taken steps to this end. For example, Barack Obama's executive order on “Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review” sought to identify the “least burdensome tools for achieving regulatory ends.” Similarly, the European Union introduced a “better regulation agenda” already in 2001.

But today's deregulatory zeal goes much further, fueled by the belief that, despite past efforts to reduce red tape, regulation has become increasingly cumbersome in recent years. Those touting this narrative can usually cite areas where rules have become more stringent or complex; they might even highlight a rule that seems manifestly absurd. But while one can always find examples of burdensome regulations in a large, advanced economy, there is no evidence that regulation has become systematically heavier over the last decade – at least not if one trusts the indicators of the premier global financial institutions.

Start with the World Bank. In 2004, the Bank pioneered a “regulatory intensity” metric for its Doing Business index, based on hundreds of factors, such as the number and cost of permits needed to start a construction project or incorporate a new enterprise. So convincing was this index that major economies, such as China, designed reforms with an eye to improving their score. But the indicator eventually became a victim of its own success, with the emergence of data irregularities – and the resulting political pressure – forcing the World Bank to abandon it in 2021.

That does not mean that the World Bank's regulatory-intensity indicator is not useful. In fact, the data irregularities concerned very few countries, and no major developed economies. So, the assessments of Trump's first presidency, in 2016-20, remain relevant. The bottom line is that Trump's deregulation agenda had very little impact. One must scour the detailed sub-indicators to find marginal improvement in a few areas.

The OECD also has a system for measuring regulatory burdens. According to its “product market regulation” indicators – also based on dozens of sub-indicators – the regulatory situation has remained broadly unchanged in the US over the past quarter-century (as of 2023), including during Trump's first presidency and under his successor, Joe Biden. Most EU countries, meanwhile, have improved in this domain.

One might argue that these indicators must fail to capture reality, because they do not align with companies' complaints and the popular narrative. If this is true, the deregulation agenda has another problem: if not even the largest international organizations, with all their resources and manpower, can reliably measure the burden of regulation, the task is probably impossible. This means that we have no way of measuring the scale, let alone the impact, of deregulation.

Without a reliable metric, headline deregulation goals become virtually meaningless. If the Trump administration wants ten regulations eliminated for each new one that is introduced without a way to quantify the impact of each option, agencies can meet their quotas with minor rules, guidance documents, or memos. And if the European Commission wants to reduce the cost of regulation by 25%, it needs to know what that cost is.

Deregulation also can be misused to shape the economy in short-sighted or otherwise problematic ways. Much of the Trump administration's deregulation push has focused on the energy sector. At first glance, this might seem to make sense: since the sector is heavily regulated, it stands to benefit considerably from deregulation. This should, in principle, include progress on the green-energy transition, given that regulatory barriers, such as lengthy permitting processes, are often blamed for impeding the rollout of renewables.

But, so far, Trump's executive orders use deregulation to boost the fossil-fuel industry, while blocking progress on renewables. The National Energy Emergency Declaration expedites approvals for “energy projects,” but excludes renewables from its definition of energy. Meanwhile, Trump has halted offshore leases for wind projects on the Outer Continental Shelf and paused approvals of the use of federal land for renewable-energy projects.

As is often the case with Trump, the measures are largely symbolic. Only a small fraction of renewable-energy projects are located on public lands, and offshore wind contributes little to overall power generation in the US. But they will increase uncertainty, especially since the Trump administration has also suspended the disbursement of renewable-energy subsidies. Even if existing green subsidies are ultimately confirmed – after all, they benefit Republican-dominated states the most – the risk premium on renewable-energy projects in the US will rise.

Europe provides a counterexample of useful deregulation, as a combination of legislative changes and coordination across bureaucracies has cut permitting delays for wind power installations, leading to a record year for new installations in Germany. A populist revolt against regulation would be unlikely to yield substantial benefits in the best of times. In cases where deregulation is guided by a bias toward special interest groups – as seems likely under Trump – it is likely to do more harm than good.



Lord, Ley Papay moh geh vex again!

Dear Father:

Hmm, they say da na small vex ley Papay vex oo. Ley Oldman moh go flex him muscle again! Come see men and women dropping.

My son da whatin happen?

Um, they say ley Papay told him kitchen people them to declare all their belonging they had before coming to work in him kitchen. Bor they na listen. They say him called them and even sent messenger to them to declare all their belonging them-they still na listen.

Ley moh geh vex! Him say all ley people them who refuse moh go home, they moh stay home with no pay until they show all ley thin then they geh. You joking!

Father da na joke oo. You want see ley people from ley place they called Goworment Starting Astry taking our village property from them again! Tell me something!

Father, da ever since ley Oldman to them oo. You know in our village we can't take anything serious ehn. And wah making ley Oldman vex too is stealing bisnay. Everywhere you turn in our village people crying on ley Oldman and him people name.

You say whatin?

Father, da na small thing happening in dis our village here oo. Is leh somer them had really planned to come back to correct de mistakes they made during ley Old lady time in power.

The noise about stealing in ley village ay too much na. You come so, somebody na buy one big car. You come so, some body buy big house-and wein you loka ley money they making and ley time they na work for you will be thinking if ley people are magicians.

So, ley Papay say they moh tell ley village people ley thing them they had first before taking our village job, or else they will nag eh fwen.

Hmm my son, him moh na stop there oo.

What you mean Father-ay look leh da something you know oo.

Bor my son, corruption in ley village da na just failing to tell ley people de thin them you having before taking village job oo.

Other people vey closed to him na do plenty thin then jus in 1 year. Some of ley same thin them ley village people wor making noise for-leh dis bad company da collect our village taxes and sharing it with him people, while giving your village peanuts-if him serious him moh cancel it na na.

Father, da true oo, because dis one here da ley main thin our people want see oo. Yes oo, da na small money they stealing from our village oo.

Imagine da kina free money they taking jus sharing it with somer him big, big people. Ehn they say him Pekin behind it?

Aah Father my name oo. Somebody fini warning say i moh na talk inside dis one plenty before i com trun my fine woman to widow soon. They say da company that president them and their family eating place there, so I moh take my mouth from inside.

You joking my son

Father, dis one da na joke oo. They say no joke in snake mouth oo. Da ley p;ay ay na reach oo. They say Tamba da man, Tamba da man, da in Lofa oo. You take hungry people you put them over good food, what you think they will do? My name ooo.

OPINION

by Rüya Perincek,
Daniel M. Franks

Africa Needs Mineral Security, Too

B

RISBANE/BRUSSELS – On February 3-6, policymakers and industry leaders will gather in Cape Town for the annual Investing in African Mining Indaba. At the top of their agenda will be Africa's reserves of critical minerals and how the continent can capitalize on their role in the global economy.

Africa has long served as one of the world's primary suppliers of raw materials, making it a focal point of resource diplomacy and geopolitical competition. In 2024, the European Union adopted the Critical Raw Materials Act, which aims to secure greater access to the continent's resources in exchange for a larger role in local processing and a development pathway aligned with political roadmaps like the Africa Mining Vision.

Yet a recurring question will be asked in the halls of Cape Town's International Convention Centre: To whom are these resources critical? In the context of raw materials and minerals, the term “critical” is often associated with the energy transition. In fact, a mineral is considered critical for two main reasons, both of which have little to do with promoting renewable energy: it is economically important and difficult to substitute, and its supply is at risk of disruption.

Both criteria depend on one's perspective: to whose economy the minerals are important and whose supply chains are at risk. The EU already has robust supply chains for most minerals, so it takes a highly selective approach. In addition to energy-transition minerals like lithium and cobalt, its list of critical raw materials includes beryllium (used in missile guidance systems), tantalum (used in capacitors and electronics), and even commodities in direct contrast to the energy transition, like coking coal.

