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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025	L\$197.1856/US\$1.00	L\$198.9219/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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DSTV

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Continental News

Frail Ugandan opposition figure back in jail after brief court appearance

Ugandan opposition figure Kizza Besigye appeared briefly in a civilian court Wednesday as attorneys tried to secure his freedom, but a judge said he was too unwell to follow proceedings.

By Rédaction Africanews with AP
A visibly frail Besigye, who has been detained since November, was driven back to a maximum-security prison in Kampala, the Ugandan capital. He went missing in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, on 16 November last year, and days later appeared



Ugandan opposition leader Kizza Besigye appears in court

in a cage before a military tribunal in Kampala. Besigye was charged with offenses concerning a threat to national security, and later charged before the same tribunal with treason, an offense which under military law carries the death penalty. His family says he began a hunger strike to protest against his continued detention after Uganda's Supreme Court last month ruled that military tribunals cannot try civilians.

South Africa's budget postponed amid coalition dispute

South Africa's national budget presentation was abruptly postponed on Wednesday due to a dispute within the country's coalition government, marking an unprecedented delay in the post-apartheid era.

National Assembly Speaker Thoko Didiza told lawmakers that such a postponement had never occurred in the past 30 years. The budget is now expected to be tabled on 12 March.

The ruling African National Congress (ANC), which lost its parliamentary majority in last year's election, requires support from coalition partners to pass the budget. Its main ally, the Democratic Alliance (DA), opposed the ANC's proposal to raise value-added tax (VAT) by two

Besigye's attorneys say he and others who faced charges before the military court should have been released immediately. "The justice of the case required that today there should be remedy, there should be a decision and it should be instant. Unfortunately, that is not the case," said Erias Lukwago. "And to make matters worse we

have not been given any idea or clue as to when the decision will be given," he said. Justice officials say they are studying the evidence against Besigye in order to charge him in a civilian court. Besigye's wife, UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima, says her husband is being framed and is deeply concerned about his continued detention. "I am devastated. But I am not surprised. Besigye is a captive. He

percentage points. The delay rattled financial markets, with the South African rand falling as much as 1% against the US dollar.

Local media reports suggest the proposed VAT hike was intended to address funding shortfalls in education and social programmes. The last increase in VAT was in 2018,



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa speaks during a joint press conference for the 2018

was kidnapped. He is in captivity as we all are. (President Yoweri) Museveni has put all of us in captivity," she said. His attorney says the charges are politically motivated. Besigye's continued detention is attracting more attention as his supporters, activists and others warn that he needs medical care and should be removed from prison conditions. They say any harm to him while in custody could trigger deadly unrest in this east African country. The four-time presidential candidate is a prominent opposition figure in Uganda and was Museveni's most serious challenger before the recent rise of the opposition figure known as Bobi Wine.

Wine, whose real name is Robert Kyagulanyi, said the case against Besigye was "not prosecution, this is persecution". "Dr Besigye would not be brought to court today if it was not for pressure. This is the same judge that said the cash bonanza at parliament was legal. At the same time, this is the same judge that is sending Dr Besigye back to prison instead of sending him to hospital," he said.

The Commonwealth group of nations, of which Uganda is a member, has urged Ugandan authorities to free Besigye and his co-accused, an assistant named Obeid Lutale.

Amnesty International also called for Besigye's release, saying his "abduction clearly violated international human rights law and the process of extradition with its requisite fair trial protections".

but the idea of another rise has faced strong resistance from opposition parties and labour unions.

South Africa, the continent's most industrialised economy, has struggled with slow growth, rising public debt, and high unemployment in the years following the 2008-09 global financial crisis.

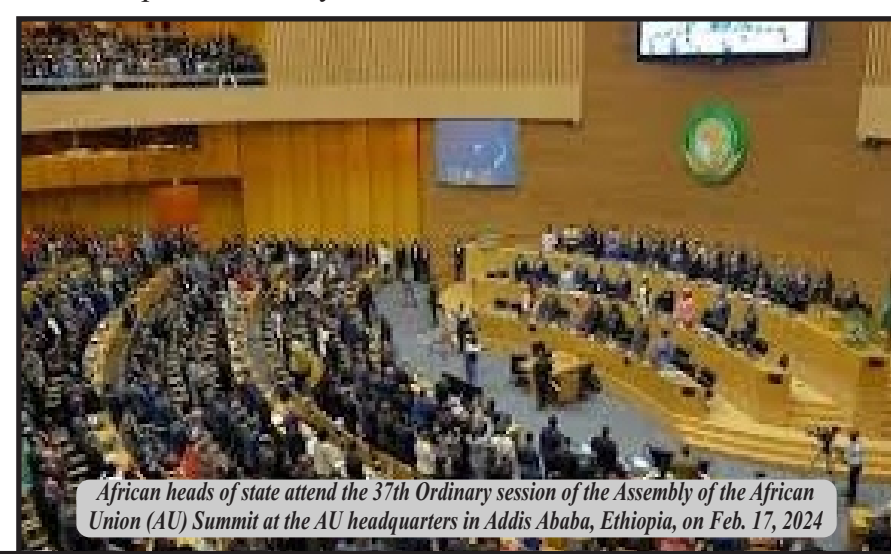
African leaders create fund to provide cheaper debt

Beset by debt and billions of dollars in unfunded priorities, African leaders have approved a fund to provide concessional lending to cash-strapped governments.

The facility, known as The African Financial Stability Mechanism (AFSM) will be managed by the African Development Bank (AfDB), Reuters reported Tuesday.

It will have its own credit rating and will be able to borrow from international money markets, the bank said in a statement.

The call to create the facility was made in 2022 as the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine drove sovereign defaults and debt crises in developing countries. The bank said membership of the fund will be voluntary and open to any member state of the African Union.



African heads of state attend the 37th Ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) Summit at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Feb. 17, 2024

Rwanda-backed rebels tighten grip on second major Congolese city

Rwanda-backed rebels tightened their grip on Bukavu on Monday, a day after seizing the second major city in eastern Congo whose residents appeared resigned to their fate under the new rulers.

On Sunday, M23 rebels captured the city of 1.3 million people after it was abandoned by Congolese forces. Bukavu lies 63 miles (101 kilometers)

people in the region, creating the world's largest humanitarian crisis.

As the rebels made their way into Bukavu, its streets were flooded by residents attempting to leave and looters filling flour sacks with what they could find. A pall of silence set in later as residents and business owners braced for M23's entrance into the city center.

On Monday morning, people gradually started coming out again while the rebels patrolled major



M23 rebels patrol the centre of east Congo's second-largest city Bukavu, in South Kivu, Monday, Feb. 17, 2025

south of Goma, which was taken by the rebels in late January.

The M23 is the most prominent of more than 100 armed groups vying for control of eastern Congo's trillions of dollars in mineral wealth that's critical for much of the world's technology. The rebels are supported by about 4,000 troops from neighboring Rwanda, according to U.N. experts. The decades-long fighting has displaced more than 6 million

intersections in the city.

"People are still scared to go out because of the insecurity so it's not business as usual yet," David Balezi, a shopkeeper in Bukavu, told The Associated Press.

Bukavu's border crossing to Rwanda was closed on Monday morning, as were most shops and stores while traffic gradually picked up again.

"Now we thank God that the situation is OK, even if we don't know what's coming. Whatever happens, we will live with it," David Munyaga, a resident of Bukavu, said.

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.

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COMMENTARY

by Adenike Oladosu

Education Belongs on the Climate Agenda

BUJA – In my country, Nigeria, the climate crisis is driving people from their homes, fueling conflict, claiming lives, and causing economic instability. And Nigeria is hardly alone: climate change is a global challenge, and one of the most powerful tools we have to achieve the systemic change required to meet it is education, particularly in conflict- and crisis-affected countries.

Unfortunately, education in emergencies has been sidelined in climate debates. At last year's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, I attended panels and events about adaptation and mitigation, early-warning systems, disaster-risk reduction, and gender equity. But education was mentioned only in passing, and in the context of teaching climate change in the classroom.

This narrow view of education underestimates its potential to build climate resilience, create eco-minded leaders, and stimulate innovation. That is why Education Cannot Wait, the Global Partnership for Education, Save the Children, UNICEF, UNESCO, and other organizations are calling for more climate finance to be channeled to education in emergencies.

Since 2022, more than 400 million children have experienced school closures due to extreme weather. According to UNICEF, floods and storms exacerbated by climate change have displaced the equivalent of roughly 20,000 children per day in recent years. These pressures put children at greater risk of exploitation, including child marriage, sexual violence, and recruitment by armed groups.

In Nigeria, for example, nearly 18 million children are out of school, owing to the overlapping crises of climate change, armed conflict, and forced displacement. The devastating 2022 floods in Pakistan damaged or destroyed 30,000 schools, disrupting the education of millions of children. The challenges are even more dire in countries experiencing humanitarian crises, including Ethiopia, Haiti, Sudan, and the Sahel countries.

The destructive effects of climate change are only getting worse. Last year, floods devastated parts of the Sahel, East Africa, and Central Asia, while severe droughts plagued northwest and southern Africa, as well as parts of the Americas. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs found that these disasters have exacerbated food insecurity and triggered mass displacement, which pushes more children out of the classroom.

To break these negative feedback loops, the international community must make good on

its promise to provide quality education for all, as agreed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This would enable young people around the world to acquire the skills needed for the green economy of the future.

Policymakers must also integrate education goals into their nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans, disaster-risk-reduction efforts, and other climate measures. To support these efforts, platforms such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, as well as national governments, donors, and the private sector, must channel substantially more climate financing toward education. Currently, only 0.03% of such funding is spent on education. While an increase to 1% might sound small, it would make an enormous difference in terms of building climate resilience.

Schools can advance sustainability and climate goals in many ways. School meals and gardens can strengthen food security and encourage sustainable agricultural practices. New school buildings can be constructed using energy-efficient materials and be equipped with solar panels to lower carbon emissions, as well as automated weather stations to improve monitoring, forecasting, and early-warning services. Eco-clubs can teach children about environmentalism and lead tree-planting initiatives to reduce school heating and cooling costs.

As the Loss and Damage Fund established at COP28 in Dubai starts financing projects this year, it is important to remember that while children have contributed the least to the climate crisis, they stand to lose the most. Meeting their needs should be a top priority when determining how to compensate developing countries stricken by floods, sea-level rise, droughts, wildfires, and other climate-related disasters.

Financing education has the added benefit of boosting sustainable economic growth. Investing less than \$2 per day in girls' secondary education could increase GDP in developing countries by an average of 10% by 2030. Of course, GDP growth and carbon emissions usually rise in tandem. But countries with an educated workforce are better positioned to pursue the systemic changes needed to achieve the green transition.

As the world prepares for COP30 in Belém, Brazil, leaders are considering how to raise global climate ambitions. They would be well advised not to overlook the long-term environmental and economic benefits of increased funding for education in emergencies, especially for children on the front lines of the world's most severe humanitarian crises.

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OP-ED

by Ricardo Hausmann

When Companies Fail to Learn, They Learn to Fail

BAKU – Investing in electric-vehicle battery production may seem like a sure thing. And at first glance, Northvolt – the Swedish EV battery developer and manufacturer that filed for bankruptcy protection in November – appeared to have all the advantages and capabilities needed to succeed.

For starters, the market fundamentals are undeniably strong. EV production is projected to grow exponentially: Tesla is trading at more than 100 times its earnings, whereas Toyota – the world's largest manufacturer of gasoline-powered cars – has a price-to-earnings ratio of ten. Supporting these optimistic market projections, Northvolt had already secured \$50 billion in sales orders, and raising capital proved remarkably easy. Northvolt attracted a star-studded roster of investors, bringing in an unprecedented \$15 billion in startup funding, with Goldman Sachs and Volkswagen leading the charge.

Expertise was another major strength. Northvolt's founders, Peter Carlsson and Paolo Cerruti, were former Tesla executives with deep experience managing global supply chains. Battery production seemed like a logical extension of their expertise. Northvolt also established partnerships with leading suppliers from Japan, South Korea, and China, bringing seasoned professionals to its facilities and enabling technology transfers.

When it comes to human capital, Sweden consistently ranks among the top-performing countries in the OECD's Assessment of Adult Competencies. As a member of the European Union, it has access to talent from 26 other developed economies, while its flexible immigration policies attract skilled professionals from around the world. At its peak, Northvolt employed nearly 7,000 workers from more than 100 countries, including experts from South Korea and China.

Moreover, Northvolt's base in Northern Sweden offered abundant renewable hydro power, proximity to key mining resources, and a strong metallurgy tradition – an ideal foundation for building a sustainable, low-carbon battery supply chain.

Buoyed by its initial success, Northvolt's leadership pursued aggressive expansion, unveiling ambitious plans to build new facilities in Canada and Germany. For a time, the company seemed unstoppable. Then, seemingly overnight, it spiraled into crisis and collapsed.

So, what went wrong? According to a Financial Timesinvestigative report, the cause of Northvolt's downfall was shockingly simple: the company's primary battery plant in Skellefteå operated at less than 1% of its intended capacity. With sales far below projections, the company struggled to fulfill contracts, hemorrhaging cash in the process.

Northvolt's inability to ramp up production stemmed from the difficulties of integrating its complex supplier network, which included China's Wuxi Lead, Japan's Marubeni, and several South Korean firms. Although each supplier was an industry leader, their employees and equipment had never worked together. The diverse technologies, manufacturing methods, and languages created insurmountable barriers, resulting in a disjointed operation that never jelled.

If a Global South country attempted such an ambitious project and failed, it might have been dismissed as a classic example of a developing economy biting off more than it could chew. But when a highly developed country like Sweden – with its abundant financial, human, and technological resources – stumbles so dramatically, it points to a deeper issue that warrants closer attention.

Contrary to conventional wisdom, technology is not just about machines, blueprints, and financial capital. Its successful deployment depends on the tacit, hard-earned knowledge that exists within experienced teams and enables people to collaborate seamlessly. Consider, for example, an orchestra: even with a renowned conductor, top-quality instruments, and flawless sheet music, the real challenge lies in creating an ensemble capable of performing in perfect harmony.

In other words, Northvolt failed to recognize how much it didn't know. The company underestimated the steep learning curve it needed to climb to integrate a complex manufacturing operation across cultures, technologies, and work practices. Most critically, it failed to give itself the time to acquire that knowledge before scaling. That is why it failed to integrate its various components, while Japan's Panasonic achieves this daily with similar resources and expertise.

But these challenges are hardly unique to Northvolt. Across the developed and developing world, companies and policymakers often assume that having the right resources ensures success. What they overlook is the invisible yet vital process of learning, which involves bridging knowledge gaps through trial, error, and adaptation.

The key takeaway from Northvolt's collapse is that companies must recognize and address knowledge gaps before pursuing ambitious growth strategies. Otherwise, they risk overextending themselves before mastering the fundamentals, leading to disaster.

This lesson applies equally to national industrial policies. Northvolt's failure serves as a cautionary tale about the perils of corporate miscalculation. But it also offers a valuable lesson about the time required for complex industries to develop the tacit capabilities needed to operate at scale.

Ignoring this reality – whether due to overconfidence or external pressure – can doom even the most promising, best-funded projects. In business and policymaking alike, success requires patience and a clear understanding of knowledge gaps. Northvolt lacked both – and suffered the consequences. For everyone else, it is a case study in what to avoid.

OPINION

by Kenneth Rogoff

Europe in Trump's Crosshairs

DAVOS – This year's World Economic Forum in Davos was brimming with creative ideas about how to save the planet, reduce inequality, and tackle urgent security needs. Overwhelmingly, though, the big takeaway was how depressed the Europeans are, about their economy and especially about Donald Trump.

Their anxiety is not baseless: Trump poses an existential threat to Europe in three key ways. First, he insists that Europe must take full responsibility for its own defense – a demand many political leaders find difficult to comprehend. In his Davos speech, delivered remotely from Washington, Trump once again called on European governments to boost defense spending to 5% of GDP. Given that many EU countries like Italy are already struggling to meet the 2% target they committed to during Barack Obama's presidency, it is clear why Trump's demand is a major source of anxiety.

Second, Trump seems determined to make good on his threats to impose sweeping tariffs, dealing a crushing blow to European exporters facing increasingly stiff competition from China. While Trump's rhetoric appears to leave room for individual countries to negotiate lower tariffs, his record of fulfilling campaign promises suggests otherwise. Having reversed former President Joe Biden's open-borders and DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) policies, he is likely to impose “beautiful” tariffs next, despite widespread opposition from economists.