But suppose we asked a different question: What are the mineral security needs of Africa? From the perspective of the Global South and the world's poorest populations, a list of critical raw materials would look radically different. It would include minerals essential for human security – cement for housing and infrastructure, fertilizers for agriculture, salt for nutrition and food preservation, chlorine for water purification and fluorspar for fluoridation.

Seen through this lens, mineral security is less about national security and capturing greater benefits from extraction, and more about access, affordability, and sufficiency for all. Just as food security is understood as universal nutrition, mineral security must support universal needs – shelter, mobility, communication, energy, and sustenance.

Building local value chains tailored to Africa's needs will be vital for the continent's mineral security. For example, Africa produces 30 million tons of mineral fertilizer annually but exports most of it, accounting for just 3-4% of global consumption – a consequence of high costs and complex supply chains. Crushed rocks offer a promising alternative source of crop nutrients, with the added benefit of capturing carbon dioxide. In Brazil, the Rochagem movement has pioneered the use of local rocks, cutting costs by up to 80% while producing crop yields equal to or higher than those obtained with conventional fertilizers.

Similarly, Africa consumes only 5% of global cement production despite accounting for 18% of the world's population. The high cost of imported clinker cement impedes economic development, weakens housing and transportation infrastructure, slows recovery efforts following natural disasters, and limits African countries' ability to protect coastlines from the effects of climate change. Alternatives like limestone calcined clay cement (LC3) can be produced locally from abundant clay resources with up to 25% lower costs and 40% lower carbon emissions.

Affordable access to globally integrated, mineral-based products like solar panels and batteries remains particularly elusive. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, produces 72% of the world's cobalt, a key component of lithium-ion batteries. But Africa is projected to account for just 0.1% of the global market by 2030.

This problem extends beyond Africa. Between 2002 and 2022, Latin American countries like Chile, Argentina, and Bolivia exported 1,980 kilotons of lithium, yet only 13 kilotons – less than 1% – returned to the region embedded in finished goods.

Innovative approaches, such as “materials as a service” schemes that promote leasing rather than selling raw materials, could help bridge these gaps by enabling mineral-producing countries to collect royalties at every stage of processing and production. Building on this approach, policymakers could also require end-product manufacturers to sell finished goods back at affordable prices.

To implement such programs, support from advanced economies, particularly in Europe, will be crucial. Technical cooperation and assistance will be especially important to promote human-centered mineral security, because the minerals sector receives just under \$600 million out of the \$239 billion spent on official development assistance globally in 2021.

To secure lasting access to critical raw materials, the EU must go beyond simply offering African countries a bigger role in processing minerals that will ultimately be exported. Instead, it must help create a fairer model of mineral security – one that emphasizes affordability and self-sufficiency, thereby enabling Africa to meet its own development needs.

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JUDICIAL BRANCH REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



#: 1220-2024

SITTING IN ITS FEBRUARY TERM A.D. 2025.

BEFORE HIS HONOR .. NECULAR Y. EDWARDS, RESIDENT JUDGE, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT

IN RE: THE PETITION OF GERALD PADMORE AND JAINE PADMORE STEGALL, PRAYING YOUR COURT TO ADMIT INTO PROBATE THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE LATE GEORGE ARTHUR PADMORE OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA.

NOTICE!

NOTICE!!

NOTICE!!!

THIS IS TO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE INSTRUMENT PURPORTED TO BE THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE LATE GEORGE ARTHUR PADMORE, WAS IN DUE FORM BROUGHT TO THE MONTHLY AND PROBATE COURT FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY AND SAME READ IN OPEN COURT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW OF LIBERIA ON THE 4TH DAY OF FEBRUARY A.D. 2025. THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS FURTHER INFORMED THAT IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, ALL PERSONS HAVING LEGAL OR FORMAL OBJECTIONS TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED "PETITION" ARE TO FILE SAME IN THIS HONORABLE COURT THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE AFORESAID COURT ON OR BEFORE THE 4TH DAY OF MARCH A.D. 2025, AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 A.M.

FAILURE TO DO SAME WITHIN THE PERIOD INDICATED HEREINABOVE, WILL LEAVE THIS HONORABLE COURT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ORDER SAID "PETITION" "GRANTED AND LETTERS TESTAMENTARY ISSUED TO THE EXECUTOR/TRIXES.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT
THIS 13TH DAY OF FEBRUARY A.D. 2025



HELENA SOGBE-STEWART
CLERK, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT
MONTERRADO COUNTY, R.L.



The Procurement Unit



★ National Transit Authority

Invitation for Bid (IFB)

FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS & NON-CONSULTING SERVICES

- The National Transit Authority (NTA) has received budgetary appropriation from FY 2025 National Budget, as well as internally generated revenue, and intends to apply portion of it towards the Procurement of goods and non-consulting services to enhance its service delivery, optimize productivity in its day-to-day operations and ensuring value for money.
- The National Transit Authority (NTA) now invites sealed bids from eligible registered Businesses for the supply of the below listed contract packages to the entity for FY 2025.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) process as enshrined in the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission Act (PPCA).
- Specification and Quantity of Contract Packages:

No.	Contract Packages	Qty.	IFB. NO:	Bid Security
1	Lubricants	98 Drums	NTA/NCB/001/2025	\$1,900.00
2	Insurance (Medical)	1 Firm	NTA/SBA/NCB/005/2025	\$2,349.00
3	Insurance (Vehicles)	1 Firm	NTA/SBA/NCB/006/2025	\$843.00
4	Scratch Cards	5,208Pcs	NTA/NCB/002/2025	\$780.00
5	Local Spare Parts (Readily-Available)	Assorted	NTA/NCB/007/2025	\$3,625.00
6	Tickets (Revenue)	1 Firm	NTA/SBA/NCB/001/2025	\$912.00
7	Security Guard Service	1 Firm	NTA/SBA/NCB/002/2025	\$1,404.00
8	Construction (Adm. Building)	1 Firm	NTA/SBA/NCB/004/2025	\$16,412.00

*Please obtain bidding document of each package for more detailed instructions for bid submission

- Qualification requirements: (Please reference bidding documents of your preferred contract package)
- All interested eligible Businesses may obtain copy of the bidding document(s) of their preferred contract package(s) from the Procurement Department of the NTA, Japan Drive, Gardnersville, Monterrado County, Liberia, for a non-refundable fee of US\$40.00 beginning Thursday, February 6, 2025 from 9:30am to 4:00pm daily.
- All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Security" (as in matrix) from a reputable bank and must have a validity period of 30 days after bid submission deadline.
- Sealed bids must be delivered to the Procurement Unit of the NTA no later than the times, dates and places indicated in the bidding documents or on the Bid Data Sheet (BDS). Late bids will be marked, rejected and returned to bidders unopened. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders who choose to attend or their representatives at the times, dates and places indicated in the bidding documents or the Bid Data Sheet (BDS). NO ELECTRONIC BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED. CONTRACTS WILL BE AWARDED TO THE MOST RESPONSIVE FIRM THAT HAS FULLY COMPLETED THE PPCC VENDORS' REGISTRATION PROCESSES.
- All bids must be addressed to:

The Procurement Department
National Transit Authority (NTA)
Japan Drive, Gardnersville, Mont. Co., Liberia
Tel #: 0777607776 / 0888110881 / 0770790194

Signed:

Samuel G. Hney
Procurement Manager

Approved:

Hon. Edmund Forth-Forn
Director-General/ Chairman-PC

TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PEOPLE ★

Japanese Drive, Gardnersville
P.O. Box 183, Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: +23177707776 / +231888110881
sgordohney.2.2010@gmail.com /sgordohney.2.2010@nta.com.lr



LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

1948 Maritime Drive, Oldest Congo Town, Opposite
Ministerial Complex, P. O. Box 10 - 9042 Monrovia, Liberia

SERVICE DELIVERY CHARTER



• Who Are We?

The Liberia Maritime Authority is an autonomous government agency created by the Liberia Maritime Authority Act of 2010. Its statutory responsibilities are to administer, control, and regulate all matters pertaining to merchant and non-commercial shipping, develop and enforce policies and strategies for the growth and development of Liberia's maritime sector, and monitor the performance of the country's maritime industry.

• Our Mission:

To Be the Best in Class Leader in Global Maritime Operations.

• Our Vision:

To build a vibrant domestic maritime program that is financially self- sustaining, internationally compliant, and effective in protecting our Maritime Domain

• Core Values:

We are accountable, transparent, consistent, customer-friendly, efficient, and innovative in promoting and enhancing maritime safety, security, and pollution prevention in the marine environment.

• Who Are Our Clients?

National and International Partners, Citizens and Residents, Shipowners and Operators, Shipping Agencies, All Maritime Related Companies, and Concessionaires in the extractive industry sector.

• Vessel Registration Service:

- Flag Transfer from another Registry
- Re-Registration
- Registration in Lay-up Status
- New build (Vessel) Registration
- Registration of all Foreign Flagged Vessels operating in Liberian waters
- Registration of Pleasure crafts/yachts
- Registration of Wooden Cargo Canoes
- Registration of Mineral and Sand Mining Dredgers
- Ship-to-Ship Transfer Operations
- Statutory surveys and issuance of trading certificates
- Maritime Incident & Casualty Investigation
- Issuance of crew permits for Liberians and Non-Liberians
- Issuance of builder's permit
- Deletion and cancellation of Registration

• Maritime Safety Services:

- Port State Control Inspection
- Examination of New build (Vessel) Plans
- Marine safety pre-registration inspection
- Marine safety follow-up inspection
- Special marine safety inspection
- Approval of aids to navigation
- Maritime Search and Rescue Services
- Hydrographic Services for nautical charts publication
- Conduct Audits of Companies' safety management system

• Maritime Security Services:

- Enforcement of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code
- Conduct ISPS Audits and Inspections
- Initial/Annual Renewal Registration of Recognized Security Organizations
- Approval of Port and Port facilities security Assessment & Plans
- Issuance of Certificate of Compliance to Port and Port facilities

• Maritime Training and Education:

- Provide fellowship opportunities
- Facilitate the issuance of seafarers' records and certification book
- Training of Seafarers and Maritime Professionals (LMTI)

• Marine Environmental Services:

- Issuance of Document of Approval for the shipment of iron ores
- Issuance of Iron Ore Transshipment Permit offshore Liberian waters
- Review and Approval of third-party marine environmental assessment
- Conduct marine environmental audits and inspections

• Marine Construction and Repairs :

- Approval of ports and marinas construction plans
- Issuance of permits for the construction of ports and marinas
- Conduct audits and inspections of marine construction-related works

• Maritime Labour Services:

- Inspection for Maritime Labour Compliance
- Issuance of Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance
- Investigation of maritime Labour complaints

• Maritime Related Companies Registration Services

- Stevedoring
- Shipping agencies
- Ship chandler
- Protection & Indemnity Correspondence
- Marine Survey Companies
- Salvage Companies
- Offshore Supply Companies
- Marine Environmental Risk Assessment Companies
- Manning Agencies
- Clearing & Forwarding
- Marine Waste Management and Handling Companies etc.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Lagos: Ex-President Weah, Phillip Shaibu, Others Commission Primate Ayodele's Church

Former President Weah continues to perform his duties as an international statesman when he joined several high profiled Nigerians last Thursday to commission a church in Lagos.

Friday, February 14, 2025/ Mr. Weah, alongside several eminent personalities including the former



deputy governor of Edo state, Phillip Shaibu, the Nigeria Football Federation president, Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau, the Oniworo of Iworo Kingdom, Oba Oladele Kosoko, Onisabe of Igbobi-sade, Oba Owolabi Adeniyi, UN Representatives, to mention but a few have commissioned the ultra-modern church auditorium of Primate Elijah Ayodele.

The commissioning which took place on Thursday, 13th of February 2025 witnessed an outpour of very important personalities across the globe for the celebration of God's goodness in the life of Primate

Ayodele.

The new church auditorium, with a capacity of about 10,000 started one year ago on the instruction of God to enlarge His place of worship. The commissioning is part of the programmes lined up for Primate Ayodele's annual thanksgiving which started in January and will come to an end tomorrow.

At the commissioning, George Weah described Primate Ayodele as his spiritual father who has shown beyond reasonable doubt that God is involved in his ministry. He expressed gratitude to the prophet for giving him the privilege to commission the house of the Lord while noting that it is indeed a blessing.

He made it known that there would be no other place for him to be than with the people of God to commission the house of the Lord while assuring the church of his unwavering support.

"I am honoured to join you here

today for the commissioning of this cathedral and groundbreaking for an estate. This demonstrates our collective gratitude to God for the blessings he has bestowed upon us. The Bible teaches us that it is not enough to follow God's commands but to be actively involved in the act of teaching others and those who embark on such spiritual journey will be considered great.

Primate Ayodele is a great man of God, there is nowhere else I would rather be today but here with God's people. This is the least I can give back for all the blessings I have received. I want to assure the congregation of the INRI Evangelical Spiritual Church of my unwavering support.

Primate Ayodele and INRI church, I am excited about this, thank you Primate, my father I sincerely appreciate this, and we are eternally grateful. I dedicate this cathedral in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. May the almighty God bless us."

Continuing, George Weah presented a gift to Primate Ayodele appreciating him for being a huge blessing to him and several others.

In turn, Primate Ayodele spoke highly of George Weah, while handing over Liberia's flag to him, symbolizing his return to power. He openly declared the former president as the incoming President of Liberia and also presented him with a gift to appreciate his presence and humility.

Likewise, the former deputy governor of Edo state, Phillip Shuaibu described Primate Ayodele

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LEEAP power project connects RIA, 39,792 new customers to LEC grid

The Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) and its partners have committed to expanding electricity nationwide.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia Electricity Corporation, with funding from the European Union, African Development Bank Group, Global Gateway, and Global Environmental Facility (GEF), has officially commissioned the Liberia Energy Efficiency and Access Project (LEAP), which links and connects the Roberts International Airport and 339,792 new customers to the substation grid in the area.

The project funding source shows that the government of Liberia provides 3% of the resources, ADF 30%, EU-AITF 26%, NTF22%, and TSF13% of the resources for implementing the project or completing the RIA substation.

efficiency, and strengthening both human and institutional capacity within Liberia's energy sector.

However, the project's achievement underscores the Liberian government and partners' commitment to driving sustainable energy solutions and expanding electricity access for the people of Liberia.

The project has connected 39,792 new customers, including 50 health facilities, sixty-five academic institutions, forty-three government or public facilities, and 50 small businesses.

Furthermore, the project also constructed 45km (66kv) double circuit transmission lines from the

Paynesville substation to the RIA substation and built a new substation at the Schieffelin (66/22kv) and RIA 66/33kv. Similarly, the project expanded 980km of distribution network across the Paynesville RIA Owens Grove corridor and the Pleebo, Fish Ton corridor.

For the economic and social impact, the project created over 6,000 jobs with approximately 225 female participants, reduced crime rates through improved streetlights and electricity in key communities, and strengthened community bonds, enabling social gathering, enhanced communication, and local business growth.

Capacity Building & Institutional Strengthening: The project trained

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



The commissioning ceremony, which was held in Unification City, Smell No Taste Community, on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, was graced by Vice President Jeremiah Koung, Mr. Thomas Z. Gonkewon, Interim Managing Director LEC, Cllr. Emmanuel A. Tulay, Sr. Chairman, Board of Director LEC, European Union Ambassador to Liberia Nona Deprez, and other international partners.