Third, Trump's proposed tariffs would have a particularly severe impact on Germany, Europe's largest economy. After two consecutive years of recession, Germany's export-led growth model appears to be faltering. If Trump imposes high import tariffs on German goods, a third year of recession is likely to follow.

The textbook approach would be for Europe to turn the other cheek, because the country that imposes tariffs often suffers the most from them. But try explaining that to voters. With a passive response likely to be seen domestically as a sign of weakness, the temptation to confront Trump's bullying and retaliate may be impossible to resist.

The outcome of such a confrontation is anyone's guess. Trump, who views Europe's chronic trade surplus with the United States as clear evidence of unfair competition, will not back down. Never mind that most economists argue that the surplus is largely due to Europeans' preference for investing in US assets, which have consistently outperformed Europe's and are widely expected to continue doing so.

Third, Trump's plan to shore up America's energy supply puts Europe's green movement in a difficult position. The European Union's energy prices are several times higher than those in the US, largely owing to the Russia-Ukraine war and the cost of the bloc's rapid green transition. High energy prices are making it increasingly difficult for EU industries to remain competitive, especially in critical emerging sectors like artificial intelligence.

So, what can Europe do? For starters, policymakers must stay focused and not allow Trump's chaotic policies to distract them from their top priorities. Chief among these is finding ways to reduce energy prices, with small-scale nuclear technologies offering a promising step forward.

Moreover, Trump's climate-change denialism and “drill, baby, drill” agenda represent a significant challenge for the EU, already at risk of slipping into geopolitical irrelevance. While embracing clean energy is admirable, Europe's efforts alone will have a limited impact on global warming, especially with China and India still generating roughly 60% of their electricity from coal. To convince other countries to follow in its footsteps, Europe must prove that it can be both green and competitive; otherwise, it will become a cautionary tale.


In the face of Trump's threats and growing Chinese competition, European governments would do well to temper their enthusiasm for regulation. As the saying goes, “The US innovates, China replicates, and Europe regulates.”

UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves rightly views deregulation as a potential way to improve Britain's growth prospects. But the United Kingdom will struggle to restore growth unless EU member states – particularly France – set aside petty grievances and offer the United Kingdom a Norway-style trade deal. Such an agreement would be mutually beneficial: Europe needs the UK's financial sector, and UK companies need access to European markets.

Even if Europe takes these steps, it will have a hard time dealing with Trump. To have a fighting chance, EU countries must recognize that the roots of their current malaise run much deeper. Regardless of Trump's re-election, European governments need to address the underlying causes of economic stagnation.

To be sure, Europe should be commended for implementing policies to address climate change and curb the tech sector's overreach. In time, the US and China may recognize the value of progressive EU policies and follow suit. But if they remain unconvinced, Europe will be the one forced to adapt. If it fails to do so, the European Commission may end up looking like the Los Angeles Fire Department – scrambling to contain fires after the damage has already been done.

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
INVITATION FOR BID FOR UNIFORM

February 6, 2025

IFB NO. JUD/NCB/008/2025

1. The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2025 national budget for the procurement of Uniform. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers of uniforms. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.

2. The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the goods described below. Bid submission begins on February 6, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily; and the final date of submission is February 28 2025 @ 1:30 PM for uniform supplies.
Package: Uniform

IFB NO.	LOT #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
JUD/NCB/008/2024	Lot-1	UNIFORM	Assorted

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPC Act) published and approved September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders as defined in the PPCC guidelines.

4. A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Uniform supplies can be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$50.00

5. Qualification requirements include the following:
(a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.
(b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
(c) Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
(d) Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
(e) Availability of products at all times.
(f) Updated PPCC vendor registry certificate
(g) Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
(h) Include Business Activity Code.
(i) Manufacture authorization.

6. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, Fifth Floor Room # 501/ 505, Monrovia, Liberia; from Monday – Friday from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P. M.

7. All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates including other requested information.
(1) IFB NO. JUD/NCB/008/2025 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the complete sets of uniform for the Judiciary for the Fiscal Year 2025.

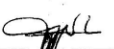
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

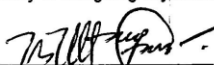
8. All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit latest February 28, 2025 @ 1:30 PM, Moreover, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

9. A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on February 24, 2025 @ 12:30 PM in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501 to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after which all further clarification requests would remain unanswered.


10. Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on February 28, 2025 @ 1:30 PM All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids remain valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.

11. Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.

Signed: Director of Procurement

Approved: Court Administrator

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
INVITATION FOR BID FOR Air Conditional

February 7, 2025

IFB NO. JUD/NCB/010/2025

1. The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2024 national budget for the procurement of Air Conditioner & Spare parts. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers of air conditional & spare parts. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.

2. The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the goods described below. Bid submission begins on February 7, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 3:30PM daily; and the final date of submission is March 5 2025 @ 11:00 AM for Air conditional & spare parts.
Package: Air Conditioner & spare parts

IFB NO.	LOT #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
JUD/NCB/010/2025	Lot-1	Air Conditioner & Spare Parts	Assorted

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPC Act) published and approved September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders as defined in the PPCC guidelines.

4. A complete set of bidding documents for the specified air conditioner & spare parts supplies can be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$ 40.00

5. Qualification requirements include the following:
(a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.
(b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
(c) Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
(d) Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
(e) Availability of products at all times.
(f) UP Dated PPCC Vendor registry certificate
(g) Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
(h) Include Business Activity Code.
(i) Manufacture authorization.

6. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, Fifth Floor Room # 501/ 505, Monrovia, Liberia; from Monday – Friday from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P. M.

7. All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates including other requested information.
(1) IFB NO. JUD/NCB/010/2025 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the purchase of air conditioner & spare parts for the Judiciary for the Fiscal Year 2025.


DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING
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MONROVIA, LIBERIA


8. All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit latest March 5 2025 @ 11:00 AM Moreover, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

9. A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on February 27 2024 @ 10:00 AM in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after which all further clarification requests would remain unanswered.


10. Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on March 5, 2025 @ 11:00 AM. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids remain valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.

11. Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.

Signed: Director of Procurement

Approved: Court Administrator

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

Invitation for Bids for Assorted Food items

DATE: February 7, 2025

IFB NO. JUD/NCB/004/2025

1. The Judiciary Branch of Government Received funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2025 fiscal budget for the procurement of services appertaining to Assorted Food Items, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to the Sale of Assorted Food Items. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.

2. The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the services described below. The Bid submission begins on February 7, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 3:30PM daily. The final date of submission March 5, 2025 @ 12: 00 Noon.
Package: Assorted Food Items

IFB NO.	LOT #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
JUD/NCB/004/2025	Lot-1	Assorted Food Items	Assorted

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPCC ACT) published and approved: September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.

4. A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Assorted Food Items may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$ 50.00

5. Qualification requirements include the following:
(a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.
(b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
(c) Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
(d) Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
(e) Updated PPCC vendor registry certificate
(f) Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
(g) Include Business Activity Code.
(h) Manufacture authorization.

6. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, fifth floor Room # 501 or 505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday – Friday during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P. M.

7. All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates to be sealed in one envelope including other information.
(1) IFB NO. JUD/NCB/004/2025 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Assorted Food Items; to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2025; and shall be addressed to:


DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

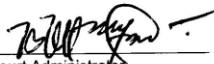
8. All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on March 5, 2025 @ 12:00 P. M. However, No Electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

9. A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on February 27 2025 @ 12:00 noon in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered.


10. Sealed bids for Assorted Food Items will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on March 5, 2025 @ 12 :00 Noon All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.

11. Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.

Signed: Director of Procurement

Approved: Court Administrator

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
INVITATION FOR BID FOR AIR TICKET

DATE: February 6, 2025

IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/003/2025

1. The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2025 national budget for the procurement of Air Ticket. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers of Air Ticket. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.

2. The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the purchase of the goods described below. Bid submission begins on February 6, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily; and the final date of submission is February 28, 2025 @ 11: AM for Air Ticket.
Package: Air Ticket

IFB NO.	LOT -1	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
JUD/NSBA/003/2025	Lot -1	Air Tickets	Assorted

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPC Act) published and approved September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders as defined in the PPCC guidelines.