The commissioning of the project marks a milestone in expanding electricity access, improving energy

The UMC is not a gay Church

By: Edwin N. Khakie

As the struggle for bishopship continues within the United Methodist Church, Bishop Quire Jr. Has clarified that the United Methodist Church is not a gay Church.

On Thursday, February 13, 2025, Bishop Samuel J. Quire Jr. of the United Methodist Church delivered his annual address at the 192nd United Methodists annual conference in Gbarnga.

Bishop Quire addressed the ongoing issues surrounding same-sex marriage in his speech, urging the church to "speak with one voice and stand firm on biblical beliefs."

Bishop Quire emphasized that the Bible clearly states that marriage is between one man and one woman, and any deviation from this is not in line with the church's teachings.

He called on church members to uphold their beliefs and not be swayed by societal

place of love and acceptance for all while upholding biblical principles.

The issue of same-sex marriage has been a controversial topic within the United Methodist Church for years.

In 2024, the Bishop and some dedicate voted against same-sex marriage at the general conference in the United States of America and the ordination of LGBTQ clergy, causing a divide within the church.

The conference, which started Wesn 12, 2025, and is expected to end Sunday, is attended by clergy and lay members nationwide.

It serves as an opportunity for members to gather, discuss important matters, and make decisions on the direction of the church.

Bishop Quire's message was well received by attendees, who praised his strong stance on the issue of same-sex marriage.

Meanwhile, members of the United Methodists expressed



pressures.

"The church must remain true to the word of God and not be influenced by the world's changing views," Bishop Quire stated.

He also reminded attendees that the church should be a

their gratitude for his leadership during these challenging times.

As the conference ends on Sunday, the United Methodist Church remains committed to upholding biblical principles while promoting love and acceptance for all individuals.-

Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Starts from page 6Lagos: Ex-President Weah, Phillip Shaibu, Others Commission Primate Ayodele's Church

as a man whom he admires a lot. He expressed surprise at the invitation despite not being in power, praising the man of God for showing him true love and giving back to society. "Primate Ayodele is a man of God that I have always admired and I am very proud and elated to be invited to this programme. It is only when you are in power that you get invitations like this but when this comes even when you are out of power, it shows true love so I want to appreciate the Primate for inviting me to witness this. Just today, he gave scholarships to people, JAMB, and WAEC forms and I thank God and appreciate him for all he does for society and pray that God continues to bless him" The programme also witnessed the groundbreaking ceremony of a residential estate and mosque which was done by George Weah. Furthermore, as Primate Ayodele is known for always including philanthropy in any of his programmes, the commissioning went alongside different forms of empowerment for students, business owners, journalists, church members, and widows, to mention a few. About 25 secondary school students were given JAMB and WAEC forms, while some got scholarships for their University studies. Likewise, two vehicles were given to one church member, Ayo Babalola and a journalist, Ayodele Dedeigbo who is the publisher of Town Crier news.

Starts from page 6LEEAP power project connects RIA, 39,792 new customers to LEC grid

over 110 staff from LEC, the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), the Rural and Renewable Energy Agency (RREA), and the Monrovia Vocational Training Center (MVTC) and provided essential tools and equipment to improve operational efficiency. Delivering a remark during the commissioning program, European Union Ambassador to Liberia Nona Deprez highlighted the significant progress made by the EU in expanding the Liberia electricity network while emphasizing the EU contribution of Euro 107m to the sector. According to her, the substantial investment makes the EU the main donor in terms of grants. It will support Liberia's fight against climate change, reduce electricity costs, and reorient investment in other productive areas describing the project is a good example as it was funded through the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund, which was created in 2007, with funding from the European Commission, EIB and its MS which has supported project in the area of energy, transport, water, and communications, contributing to fostering sustainable economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa. "I am honored to be here today at the commissioning ceremony of the Liberia Energy Efficiency and Access project, witnessing this last milestone of connecting the RIA to the grid and knowing how important this is for Liberia's fight against greenhouse gas emission and climate change. While the backup generators will remain essential to ensure that critical airport systems continue to operate in the event of a power outage, we hope that RIA will reduce its electricity costs, helping reorient investments in other important areas, such as safety" she concluded. For his part, Cllr. Emmanuel A. Tulay, Chairman of the LEC Board, expressed appreciation to international partners for their support. He said they have been engaging with the government and the project to ensure access to electricity for the people, adding that they continue to help the Liberian government deliver sustainable electricity. Also, speaking, Mr. Thomas Z. Gonkerwon extolled the donors for their support while promising Liberians to provide sustainable electricity. He also vowed to intensify the fight against power theft to ensure that Liberians get the necessary electricity supply to enhance sustainable economic growth.- Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

\$650K scandal surfaces at Liberia Fire Service

The Liberia National Fire and Rescue Service is entangled in a US\$650,000 scandal involving unaccounted gasoline coupons. Monrovia, Liberia, February 14, 2025—The Liberia National Fire and Rescue Service (LNFRS) has been the site of a significant corruption scandal involving unaccounted gasoline coupons worth US\$650,000. The alleged missing coupons without a trail are indeed a serious matter, as they raise questions about transparency and oversight within the entity. Such incidents can point to weak internal controls or, potentially, an effort to cover up misconduct. There's growing concern about corruption under the Boakai Administration, with media commentators expressing frustration over the government's apparent lack of control and accountability. The mention of corruption being a "daily act" suggests that these issues are pervasive and systemic. This could undermine trust in the leadership and the administration's ability to govern effectively, which could be a significant point of criticism for President Boakai's administration. One of the panelists, Mr. Gamordeh Clinton, highlights a deep sense of frustration and concern. He emphasizes that the country is facing both corruption and violations of its Constitution. He seems to suggest that leadership is neglecting the fundamental principles of governance. "This points to a lack of accountability, not just in terms of corruption, but also in disregard for the rule of law", he noted. These issues could be particularly troubling for citizens who expect legal integrity and an end to corrupt practices from their leaders. Another panelist, Paul Kennedy, calls for more transparency and accountability within government. He recommends establishing an internal investigation committee, thus advocating for a proactive approach to addressing corruption and ensuring that wrongdoing is thoroughly examined. His proposal to involve external

By Stephen G. Fellajuah bodies like the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) and the Ministry of Justice suggests a desire for a more independent, impartial review of the situation, which could help restore trust in the LNFS process. "This could serve as a potential step towards ensuring that investigations are handled with the necessary integrity and rigor." Also, Montserrado County District 9 former Representative Moses Acarous Gray adds an interesting layer to the discussion, suggesting that issues surrounding the Liberia National Fire and Rescue Service (LNFS) are not new. Gray's conclusion paints a very bleak picture of the executive branch's current state, noting that "almost every fabric" of the government is embroiled in scandal on a daily basis. He mentions entities like NOCAL (National Oil Company of Liberia) and the National Road Fund (NRF). When contacted on Thursday, February 13, 2025, the Director

Gov't frowns on entities operating multiple accounts

Vice President Jeremiah Koung orders government ministries and agencies with multiple accounts to close them down for transparency. By Thomas Domah, Nimba County Ganta, Liberia, February 14, 2025 - Vice President Jeremiah Koung and Deputy Finance Minister for Economic Management Dehpue Y. Zuo reveal that the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) and several government ministries and agencies are operating with multiple accounts. Vice President Koung notes Deputy Finance Minister Zuo confirms the report of multiple accounts being operated by various government ministers and agencies. According to him, the corrupt act started in 2006 and continues under the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Minister Zuo describes such official conduct as very bad, as it is not productive for the



that the LEC and other country's growth and public entities run over 30 development. accounts under their control. He discloses that the Ministry of Finance will shortly close down those accounts. The Vice President mandates that the Ministry of Finance Development and Planning close those multiple accounts immediately. The retreat was intended to appraise output from various government agencies, including former managers of the Liberia Electricity Corporation, to address the poor energy sector here. He gave the order during a two-day retreat on the energy sector held on his farm outside Ganta, Nimba. Editing by Jonathan Browne of the Liberia National Fire and Rescue Service (LNFS), G. Warsuwah Barvoul Sr, insisted that he's not prepared to comment on the scandal. In such a context, his silence might raise questions about whether the issue will be properly investigated or addressed. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Français

Liberia : Le président Boakai suspend 457 hauts fonctionnaires pour non-déclaration de patrimoine

Dans un geste fort en faveur de la transparence et de la lutte contre la corruption, le président libérien Joseph N. Boakai a suspendu 457 hauts fonctionnaires pour non-

ministres, ambassadeurs, membres de conseils d'administration, superintendants, commissaires de district, maires ainsi que des responsables d'institutions d'enseignement supérieur, don't des directeurs du secteur de

27 novembre 2024, qui accordait un délai de grâce de dix jours aux responsables concernés pour se conformer à cette exigence légale.

Selon un communiqué de l'Exécutif, la Commission libérienne de lutte contre la corruption (LACC) a récemment publié une liste de fonctionnaires en infraction. En conséquence, les personnes concernées sont suspendues pour une durée d'un mois sans salaire ou jusqu'à ce qu'elles soumettent les déclarations requises.

Par ailleurs, tous les fonctionnaires suspendus sont tenus de remettre immédiatement les biens de l'État aux responsables en conformité, à leurs représentants ou au personnel désigné au sein de leurs institutions respectives.

« Le président demeure fermement engagé en faveur de la bonne gouvernance, de l'intégrité et du respect de l'État de droit », souligne le communiqué.

Le gouvernement rappelle que la déclaration de patrimoine est



respect de l'obligation de déclaration de patrimoine. L'annonce a été faite ce mardi 13 février 2024 par l'Exécutif, précisant que la mesure concerne des ministres, vice-

l'Enseignement supérieur national. Cette décision s'appuie sur l'article 2, section 10.2(h) de la loi modifiant les sections 5.2 et 10.2 du Code de conduite de 2014. Elle intervient après une directive présidentielle du

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Cummings critique la gouvernance et propose son expertise pour l'avenir du Liberia

Alexander B. Cummings, leader de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC), a présenté une évaluation critique de l'administration Boakai, soulignant plusieurs dysfonctionnements majeurs qu'il estime avoir entravé la performance du gouvernement. Selon lui, ces échecs sont la cause d'un “but contre son camp” pour l'exécutif en place.

Malgré ses réserves, M. Cummings se dit disposé à offrir ses conseils à l'administration actuelle afin de contribuer au progrès du pays.

Les priorités de la gouvernance et le bien-être des citoyens

Lors de sa première prise de parole médiatique de l'année, qui s'est tenue à New Georgia, dans la banlieue de Monrovia, M. Cummings a pointé plusieurs problèmes de gestion, notamment la politique des “bus jaunes”, qu'il juge mal appliquée ou inefficace. Il a également critiqué la gestion des postes à mandat au sein de l'administration, soulignant des lacunes dans la manière don't ces responsabilités sont exercées.

L'ancien dirigeant d'entreprise

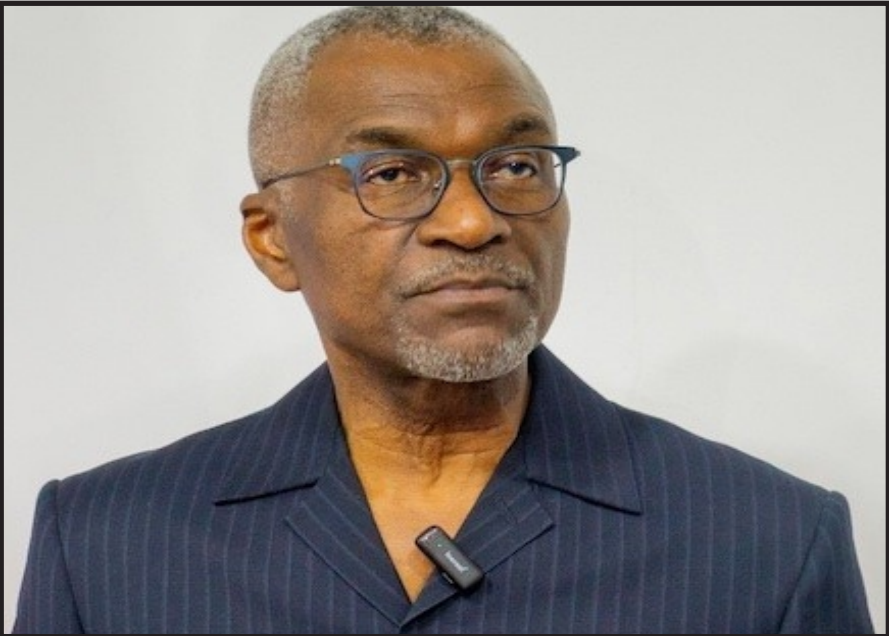
a mis en avant la question fondamentale de savoir si les conditions de vie des Libériens se sont améliorées sous l'administration actuelle et si davantage d'opportunités d'emploi étaient disponibles. “Les Libériens vivent-ils mieux aujourd'hui ? Y a-t-il plus d'emplois ?”, s'est-il interrogé, soulevant des préoccupations partagées par de nombreux citoyens.

M. Cummings a plaidé pour une réorientation des priorités économiques du pays, mettant l'accent sur la création d'emplois, l'amélioration des conditions de vie et la stimulation de la croissance. “L'économie doit être au centre des préoccupations nationales”, a-t-il affirmé, soulignant que seule une

telle approche pourrait garantir un avenir prospère pour le Liberia.

Politique étrangère : remettre les intérêts nationaux au centre En matière de politique étrangère, M. Cummings a insisté sur le fait que la diplomatie libérienne doit être guidée par les intérêts et le bien-être des citoyens. “Un pays doit toujours agir en fonction de ses propres intérêts, pas en fonction de ceux d'autrui”, a-t-il précisé, appelant à des partenariats internationaux plus équitables et bénéfiques pour la population libérienne.

Concernant l'aide internationale, le leader de l'ANC a mis en garde contre une dépendance excessive vis-à-vis de l'aide étrangère, notamment après la suspension de certains



Éditorial

L'anarchie s'impose au Capitole

Par Daron Acemoglu

La crise qui secoue la Chambre des représentants du Liberia a franchi un nouveau seuil d'escalade avec l'intrusion violente des députés majoritaires dans les bureaux du président contesté, J. Fonati Koffa. Destitué dans des circonstances controversées, ce dernier a vu son espace de travail investi de force par des élus déterminés à imposer leur autorité, sans aucun mandat judiciaire.

Soutenu par l'Exécutif, le bloc majoritaire a ainsi agi en marge du cadre légal, affichant un mépris flagrant pour l'État de droit et la Constitution. Une telle démarche, indigne de législateurs, remet en cause les principes démocratiques qu'ils sont censés défendre. L'incident survenu lundi marque un précédent préoccupant pour la gouvernance du pays.

Le président de la commission des règles, de l'ordre et de l'administration, James Kolleh, a tenté de justifier cette action en invoquant des demandes répétées adressées à M. Koffa pour qu'il libère les lieux. Toutefois, il a omis de préciser si l'usage de forces de l'ordre armées, en l'absence d'une décision judiciaire, respectait l'État de droit.