4. A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Purchase of Air Ticket that can be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US \$ 50.00

5. Qualification requirements include the following:
(a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.
(b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
(c) Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
(d) Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
(e) Updated PPCC vendor registry certificate
(f) Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
(g) Include Business Activity Code.
(h) Manufacture authorization.

6. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, Fifth Floor Room # 501/ 505, Monrovia, Liberia; from Monday – Friday from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P. M.

7. All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates including other requested information.
(1) IFB NO. JUD/SBA/003/2025 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the purchase of Air Ticket for the Judiciary for the Fiscal Year 2025.


DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

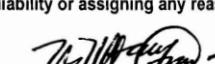
8. All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit latest February 28, 2025 @ 11:00 A. M. Moreover, electronic bids will not be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

9. A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on February 21, 2025 @ 12:00 noon in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after which all further clarification requests would remain unanswered


10. Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on February 28, 2025 @ 11: AM. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids remain valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.

11. Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.

Signed: Director of Procurement

Approved: Court Administrator

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
INVITATION FOR BID FOR Electrical Materials

DATE: February 6, 2025

IFB NO.JUD/NCB/010/2025

1. The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2025 national budget for the procurement of **Electrical Materials**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers of Electrical Materials. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.

2. The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the purchase of the goods described below. Bid submission begins on **February 6, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 3:30PM daily**; and the final date of submission is **February 26, 2025 @ 12:00 noon** for **Electrical Materials**.
Package: Electrical Materials

IFB NO.		DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
JUD/NCB/009/2025	Lot -1	Electrical Materials	Assorted

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPC Act) published and approved September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders as defined in the PPCC guidelines.

4. A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Electrical Materials that can be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US \$50.00**

5. Qualification requirements include the following:
(a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.
(b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
(c) Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
(d) Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
(e) Updated PPCC vendor registry certificate
(f) Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
(g) Include Business Activity Code.
(h) Manufacture authorization.

6. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, Fifth Floor Room # 501/ 505, Monrovia, Liberia; from Monday – Friday from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P. M.

7. All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates including other requested information.
(1) IFB NO.JUD/NCB/009/2025 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the purchase of electrical Materials for the Judiciary for the Fiscal Year 2025.


DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501
MONROVIA, LIBERIA


8. All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit latest **February 28, 2025 @ 12:00 noon**. Moreover, electronic bids will not be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

9. A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on **February 24, 2025 @ 11:30 AM** in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501. to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after which all further clarification requests would remain unanswered.


10. Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on **February 28, 2025 @ 12:00 noon**. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids remain valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.

11. **Note:** The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.

Signed: 
Director of Procurement

Approved: 
Court Administrator

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
INVITATION FOR BID FOR Building Materials

DATE: February 6 2025

IFB NO.JUD/NCB/009/2025

1. The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2025 national budget for the procurement of **Building Materials**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers of Building Materials. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.

2. The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the purchase of the goods described below. Bid submission begins on **February 6, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 3:30PM daily**; and the final date of submission is **February 28, 2025 @ 1:00 PM** for **Building Materials**.
Package: Building Materials

IFB NO.		DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
JUD/NCB/009/2025	Lot -1	Building Materials	Assorted

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPC Act) published and approved September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders as defined in the PPCC guidelines.

4. A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Building Materials that can be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US \$50.00**

5. Qualification requirements include the following:
(a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.
(b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
(c) Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
(d) Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
(e) Updated PPCC vendor registry certificate
(f) Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
(g) Include Business Activity Code.
(h) Manufacture authorization.

6. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, Fifth Floor Room # 501/ 505, Monrovia, Liberia; from Monday – Friday from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P. M.

7. All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates including other requested information.
(1) IFB NO.JUD/NCB/009/2025 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the purchase of building Materials for the Judiciary for the Fiscal Year 2025.


DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501
MONROVIA, LIBERIA


8. All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit latest **February 28, 2025 @ 1:00 P. M**. Moreover, electronic bids will not be accepted and late bids will be rejected.


9. A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on **February 24, 2025 @ 11:00 AM** in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after which all further clarification requests would remain unanswered.

10. Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on **February 28, 2025 @ 1:00 PM**. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids remain valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.

11. **Note:** The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.

Signed: 
Director of Procurement

Approved: 
Court Administrator



Wild Chimpanzee Foundation™

TENDER NOTICE (30 days)

The **WILD CHIMPANZEE FOUNDATION (WCF)**, invites **sealed bids** from eligible bidders in Liberia and business owners that are in compliance with the Liberian laws for the below listed items (**vehicles**), to be submitted by Friday, 31st, of January 2025, 4pm:

Description	Qty	Tender/Bid No.
LANDCRUISER Hardtop (LC 76 4.2L STANDARD 5-MT 4X4	4 Units	WCF/EU (04)/LC Hardtop Series /1/25

Details and Terms & Conditions are available in the tender documents that can be obtained from our office: **Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, Opposite German Embassy, Congo Town, Monrovia, liberia@wildchimps.org**. WCF reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.


Wild Chimpanzee Foundation™

TENDER NOTICE (30 days)

The **WILD CHIMPANZEE FOUNDATION (WCF)**, invites **sealed bids** from eligible bidders in Liberia and business owners that are in compliance with the Liberian laws for the below listed items (**vehicles**), to be submitted by Tuesday, 4th of February 2025, 4pm:

Description	Qty	Tender/Bid No.
LANDCRUISER Hardtop (LC 78 4.2L STANDARD 5-MT 4X4	1 Units	WCF/EU (01)/LC Hardtop Series /1/25
LANDCRUISER Pickup (double cabin) LC 79- STANDARD 5-MT 4X4	3 Unit	WCF/EU (03)/LC series Pickup/1/25

Details and Terms & Conditions are available in the tender document that can be obtained from our office: **Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, Opposite German Embassy, Congo Town, Monrovia, liberia@wildchimps.org**. WCF reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Plan International Liberia and GoL sign US\$18.6 Million MoU

The Government of Liberia and Plan International pen MoU valued US\$18.6 Million.

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia, February 20, 2025 - Plan International Liberia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and several key partners, signs a UD\$18.6 million Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement the Liberia Women Empowerment Project (LWEP). Speaking at the signing ceremony on February 19, 2025, at Plan International Liberia's office in Congo Town, the Manager of Lead service provider, Abdulai Sheriff, said the Liberia Women Empowerment Project will focus on three key components that are designed to address gender-based violence (GBV), economic empowerment, and social behavior change.

Mr. Sheriff says Social Behavior Change (SBC) led by ActionAid Liberia, is a component that aims to challenge harmful gender norms and promote positive social transformation. He explains that the project will employ the SASA Together methodology, a globally-recognized approach developed by Raising Voices Uganda, to prevent gender-based violence and promote community-led change.

On the other hand, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response is another component to strengthen healthcare services, support survivors, and improve access to education for girls. The initiative will also focus on keeping girls in school, addressing early marriage, and reducing harmful traditional practices, he says.

He also details that the Economic Empowerment and Livelihood Support aspect of the project

includes capacity-building programs for women-led organizations, skills training, and grant disbursement to support women entrepreneurs, Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA), and farming cooperatives.

The US\$18.6 million budget is divided into two parts Project Implementation: led by Plan International Liberia to fund the operational activities of the project and grant disbursement of US\$18M, which will provide direct financial support to women-led organizations, small businesses, and farmer cooperatives.

The project will be implemented in six counties: Rural Montserrado, Bomi, Gbarpolu, River Cess, Grand Kru, and Cape Mount.

Mr. Sheriff explains that the initiative is expected to benefit over 200,000 women and girls across these counties.

The Liberia Women Empowerment Project is scheduled to run for three years, with an expected completion date of September 2027.

However, the initial agreement covers a one-year implementation period, with subsequent renewals planned based on project performance.

Deputy Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Laura Golakeh says the grant was made possible as a way of supporting women.

Implementing partner from Defence for Children International Liberia (DCI), Foday Kawah, explains that the primary objective of the project is to reducing violence against women and girls in targeted communities.

“Strengthening GBV service providers to offer better support for survivors; ensuring more girls stay in school by addressing barriers such as early marriage and financial difficulties and increasing women's economic independence through skills training and business grants,” Mr. Kawah adds.

He emphasizes that the project is about giving women and girls a voice, space, and opportunities to improve their lives. “By the end of the three years, we want to see a real reduction in GBV cases and more women actively participating in Liberia's economic development.”