Cette intervention survient malgré un récent avis de la Cour suprême du Liberia qualifiant d'ultra vires – donc illégales – les actions menées par les deux camps dans cette lutte pour le contrôle de la Chambre. Pourtant, les députés majoritaires persistent à imposer Richard Nagbe Koon à la tête de l'institution, en violation des procédures établies.

Face à cette situation, J. Fonati Koffa a averti que ses opposants pourraient employer les mêmes méthodes illégales pour l'évincer physiquement de son bureau, comme ils l'ont fait en imposant un nouveau président alors qu'il revendique toujours la légitimité de son mandat.

Ces événements soulèvent de sérieuses inquiétudes quant au respect des principes démocratiques et de l'État de droit au Liberia. De nombreux citoyens s'interrogent : le pays est-il encore gouverné par la loi ou par des ambitions personnelles dictées par la soif de pouvoir ?

Le silence de la Cour suprême, qui se distance de cette crise institutionnelle, témoigne de la gravité de la situation. Les députés majoritaires mesurent-ils l'impact de leurs actions sur l'image des institutions ?

Au-delà de cette querelle politique, c'est un message dangereux qui est adressé aux générations futures : contourner la loi pour satisfaire des ambitions personnelles serait un mode de gouvernance acceptable. Or, quelles que soient les victoires que certains pensent avoir remportées, une vérité demeure : ce qui est obtenu en dehors du cadre légal ne saurait être considéré comme légitime.

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Français

Starts from page 8 Liberia : Le président Boakai suspend 457 hauts

non seulement une obligation légale, mais aussi un levier essentiel pour garantir la transparence et restaurer la confiance des citoyens dans les institutions publiques. Le président Boakai a averti que le non-respect de cette obligation compromet les efforts nationaux de lutte contre la corruption et de promotion de la responsabilité publique. Il a réaffirmé son engagement à appliquer rigoureusement les normes légales et éthiques, soulignant que son administration fera de la gouvernance exemplaire une priorité absolue.

Starts from page 8 Cummings critique la gouvernance et propose

programmes d'assistance par les États-Unis. Il a suggéré que cette situation constitue un signal pour que le Liberia renforce son autonomie économique, même si cette transition pourrait poser des défis à court terme. M. Cummings a également exprimé son inquiétude quant à l'image de "mendiant" que le Liberia semble véhiculer auprès de ses partenaires internationaux, notamment les États-Unis. Pour changer cette perception, il propose un repositionnement du pays en tant que destination attractive pour les investissements et un acteur clé sur la scène économique mondiale. Lutte contre la corruption : des réformes urgentes Sur le front de la lutte contre la corruption, M. Cummings a accusé l'administration de ne pas prendre les mesures suffisantes et d'avoir "marqué contre son camp" en matière de transparence et de responsabilité. Il a avancé plusieurs propositions pour renforcer les institutions de contrôle et lutter plus efficacement contre la corruption. Tout d'abord, il a souligné la nécessité de renforcer les institutions d'intégrité, en particulier le système judiciaire, afin de garantir que ceux qui détournent les fonds publics soient jugés et punis. "Il ne suffit pas de suspendre des fonctionnaires, il faut les juger", a-t-il insisté. Il a également plaidé pour une révision des salaires des fonctionnaires, arguant que des rémunérations équitables contribueraient à réduire la corruption en offrant une alternative à ceux qui sont tentés par des pratiques illégales. Enfin, M. Cummings a proposé l'utilisation des technologies numériques pour améliorer la transparence et l'efficacité des administrations publiques. Selon lui, la digitalisation permettrait de mieux suivre les flux financiers et de rendre le gouvernement plus responsable. En conclusion, Alexander B. Cummings a réitéré son engagement à œuvrer pour un Liberia plus juste et plus prospère. Il a appelé à des actions concrètes pour garantir que la lutte contre la corruption ne se limite pas à des mesures temporaires, mais qu'elle repose sur un véritable système de justice et de responsabilité.

La division freine la candidature du Libéria pour un siège au Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU

Le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Sarah Beyslow Nyanti, exprime ses préoccupations. Le gouvernement libérien sollicite le soutien de ses citoyens pour sa candidature à un siège non permanent au Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies. La candidature du Libéria pour un siège non permanent au Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies a suscité de vives réactions à travers le pays. Le gouvernement a officiellement lancé sa campagne visant à obtenir une place au sein de ce conseil, dont la mission est de maintenir la paix et la sécurité internationales. Certains soutiennent cette initiative, la considérant comme une opportunité pour renforcer l'influence internationale du Libéria, tandis que d'autres expriment des réserves en raison des défis internes du pays et se demandent si c'est le bon moment pour entreprendre un tel projet ambitieux. Obtenir un siège au Conseil de sécurité offrirait au Libéria une plateforme pour peser davantage dans les prises de décision mondiales, attirer des investissements étrangers et renforcer ses liens diplomatiques. La cérémonie officielle de lancement de la campagne s'est tenue le lundi 10 février 2024, au Pavilion Centennial Memorial de Monrovia. L'événement a rassemblé une large audience, incluant des responsables gouvernementaux, des membres de la société civile, des représentants religieux, des organisations féminines, des étudiants et des citoyens ordinaires. Sous le thème « Vers un monde juste et pacifique », cette cérémonie a été marquée par des performances culturelles, des discours et des sélections musicales, créant une atmosphère festive et significative. Le président Joseph Nyuma, initialement annoncé pour présider la cérémonie, était absent. C'est la ministre des Affaires étrangères, Madame Sarah Beyslow Nyanti, qui a pris la parole, soulignant la division des opinions au Libéria concernant la candidature du pays au Conseil de sécurité. « Certains estiment que cette démarche est essentielle, tandis que d'autres y sont opposés », a-t-elle affirmé. Cependant, elle a réaffirmé sa conviction inébranlable en la pertinence de cette initiative. Ministre des Affaires étrangères, Sarah Beyslow Nyanti, figure centrale de la diplomatie libérienne, a formellement lancé la campagne. Elle a rappelé l'histoire prestigieuse du Libéria et son rôle de pionnier dans la fondation de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, tout en soulignant l'engagement historique du pays pour la liberté et la justice à travers le continent africain. Elle a aussi rappelé qu'en 1961, le Libéria avait déjà siégé au Conseil de sécurité, mais dans le cadre d'un mandat partagé avec l'Europe en raison de circonstances particulières. Cette nouvelle candidature représente une occasion pour le Libéria de participer pleinement aux travaux du Conseil, et d'affirmer ainsi son engagement en faveur de la paix et de la sécurité mondiales. La ministre a insisté sur l'importance de l'unité nationale. « Ce n'est pas l'effort d'un seul individu, mais d'un engagement collectif des 15 cotés du pays », a-t-elle précisé. De son côté, la présidente du Sénat, Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence, a souligné la position unique du Libéria pour contribuer de manière significative aux travaux du Conseil de sécurité. Elle a exprimé la volonté du pays de jouer un rôle actif dans la construction d'un monde plus pacifique, en déclarant : « Ensemble, travaillons pour un Conseil de sécurité véritablement représentatif de toutes les nations, capable de répondre aux besoins de chaque peuple et résolu dans son engagement envers la paix et la sécurité ». La campagne a été officiellement lancée à New York, où se déroulera le vote en juin 2025.



Les étudiants dénoncent la mauvaise organisation lors des célébrations de la Journée de Monrovia

L'administration de la Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) fait face à de vives critiques suite à l'organisation déficiente de la Journée de Monrovia, qui a empêché de nombreux étudiants d'y participer en raison d'une surcapacité. Des étudiants de diverses écoles publiques, telles que le lycée William V.S. Tubman, le lycée G.W. Gibson, le lycée D. Twe Memorial, et d'autres institutions, ont exprimé leur frustration face à l'organisation défailante de la Journée de Monrovia, organisée par la Monrovia City Corporation (MCC). L'événement, qui s'est déroulé le mercredi 12 février 2025 dans la salle de bal de l'Hôtel de Ville de Monrovia, faisait partie des célébrations d'une semaine placée sous le thème « Monrovia, la ville que nous voulons ». L'objectif était de mettre en valeur l'histoire, la diversité culturelle et les contributions de la capitale à la croissance nationale. Cependant, plusieurs étudiants ont fait état d'une invitation reçue de la MCC pour participer à l'événement, mais une fois sur place, seuls quelques-uns ont été autorisés à entrer, tandis que d'autres ont été informés que la salle était déjà pleine. Cela a laissé de nombreux jeunes désemparés et déçus. Des étudiants et d'autres invités ont été aperçus attendant à l'extérieur de l'Hôtel de Ville, alors que la cérémonie se poursuivait à l'intérieur. Le NEW DAWN a recueilli les témoignages de K.B.K. Sando Massaquoi, un étudiant du lycée William V.S. Tubman, Emmanuel



Doe du lycée D. Twe Memorial et Moses S. Yorgbor du lycée Monrovia Central. Ces derniers ont exprimé leur mécontentement et leur incompréhension face à cette situation. "Nous n'avions jamais imaginé être traités de la sorte", ont-ils déclaré. Ils ont critiqué le manque de communication concernant les places limitées et ont déploré le fait qu'aucune attention n'ait été accordée aux étudiants exclus, qui sont restés à l'extérieur sans même un verre d'eau. "Nous ne pouvons pas simplement partir ; nous devons attendre nos camarades pour repartir ensemble", ont-ils ajouté. Un autre étudiant a souligné : "Ce n'est pas juste ! Si le nombre de places était limité, ils auraient dû en informer nos établissements à l'avance. Maintenant, ils repoussent des gens et c'est vraiment honteux." L'annonce de l'événement avait été faite lors de la conférence de presse régulière du Ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme, le mardi 4 février 2025. À cette occasion, le maire de Monrovia, John Charuk Siafa, avait invité tous les Libériens, y compris les étudiants, les journalistes, les organisations de la société civile, ainsi que les entreprises et les leaders communautaires locaux et internationaux, à se joindre à la célébration des défis et des stratégies pour façonner l'avenir de Monrovia. Cependant, de manière inattendue, des étudiants et d'autres invités ont été refoulés en raison d'une surcapacité. Interrogés sur la situation, des agents de la MCC à l'entrée ont expliqué que l'espace disponible ne permettait pas d'accueillir tous les participants. Ils ont précisé que seules les personnes munies de passes pouvaient accéder à la salle. La capitale, autrefois nommée Christopolis ou "Ville du Christ", a été rebaptisée Monrovia en l'honneur du 5e président des États-Unis, James Monroe. Rédaction et reportage par Jonathan Browne

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Transparency: Budget 2025

By Seltue Karweaye Sr.

Evidence consistently shows that openness and transparency in budgeting play a crucial role in enhancing governance and holding public officials accountable. Unfortunately, the Government of Liberia has demonstrated inconsistency in the public availability of essential budget documents from one year to the next.

Since 2012, the Government of Liberia has significantly increased access to budget information. It has enhanced the comprehensiveness of key documents such as the Executive's Budget Proposal, the Mid-Year Review, and the Enacted Budget. These improvements have provided a more detailed account of fiscal plans and spending. However, this progress is undermined by a decline in the timely publication of other critical documents, including the Pre-Budget Statement and the Citizens Budget. Furthermore, the government has failed to produce and disseminate the Year-End Report, which is essential for assessing the overall fiscal performance and accountability of government spending.

According to the most recent Open Budget Survey, Liberia has achieved a transparency score of 52 out of 100. This score positions the country moderately above the global average on the Open Budget Index (OBI), which evaluates a nation's budget transparency based on the accessibility and clarity of key financial documents to the public.

The current state of fiscal transparency and public participation in Liberia's budgeting process is disheartening. As Africa's oldest independent nation, it has seemingly regressed in its commitments to transparency, despite ongoing advocacy efforts by citizens and repeated assurances from the government to enhance budgetary openness. This regression raises concerns about the effectiveness of governance and the ability of citizens to engage meaningfully in the budgeting process, essential for fostering trust in public institutions and ensuring responsible stewardship of public resources.

The Government of Liberia currently falls short in providing its citizens with comprehensive budget information, which hampers taxpayers' ability to understand how elected officials are allocating and utilizing public resources. The budgetary process lacks substantial public engagement, resulting in

minimal feedback being considered, and the final budget document does not clarify how any feedback received is integrated into the decision-making process. For instance, after the passage of the 2025 budget and its approval by President Boakai, the detailed budget has yet to be released to the public, raising concerns about transparency.

In terms of budget transparency, Liberia ranks approximately in the middle of the spectrum among African countries. This relatively low ranking is linked to the government's failure to produce a timely mid-year budget review, which is critical for assessing fiscal performance and making necessary adjustments. Furthermore, key documents such as the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Budget Implementation Reports are often published late, diminishing their usefulness for oversight and public understanding. The content of these budget documents frequently fails to meet the minimum global standards established by the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency Framework, which outlines guidelines for budget reporting and public accessibility to enhance fiscal accountability and public trust, the Government of Liberia must improve the timeliness and accessibility of its essential budget documents. Implementing an open budget system would facilitate greater public scrutiny and participation in the budgeting process. Additionally, Liberia must strive to improve the comprehensiveness and clarity of critical budget documents, including the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), Budget Implementation Reports, executive budget proposals, enacted budgets, and year-end reports. By doing so, the government can foster a more transparent, accountable, and participatory budgetary environment that empowers citizens and strengthens democratic governance.

Liberia also needs to produce and publish a mid-year review of fiscal activities in line with the minimum global standard in budgeting. There is also an urgent need for a structured participatory mechanism designed to capture the views of the public throughout the budget cycle.

Obscure budgeting practices have profound and far-reaching consequences for Liberia's economic and social development. When citizens lack adequate information about budgetary decisions and allocations, it erodes public trust in government institutions and democratic processes. This deficiency in

transparency not only breeds skepticism among the populace but can also lead to significant inefficiencies and the misallocation of resources, as there is minimal accountability regarding the use and management of public funds.

Moreover, the unavailability of detailed budget information following the approval of the 2025 budget by the legislature and its subsequent signing into law by President Boakai can severely impede effective planning and strategic decision-making for both businesses and investors. When fiscal policies and allocations remain ambiguous, it creates a volatile economic environment that discourages investment and hinders economic growth. Investors, unable to assess the government's financial direction, may hesitate to commit capital, fearing unforeseen shifts in fiscal policy or resource allocation.

For small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)—the backbone of the economy, often characterized by limited financial resilience—the absence of budget transparency can exacerbate existing challenges related to access to financing and market opportunities. Without clear insight into government spending priorities and economic conditions, SMEs may struggle to secure loans, invest in growth, or compete effectively in the marketplace.

Furthermore, vague budgeting practices can significantly weaken the government's capacity to implement and monitor its policies effectively. In the absence of clear, accessible budget information, it becomes increasingly challenging to evaluate whether public funds are being allocated and utilized by established policy priorities. This lack of oversight can foster an environment conducive to corruption and the waste of public resources, ultimately exacerbating issues of poverty and inequality. The cumulative effect of these challenges can lead to stagnation in social progress and undermine the nation's overall development.

The 2025 approved Liberian budget should be publicly accessible to promote transparency and foster trust within our country. This availability will allow citizens to review the financial allocations and decisions, ensuring they are informed about how public funds are being utilized to support various programs and services. I rest my pen.