Plan International Liberia Deputy Country Director, Ibrahim Kamara, notes that the initiative is just an evidence of the struggle of women.

Mr. Kamara thanks the Government of Liberia to take the fund as loan for its citizens.

He also thanks the Ministry of Gender and other partners for writing proposals that led to the funding.

The project, funded by the World Bank through the Government of Liberia, will be implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection.

Plan International Liberia will serve as lead service provider (LSP), coordinating efforts with Medica Liberia, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), KIDS Educational Engagement Project (KEEP), ActionAid Liberia, and Defence for Children International Liberia (DCI).

The signing ceremony was graced by government officials, civil society organizations, and development partners committed to advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls in Liberia. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Liberia stands ready to overcome USAID obstacles

-Finance Minister Ngafuan

By Lewis S. Teh

The Government of Liberia says it is prepared to brace direct and indirect impacts of obstacles posed by the departure of USAID.

Monrovia, Liberia, February 20, 2025 - Barely a month following the suspension and cancellation of all USAID-funded projects to Liberia by the United States Government, Liberia's Finance and Development Planning Minister, Augustine Ngafuan says the country is prepared to brace the direct and indirect impact of what he terms as “USAID obstacles.”

“Liberia's is resilient and will surely overcome this latest obstacle”, Minister Ngafuan told the Voice of America's Day Break Africa program Wednesday, February 19, 2025.

He says the U.S. government

governance, support to elections commission, which USAID has been supporting thru International and local NGOs, making sure that Liberia has free and fair election, but are all being affected as a result of the cancellation of USAID-funded projects.

Minister Ngafuan acknowledges that there are direct and indirect impacts, noting that there are other international organizations that had been supported by USAID and they have scaled down support, with USAID being Liberia's second largest donor next to the World Bank.

He recalls that USAID support to Liberia from 2021-2029, totaling US\$422 million, and



through its Ambassador paid him a courtesy call and told him that the project local for accountability and decentralization is among several projects that were cancelled under the USAID aid cancellation program.

According to him, the lead project is US\$17 million, which was mainly helping the country in domestic resource mobilization.

We have set an ambitious agenda to increase domestic revenue through the Liberia Revenue Authority and USAID was the main partner assisting us to rollout this new tax system from what we call goods and services tax (GST) to Value Added Tax by 2026, he says.

Narrating further he notes that the project comes with training, investment assistance and USAID has been providing support for the government's tax database system or E-tax, which has been assisting in improving the government revenue collection in local terrains.

He says other projects in education, health and

agreement had been concluded to receive support in the tune of more than US\$100 million to support education, health, agriculture and other key areas when everything halted by President Donald Trump.

Asked what Liberia is doing to mitigate obstacles faced by the cancellation of USAID-funded projects, he says the government has accepted the decision of the United States Government, and discloses that the Ministry of Finance has just concluded and will be submitting to President Boakai and the 55th Legislature short and long-term impacts and what is to be done to addressing the shocks.

"We will be engaging into some fiscal tightening, mopping up our resources mobilization, among other things. We are going to make sure we reduce losses and abuses, and we will also be engaging our partners in regional organizations; there are conversations in our block on what we are to do to reduce the impact of this cancellation”, he assures. Editing by Jonathan Browne



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Français

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf en larmes

L'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a été submergée par l'émotion mardi matin, 18 février, alors que les familles de l'ancien président William R. Tolbert et de 13 autres hauts responsables du gouvernement ont entamé l'exhumation de leurs corps en vue d'une inhumation plus

membres de son gouvernement ont été exécutés sur une plage proche de la caserne militaire de Monrovia, sous les ordres du président Samuel Doe, alors chef du coup d'État. Madame Sirleaf, qui avait occupé le poste de ministre des Finances sous l'administration Tolbert à la fin des années 1970, avait démissionné avant de fuir le pays après le renversement du régime. Lors de la

Des débats persistent sur les commanditaires de l'assassinat de Tolbert. Certains récits avancent une implication de la CIA, notamment en raison de son engagement en faveur de la libération des États africains du colonialisme. Tolbert, qui était alors président de l'Organisation de l'unité africaine (aujourd'hui l'Union africaine), devait assister à la proclamation de l'indépendance du Zimbabwe la veille de sa mort.

Quant aux 13 officiels exécutés, leur massacre reste un événement marquant de l'histoire du Liberia. Ironie du sort, Samuel Doe lui-même fut capturé et exécuté en 1990 par l'ancien sénateur Prince Y. Johnson, en plein cœur des conflits qui ont plongé le pays dans plus de deux décennies de guerre civile.

Une exhumation en préparation depuis plusieurs mois

La cérémonie de mardi a débuté au cimetière de Palm Grove, sur Center Street, en présence de nombreuses personnalités, dont Madame Sirleaf, des enfants et petits-enfants des défunts ainsi



digne. William R. Tolbert, président du Liberia de 1971 à 1980, a été assassiné lors du coup d'État du 12 avril 1980. Dans les jours qui ont suivi, 13

cérémonie d'exhumation, elle a posé sa main sur l'une des tombes, laissant couler ses larmes en silence, sans faire de déclaration.

Un épisode encore controversé de l'histoire libérienne

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Une loi dangereuse ? Un expert alerte sur le nouveau Port Regulatory Act

Un projet de loi récemment proposé visant à créer une nouvelle agence de régulation des ports maritimes du Liberia suscite de vives critiques de la part d'experts en politique publique, notamment Ambulah Mamey. Selon lui, le Liberia Sea and Land Port Regulatory Act, s'il était adopté, entraînerait une hausse du coût des activités portuaires, créerait une confusion en matière de gouvernance et menacerait la réputation maritime du pays.

Le projet de loi, déjà approuvé par le Sénat et actuellement examiné par la Chambre des représentants, est qualifié de "loi dangereuse" en raison d'un conflit d'intérêts manifeste : il fait du régulateur proposé un opérateur portuaire, une situation comparable à celle d'un arbitre jouant dans son propre match.

Un conflit d'intérêts flagrant Dans une note politique adressée au Président et aux membres de la Chambre des représentants, Mamey met en évidence l'article 48 du projet de loi, qui permet à la future agence réglementaire d'exercer des activités commerciales dans les ports. L'article stipule : « L'Agence

peut, dans la limite des crédits budgétaires disponibles, acquérir, établir et améliorer des infrastructures portuaires et assurer leur exploitation et leur entretien. » Selon Mamey, cette disposition va à l'encontre des normes libériennes et des meilleures pratiques internationales, qui prévoient une séparation claire entre les fonctions réglementaires et commerciales pour éviter les conflits d'intérêts et garantir la transparence.

« Le Sénat propose de faire du régulateur des ports à la fois un arbitre et un joueur, ce qui est choquant. Ce même Sénat examine actuellement des mesures visant à empêcher la Liberia Petroleum

Refinery Company (LPRC) d'être à la fois gestionnaire et régulateur du secteur pétrolier », a déclaré Mamey.

Depuis plusieurs années, les réformes des entreprises publiques au Liberia visent à dissocier la supervision réglementaire des activités commerciales. Par exemple, la Liberia Telecommunications Authority régule tandis que LIBTELCO fournit les services ; la Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority (LPRA) supervise le secteur pétrolier, tandis que NOCAL gère les opérations commerciales ; et la Liberia Energy Regulatory



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 Ellen Johnson Sirleaf en larmes

que plusieurs figures éminentes de la société libérienne.

L'exhumation est réalisée par la société St. Moses Funeral Parlor, dirigée par son PDG, M. Moses H. Ahossoucheb. Cette initiative fait suite à l'annonce du président Joseph N. Boakai, lors de son récent discours sur l'état de la nation, de son intention d'organiser des funérailles officielles pour les anciens présidents Tolbert et Doe.

Avant même cette annonce, les familles des défunts avaient entamé des démarches pour obtenir les autorisations nécessaires à l'exhumation. Le Dr Richard V. Tolbert, neveu de l'ancien président, avait confirmé en avril 2024 que les familles, tant au Liberia qu'à l'étranger, collaboraient en vue de la construction d'un nouveau mausolée au Baptist Seminary. Ce projet vise à offrir aux victimes un lieu de repos plus

approprié.