VP Koung fear citizen's rebellion

The lack of stable electricity in Liberia continues to contribute significantly to the high cost of living and poses serious challenges to economic and social development.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Friday, February 14, 2025/ Vice President Jeremiah K. Koung has expressed concern over a potential rebellion from citizens that could jeopardize the government's stability. He

Liberia Energy Efficiency and Access Project on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, in the Unification City, RIA highway, Mr. Koung disclosed that under the ARREST agenda, the “E” in the platform stands for energy while the “A” stands for agriculture, which takes

reduced, gender equality is achieved, climate action is taken, and the planet is protected, all by the year 2030; this is outlined through 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) covering various aspects of social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

The goal is to ensure everyone benefits from progress, particularly the most vulnerable populations.

Against this backdrop, Vice President Koung told international partners that the renewable energy and the solar farm expected to be constructed in the Scheffline barrack area are welcoming and appreciable, especially the expansion of the Mount Coffee hydro, insisting that addressing energy needs is very critical.

“While we work on the solar during the dry, the hydro comes on. During the dry, there is a serious issue with power, which leads to many deaths in our hospitals.

Imagine someone on the operation table, and LEC is rationing electricity, and out of nowhere, electricity is gone. All the machines shut down, and someone loses their life. We have to focus on generation," he noted.

He acknowledged that the government and its partners are doing well to extend access to electricity, but the focus should be on power generation.

“With electricity, the costs of living can be reduced drastically. I am saying so because today, most people go to the market every day and cook because they don't have electricity for storage. And so, if someone cooks today and food is left for the next day, they have to waste it and go back to the market because the electricity that provides storage is an issue. If we can address the availability of electricity, we will address the bread-and-butter issues," VP Koung stated. **-Edited by Othello B. Garblah.**

Starts from back page I'll fight to protect my character

the second-best opinion and did not flag any financial inefficiencies.

"I am deeply concerned about the motivations behind the decision and the impact it has on my reputation", she notes.

Glassco was speaking on OK FM on Thursday. She seems to acknowledge that authorities may need to do their job, but she's drawing a line at what she views as a defamation of her character.

Her frustration stems from the potential harm to her reputation without clear evidence of wrongdoing.

She is determined to protect her integrity, especially when faced

with serious accusations that she feels are being mishandled.

At the same time, Glassco commits to availing herself of the process and ensuring the allegations are thoroughly addressed. Her determination to clear her name shows she's resolved not to let the matter fade without proper scrutiny.

The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority has thrived under the administration of Director Glaasco, being one of the few institutions under the previous government that attracted over US\$40 million from abroad as donors' support. Press Release



said the instability and lack of electricity supply across the country could fuel this unrest.

“I listened to most of our partners, and most of the plans are toward 2030, but our people are running out of patience. This electricity issue can crumble a country,” VP Koung argued, while delivering a special remark at a commissioning ceremony on Wednesday, February 12.

“When we listen to the radio every morning, sometimes on social media, it has become a joke now, and that joke is serious. Some people will post and say, 'I am at Duport Road; we are in darkness, what is happening to your community?' From there, other people will start to post. You could wake up one morning, and the people take to the streets, and they can bring the government down,” VPKoung added.

During his special remark at the commissioning of the

precedence.

However, he emphasized that agriculture will never thrive without the availability of electricity. He pointed out that electricity and roads are the two pillars of Liberia's growth.

“With electricity, someone can manage food for an entire week because of the electricity storage facility,” he explained, highlighting that electricity is the foundation of healthcare. “No doctor will diagnose a patient by merely looking at their face; it is done through an electronic diagnostic machine.”

He criticized the Vision 2030 proposed by development partners as being too prolonged, given Liberians' impatience and desperate need for transformative change.

The global 2030 goal, also known as the "UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development," aims to achieve a world where poverty and hunger are eradicated, inequalities are



LACC Chair Cllr. Alexandra Zoe

The suspensions are set for one month without pay or until the officials submit the required asset declarations.

Making the disclosure Thursday at MICAT's regular press briefing in Monrovia, Cllr. Zoe indicated that if, after the one-month suspension, the officials affected still remain non-compliant, they could face dismissal as the next option to President Boakai.

According to her, as per the Constitution, the LACC does not have the authority to impose penalties but can recommend punishment to the President.

However, she notes that because the non-compliant officials have already been suspended, they cannot undergo another punishment. "Under the law, there's something called double jeopardy; you don't punish somebody twice for the same crime."

When quizzed on what action has been taken, given the fact that the Speaker's name is on the non-compliance list, she responded by saying that she knows there is a non-compliance list for the House of Representatives, and they will take steps to engage the current leadership of the House of Representatives and make efforts to get the asset declaration staff to assist in completing their declarations. She says that elected officials, as

representatives of the people, should not need to send staff from their offices to force people to declare their assets.

She pledges to work with the leadership to ensure that they fully declare their assets, including their staff.

On the other hand, she adds that dozens of suspended officials have already started rushing to the LACC headquarters to declare their assets.

According to her, many of them claim they did not know whether their positions required them to declare assets before taking up the job.

At the same time she regrets that people from the interior are affected by the decision, but promises to work on addressing the issue.

"After the suspension, if nobody comes to declare their assets, we will recommend dismissal," she maintains.

Meanwhile, the LACC Chair explains that the process is intended to ensure that public officials declare what they come to government with and, when they are leaving, people can know what they are leaving government with.

"This is a legal requirement aimed at fostering transparency and accountability in public service", she adds. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Suspended officials risk dismissal, if ...

Over 400 officials suspended here by President Boakai for failure to declare their assets before taking office may face dismissal if they remained non-compliant.

By Kruah Thompson
Monrovia, Liberia, February 14, 2025 - The Chairperson of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), Cllr. Alexandra Zoe, discloses here that the Commission is considering recommending penalties or punitive measures against officials who were

suspended for failing to declare their assets as mandated by the Code of Conduct.

On February 12, 2025, President Joseph Boakai suspended 457 government officials for failing to declare their assets within the mandated timeframe.

The President decision is in line with Article 2, Section

10.2(h) of the amended 2014 Code of Conduct and followed a directive issued on November 27, 2024, which granted a ten-day grace period for compliance.

The suspended officials include high-ranking individuals such as Liberia's Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Al-Hassan Conteh; Ambassador-at-Large Sheikh Al Moustapha Kouyateh; and Christopher Hayes Onanuga, Ambassador-at-Large for Tourism.

-Suspended NAFAA boss vows

Monrovia, Liberia,
February 14,
2025 — The
suspended Director General of
the National Fisheries and
Aquaculture Authority
(NAFAA), Emma Metieh-

The decision followed a recommendation by the NAFAA Board of Directors, and it is

Furthermore, the President references a communication from the Office of the O m b u d s m a n , w h i c h recommended Mrs. Glassco's suspension and investigation based on allegations of insults. This conduct, considered unbecoming of a public official, was reportedly exhibited during an official investigation meeting. The O m b u d s m a n ' s recommendation is based on Section 11.10 of the Code of Conduct Act.

President Boakai urges the suspended Director General to cooperate with investigations to address the concerns raised fully.

However, Madam Glassco is surprised by the allegations, especially considering the positive outcome of her last audit. The General Auditing Commission (GAC) gave her



Glassco, is standing firm on her stance despite the President's suspension.

She emphasizes protecting her character but decides not to pursue legal action.

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. on Thursday.

pending further investigation by the Ministry of Justice and the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC).

In a communication to Mrs. Glassco, the President outlines the Board's resolution, which calls for her suspension due to



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A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline 'J\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections', a calendar for 2014, a brochure titled 'BROCHURE', and a magazine titled 'Sports' with the headline 'WARRIORS GO DOWN'. The publications are arranged in an overlapping fashion against a background of colorful, abstract brushstrokes.