Une opération encore incertaine

Dans une interview accordée à la presse, M. Ahossoucheb a précisé que les squelettes exhumés seront d'abord transportés au funérarium St. Moses pour être identifiés avant d'être réinhumés ensemble.

« Nous suivons les instructions des familles. Si nous retrouvons les ossements, nous pourrions les identifier et les regrouper. Mais si leur état ne le permet pas, cela signifiera qu'ils se sont décomposés avec le temps », a-t-il expliqué.

Mardi soir, à 18 heures, malgré l'excavation de la zone concernée, aucun reste humain n'avait encore été découvert. Les équipes ont annoncé leur intention de poursuivre les fouilles plus en profondeur.

Starts from page 8 Une loi dangereuse ? Un expert alerte

Agency (LERC) régule le secteur de l'énergie, tandis que la Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) assure l'exploitation commerciale.

Une duplication des compétences

Mamey souligne que la nouvelle loi empièterait sur au moins cinq fonctions clés de la Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), notamment l'application de la Convention internationale sur les marchandises dangereuses (IMDG), la mise en œuvre des conventions de l'Organisation maritime internationale (OMI), l'établissement de normes de formation maritime et l'application des réglementations sur l'assurance maritime. Cette redondance risque de créer une confusion aussi bien sur le plan national qu'international. « Les instances maritimes internationales auront du mal à déterminer quelle entité détient l'autorité ultime au Liberia », prévient-il.

Un fardeau financier et une hausse des coûts pour les usagers

Le projet de loi propose un mécanisme de financement qui pourrait aggraver le déficit budgétaire et alourdir les coûts pour les opérateurs portuaires et, en fin de compte, pour les consommateurs libériens. L'article 306 prévoit un financement de la nouvelle agence à travers des allocations budgétaires nationales, des frais supplémentaires pour les usagers des ports et une taxe obligatoire de 10 % sur les revenus des exploitants portuaires.

« Ce modèle fiscal augmentera le coût des importations et mettra davantage à mal l'économie libérienne, qui dépend fortement des importations. Pour les citoyens, cela se traduira par une hausse des prix des produits de base », explique Mamey dans sa note.

Une approche contraire aux pratiques régionales

Mamey souligne que la loi ne correspond pas aux standards en vigueur dans la majorité des pays africains. Il cite une analyse comparée de quatorze pays, dont le Nigéria, le Ghana, le Kenya, la Sierra Leone et le Sénégal, qui maintiennent les fonctions réglementaires au sein des autorités maritimes tout en laissant la gestion commerciale aux autorités portuaires. En Afrique du Sud, pays qui dispose d'une agence de régulation portuaire dédiée, la gestion commerciale et opérationnelle des ports reste sous la tutelle de Transnet National Port Authority, garantissant ainsi l'efficacité du système.

Selon Mamey, le “Port Reform Toolkit” de la Banque mondiale déconseille une réglementation excessive et préconise un système de supervision indépendant pour encourager la concurrence et éviter les lourdeurs administratives susceptibles de freiner l'innovation et d'entraver l'efficacité du commerce portuaire.

Un appel à revoir les priorités

Dans sa note, Mamey exhorte le législateur à éviter la création d'institutions inutiles et à concentrer ses efforts sur le renforcement des structures existantes afin d'éviter la duplication des fonctions et l'augmentation des charges financières.

« Les réformes doivent viser l'efficacité, et non l'ajout de couches bureaucratiques inutiles, en contradiction avec les principes de bonne gouvernance », affirme-t-il. Il recommande notamment de moderniser la gouvernance de l'Autorité nationale des ports (NPA) et d'accélérer la mise en œuvre de l'initiative du guichet unique, qui permettrait de simplifier et d'accélérer les transactions portuaires tout en réduisant les coûts pour les usagers.

Environ 260 responsables exclus de la fonction publique

Le Directeur général de l'Agence de la Fonction publique (CSA), Josiah F. Joekai, annonce la suspension immédiate de 216 fonctionnaires de la liste de paie pour le mois de février 2025.

Cette décision fait suite à l'instruction du Président Boakai, donnée le 12 février 2025, ordonnant la suspension de plus de 457 responsables n'ayant pas déclaré leur patrimoine.

Parmi les fonctionnaires concernés, deux appartiennent au ministère des Affaires présidentielles, 198 au ministère de l'Administration territoriale et trois au ministère des Affaires étrangères. D'autres responsables issus d'organismes tels que la Commission de la Gouvernance, la Commission des marchés publics et concessions (PPCC), l'Autorité foncière du Liberia, le ministère de la Justice, l'Agence de lutte contre la drogue du Liberia et le ministère de la Défense nationale sont également touchés par cette mesure.

S'exprimant jeudi lors d'une conférence de presse au ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme, le Directeur général Joekai a précisé que cette initiative vise à garantir le respect des lois sur la déclaration des biens. Il a souligné que tout fonctionnaire concerné ne percevra pas son salaire de février tant qu'il ne se sera pas conformé aux exigences légales.

M. Joekai a exhorté tous les responsables concernés à déclarer leur patrimoine auprès de la Commission libérienne de lutte contre la corruption et à obtenir une attestation de conformité du ministre d'État aux Affaires présidentielles. « Une fois ces démarches accomplies, les fonctionnaires seront réintégrés sur la liste de paie du gouvernement », a-t-il précisé.

Par ailleurs, il a révélé que la suspension de ces 216 fonctionnaires a permis d'économiser environ 104 000,73 dollars américains. « Ce montant sera transféré sur un compte dédié », a-t-il ajouté, précisant



que l'agence travaille en étroite collaboration avec le Bureau des entreprises d'État pour évaluer les économies totales générées par cette mesure.

Selon lui, une somme initiale de 14 000,73 dollars américains a déjà été déposée sur ce compte spécial, et des mises à jour supplémentaires seront communiquées une fois que le processus sera entièrement achevé.

En conclusion, le Directeur général Joekai a assuré qu'un rapport détaillé sera soumis au Président Boakai, qui déterminera l'affectation des fonds économisés.

Le ministre de l'Information annonce d'importants projets d'infrastructure

Le gouvernement libérien a obtenu une subvention de 80 millions de dollars de la Banque mondiale pour réhabiliter les routes à Paynesville, Sinkor et dans le centre de Monrovia.



Le ministre de l'Information, Jerolinmek Piah, a fait cette annonce le 18 février lors du point de presse régulier du ministère de l'Information, de la Culture et du Tourisme (MICAT).

L'initiative vise à améliorer la mobilité urbaine en résolvant les problèmes liés à la détérioration des routes, notamment les nids-de-poule profonds et l'absence de systèmes de drainage adéquats, qui compliquent les déplacements des habitants et des entreprises.

Selon le ministre Piah,

le projet de résilience urbaine se déroulera en deux phases :

Phase 1 : Réhabilitation des routes de Paynesville, en particulier celles situées sur le boulevard SKD et à l'Académie de Police.

Phase 2 : Extension des travaux de réhabilitation à l'ensemble de Sinkor et au centre de Monrovia.

Piah a assuré au public que les travaux débiteront dans deux semaines et devraient être achevés d'ici mai 2025. “Un élément clé du projet sera l'installation de systèmes de drainage efficaces pour éviter les inondations, qui sont une cause majeure de la dégradation rapide des routes à Monrovia”, a-t-il déclaré.

En plus de ces nouveaux projets, le gouvernement poursuit les travaux routiers en cours à Johnsonville,

Mount Barclay et Freeport, où certaines sections sont déjà achevées à 90 %.

Le ministre Piah a également souligné l'engagement du gouvernement à finaliser les projets routiers laissés en suspens par les précédentes administrations, avec l'objectif de terminer entre 35 et 45 % de ces travaux d'ici la fin de l'année.

Une subvention supplémentaire du Japon

Dans un développement connexe, le ministre Piah a annoncé que le Liberia a obtenu une subvention de 18 millions de dollars du gouvernement japonais pour soutenir davantage la construction de routes.

La signature officielle des accords d'échange et de la convention de subvention est prévue pour le 12 mars à Monrovia. L'accord sera signé par le ministre libérien des Affaires étrangères et l'ambassadeur du Japon

au Liberia, basé à Accra, au Ghana.

Selon le ministre Piah, le projet routier financé par le Japon commencera en août 2025 et utilisera une structure composite pour améliorer la durabilité des routes. “La première couche sera en béton rigide, suivie d'un revêtement en asphalte, ce qui rendra la chaussée plus résistante à l'usure”, a-t-il expliqué.

Les travaux prioritaires se concentreront sur le corridor reliant Chocolate City à Freeport, en intégrant des systèmes de drainage pour éviter une détérioration rapide des routes.

“Le gouvernement ne se contente pas de faire des promesses, il agit concrètement. Les citoyens verront et ressentiront les effets de ces projets”, a déclaré le ministre Piah.

Amélioration des infrastructures d'eau et d'assainissement

OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENT: BBC World Service and British Council launch the International Audio Drama Competition 2026



Hon. Dr. Mrs.
AMELIA ANGELINE WARD

It's with deep sorrow, profound respect and honor, the WARD, HOOKE CRAWFORD and SAVEY families regret to announce the passing of our dear Mother, Sister, Aunt, Grandmother and Great-grand mother Hon. Dr. Mrs. AMELIA ANGELINE WARD; former Minister of Planning and Economics Affairs and Former Min. of Commerce and Industry.

She was a dedicated lifetime public servant, devoting over five decades of her life serving the State, Church, numerous Civic Society Organizations, local communities and families at home and abroad.

She transitioned peacefully at her Sinkor old road Gaye town residence on Monday, February 10, 2025, at the age of eighty two years (82). Sympathizers and well wishers can visit the families at her Old road Gaye town residence (near old IPA building) or call the following numbers for more information.

Contacts: 1.BEATRICE THOMSON (Daughter of the deceased) 0886557198 2. Selina A. Jallah (grand daughter). 3.Rev. Florence Beckley (Niece of the deceased)(0886196826) +23273865093 (WhatsApp) 4. Varla Hooke (Niece of the deceased).

The next family meeting will be held at her old road residence, near Old IPA Building on Sunday, February 23, 2025 at the precise hour of 3:00pm.
This announcement was brought in by the Bereaved Families.

Writers from around the world are invited to submit their scripts for the 29th International Audio Drama Competition (previously the International Playwriting Competition) which opens for entries on **19 February 2025**.

The global competition, hosted by BBC World Service and the British Council, offers the unique opportunity for writers to use the medium of audio drama to tell stories for an international audience.

We are looking for entries in the two categories: 'English as a First Language' and 'English as a Second Language'. Winners will receive a cash prize, be invited to attend an award ceremony in the UK in 2026, and to participate in the recording of their dramas for a world premiere on BBC World Service platforms. A Special Commendation will be made for the runner-up in honour of the BBC World Service journalist and writer Georgi Markov (1929-1978).

The last competition in 2023 attracted 677 entries from 94 countries, with regional winners coming from the USA, Lebanon, Nigeria and Australia.

The winner in the First Language category was *The Mighty Corbeau*, written by Julien Marvin Neaves from Trinidad and Tobago. It tells the story of an ageing calypso singer who decides to come out of retirement to prove, once and for all, that he is better than his rival of many years. In the Second Language category, Michaela Kwon from South Korea won with her bold and imaginative drama *Steady Eyes* about a family from Seoul dealing with a world in

cast and crew to a wonderful friendship with my co-winner, it was more than I could ever have imagined.

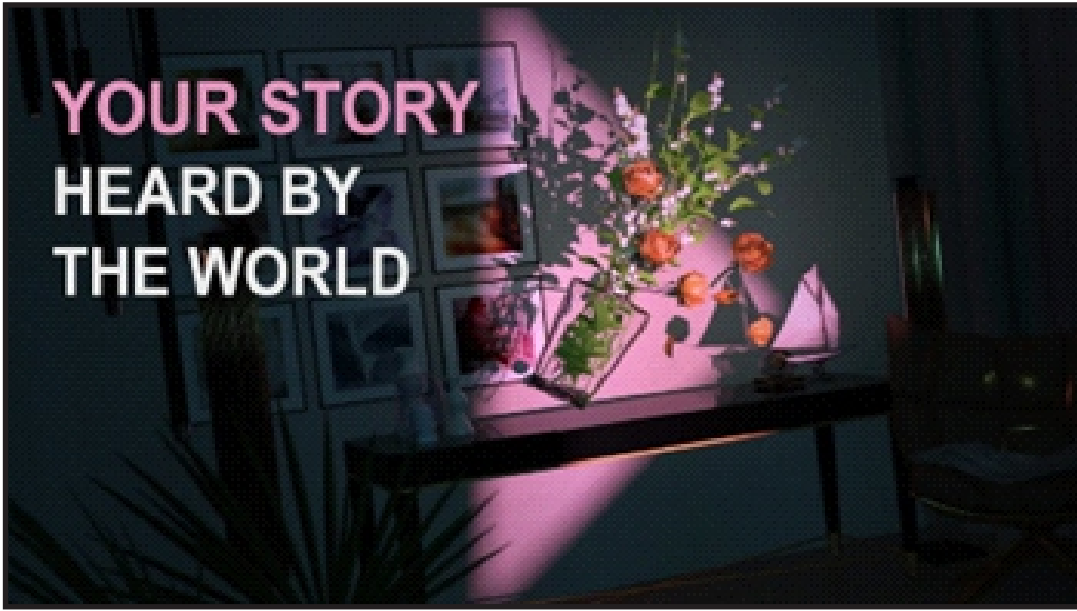
"As a writer, it has become a major milestone in my career and for that I will forever be grateful. Thanks again to the BBC and the British Council for this amazing, life-changing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Simon Pitts, Commissioning Editor BBC World Service English, says: "We are pleased to announce the 29th International Audio Drama Competition, which celebrates emerging talent and storytelling through the exciting medium of audio drama. The competition discovers and develops voices from all around the world, showcasing original stories that bring new perspectives to life.

"Once again, two winning writers will be developing their scripts and participating in the studio sessions together with the BBC drama team and a professional cast. Last year's winning entries *The Mighty Corbeau* and *Steady Eyes* were beloved by BBC World Service listeners, and we look forward to sharing more outstanding work on our global stage."

Neil Webb, Director Theatre and Dance, British Council, says: "At the British Council, we help talented people find new opportunities and collaborate internationally, thereby growing the UK and international creative sectors. We're excited to launch a fresh round of this inspiring competition, searching for writers who have stories to share and who are intrigued by the unique possibilities of audio drama."

"This is a significant opportunity for two



which a mysterious force starts abducting animals.

Nadya Todorova from Bulgaria won the Georgi Markov commendation with *Slamming Doors*, a funny and sharply observed relationship drama about the lies we tell and the secrets we keep.

Former winner Michaela Kwon, says: "The International Playwriting Competition provided me with not only the best platform any writer could dream of debuting through, but also an unforgettable week at Broadcasting House, during which I learnt so much and made lifelong friends. I am ever so grateful for the opportunity and will always be proud to be a part of it."

Former winner Julien Marvin Neaves, says: "Amazing. Life changing. Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. These may all sound like hyperbole, but that was my experience as a winner of the BBC and British Council International Radio Playwriting Competition. From touring the culture-rich city of London to seeing *The Mighty Corbeau* come to the life with an excellent

writers to work with the BBC to bring their plays to production and find a global audience. Last year's winning entries brought us thoughtful, humorous voices from South Korea and Trinidad and Tobago, and I can't wait to see (or hear) what writers around the world are thinking and dreaming about at this moment in time."

The shortlisted scripts and judging panel will be announced in due course. Previous judges have included Kwame Kwei Armah, Dame Eileen Atkins, Doris Lessing, Roy Williams, Patricia Cumper and Nina Sosanya.

The International Audio Drama Competition welcomes scripts from anyone outside the UK, whether established or new writers. The dramas need to be between 40-50 minutes long and can be on any subject. The closing date for entries is 11.00 GMT on Wednesday 4 June 2025. Further details on the competition can be found at bbcworldservice.com/dramacompetition, where you'll find full terms and our privacy notice.

Red flag hangs over HPX dealSupreme Court rules in favor of DSTV

The control and management of Liberia's rail infrastructure are critical issues that require careful consideration and strategic planning, that includes balancing foreign investments with national interests.

MONROVIA, Liberia, February 20, 2025—A high-stakes battle over Liberia's strategic railway infrastructure has exposed deep concerns over corporate influence, corruption, and foreign interests attempting to manipulate the government.

High Power Exploration (HPX), backed by Canadian billionaire Robert Friedland, has been aggressively lobbying the Liberian government for access to the Yekepa-Buchanan railway. This railway, originally destroyed during Liberia's civil war, was rehabilitated with nearly \$800 million in investment from ArcelorMittal. It serves as a critical transport corridor for the company, Liberia's largest private employer and biggest contributor to government revenue.

Despite this, HPX and its local ally, Ivanhoe Atlantic, are said to be using various backdoor channels to pressure the Liberian government into granting them some control of the railway. Their efforts have sparked fierce opposition from industry stakeholders and reignited concerns about undue foreign influence over Liberia's mining and infrastructure sectors.

Over the past several weeks, the Liberian government is said to have come under mounting pressure, with HPX issuing veiled threats to gain access to the railway or face attrition. This aggressive lobbying comes despite HPX and Ivanhoe Atlantic initially proposing a \$5 billion “Liberty Corridor” project, which was supposed to include the construction of a new rail line. Critics argue that HPX's shift toward demanding access to existing infrastructure undermines efforts to establish an equitable railway policy that allows multiple users.

HPX is said to have leveraged political connections and financial incentives to push its agenda. In a particularly controversial move, HPX secretly paid \$35 million to the administration of former President George Weah under a framework agreement that was never ratified by the Liberian legislature. Many observers view this payment as a blatant act of business corruption, designed to sway government decisions in HPX's favor.

But more so, at the heart of the HPX deal is Robert Gumede, a South African businessman and CEO of Guma Group, a key partner in HPX. Gumede, who has faced multiple allegations of corruption in South Africa, has been linked to dubious contracts in Liberia as well. His involvement in the railway deal raises further questions about the integrity of the negotiation process.

In South Africa, Gumede has

been embroiled in a high-profile scandal involving the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to South Africa's Special Investigating Unit (SIU), Gumede orchestrated an overpriced contract worth nearly R600 million (approximately \$33.6 million) through Red Roses Africa, a company closely linked to him. The investigation found that Red Roses Africa dramatically inflated the price of essential goods—selling 25-liter containers of hand sanitizer to the South African Police at a 370% markup, generating nearly R400 million (\$22.4 million) in excessive profits. South African authorities have since sought to recover millions in what they describe as unlawful gains from the deal.

Gumede has denied any wrongdoing, but the scandal has tarnished his reputation and led to widespread calls for greater scrutiny of his business dealings. His expansion into Liberia, particularly his role in securing contracts with the government, has drawn the attention of anti-corruption advocates in the country.

Gumede's business dealings in Liberia extend beyond the railway dispute. Earlier in 2024, his name surfaced in a separate controversy involving the importation of 285 units of earth-moving equipment for road maintenance in Liberia.

The deal, which was announced by Minister of State without Portfolio Mamaka Bility, whom many have accused of feeding HPX with key business details from the office of the president, was allegedly conducted without proper procurement procedures, raising alarms within the Legislature.

Lawmakers and transparency advocates have raised concerns about the lack of legislative oversight and the potential for backdoor dealings.

The controversy surrounding Gumede's involvement in Liberia, especially his partnership with HPX, has drawn sharp criticism from legislators and civil society groups.

Senator Amara Konneh, Chair of the Senate's Public Accounts and Audit Committee, has called for a thorough review of the

government's engagement with foreign investors. In a social media post, Konneh questioned why the administration would enter into informal agreements with politically connected businessmen without proper due diligence.

John Morlu, a former Auditor General of Liberia, echoed these concerns, arguing that the government should acknowledge its missteps and subject such agreements to proper legislative scrutiny. "Government business cannot be conducted based on friendships and gentleman's agreements," Morlu said. "Transparency and accountability must be the guiding principles of Liberia's economic decisions."

Despite not having a legally ratified agreement with the Liberian government, HPX has continued to pursue strategic influence over Liberia's railway policy. In an August 23, 2024, communication, HPX's President and CEO, Bronwyn Barnes, proposed providing budgetary support for the formation of a National Rail Authority, an entity that would oversee the country's railway system.

"We are prepared to provide budgetary support to the Government of Liberia for the formation and initial operations of the National Rail Authority. This demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that the rail management system operates under the highest international industry standards and with full transparency," Barnes stated.

Analysts and government insiders believe this "budgetary support" is merely another form of financial inducement aimed at securing favorable terms for HPX. Critics point out that this commitment comes as HPX seeks to finalize its Access Agreement with the government, raising suspicions that the offer is a strategic attempt to circumvent established procurement laws.

The President and his government must firmly reject HPX's agenda, as it is a calculated attempt to derail ArcelorMittal's expansion—an initiative that promises thousands of new jobs, increased government revenue, and enhanced corporate social responsibility payments to host counties. HPX's track record in Liberia is one of manipulation

Consolidated Group Inc., owner of DSTV in Liberia wins a landmark case before the Supreme Court of Liberia against rivals Satcom Communication Services and K3 Telecommunications over violation of content rights here.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Monrovia, Liberia, February 20, 2025 - The Supreme Court of Liberia delivers a significant ruling here, in favor of Consolidated Group Inc., owner of DSTV in Liberia, against rivals Satcom Communication Services and K3 Telecommunications.

Consolidated Group had the legal capacity to initiate the action. The case has now been sent back to the Commercial Court for further proceedings, though the Supreme Court clarifies that the Commercial Court, sitting without a jury, will not be awarding damages. Instead, Consolidated Group is free to



The ruling, which was handed down on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, stems from an ongoing legal battle concerning unauthorized broadcasting of exclusive sports content.

The case began when Consolidated Group, led by General Manager Simeon Freeman, accused Satcom and K3 Telecom of violating content rights granted by MultiChoice Africa and SuperSports.

The content in question includes live broadcasts of high-profile football leagues such as the English Premier League and La Liga, which are exclusive to DSTV in Liberia. Consolidated Group claims it sustained substantial losses, totaling US\$5.1 million, due to infringement by the defendants.

In its judgment, the Supreme Court rules that Freeman, as the authorized representative of MultiChoice Africa, had standing to file the lawsuit. The Court also rules that Satcom knowingly violated the content rights of Consolidated Group's principal, MultiChoice Africa, by broadcasting content without proper authorization. As a result, Satcom has been prohibited from continuing such broadcasts in the future.

The High Court further determines that the trial court had made an error in dismissing the case, stating that

pursue its damages claim through appropriate legal channels.

In a decisive conclusion, the Supreme Court reverses the Commercial Court's initial ruling, directing that Satcom be barred from airing content owned by MultiChoice Africa, SuperSport, and BeIN Sports. Costs were awarded against Satcom Communication Services.

This ruling underscores the importance of protecting intellectual property rights, particularly in the broadcasting and media sector. The dispute began in 2019 when Consolidated Group filed its complaint against Satcom, K3 Telecom, and the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), accusing them of illegally broadcasting exclusive sports content. The case highlights the legal complexities of content rights and broadcasting in Liberia and underscores the significance of adhering to agreements that protect intellectual property.

As this case unfolds, stakeholders in the media and telecommunications industries will be closely watching its implications for future content rights enforcement both here and in the region. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

and obstruction, not investment. The administration must recall the massive propaganda campaign orchestrated by HPX and its allies in 2021, which led to the rejection of ArcelorMittal's amended Mineral Development Agreement based on baseless accusations. That disinformation campaign cost Liberia billions in potential revenue and economic benefits. Now, history is repeating itself, with HPX and its subsidiary, Ivanhoe Atlantic, pushing for control of infrastructure they have made no financial commitment to develop. Unlike ArcelorMittal, which has heavily invested in

rehabilitating the Yekepa-Buchanan railway, HPX and Ivanhoe Atlantic have no actual projects or assets in Liberia—their sole interest is to extract resources from Guinea while using Liberia as a transit point. However, Guinean authorities have reportedly stated that they will not permit their ore to be transported through Liberia, making HPX's entire proposal questionable and unfeasible. The government must recognize this for what it is—an attempt to sabotage a legitimate investor while advancing an agenda that offers Liberia nothing in return.

Meanwhile, the company assures the public that as the relevant Government Authority of Liberia conducts its investigation, they are fully cooperating to ensure a transparent and thorough process. “We remain committed to learning from this incident and reinforcing our safety protocols where necessary”, the release concludes. Press Release



"Our employees are the heart of our operations, and their safety is our top priority. This loss is deeply painful for all of us", says