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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025	L\$197.4247/US\$1.00	L\$199.1865/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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P11

Tweah

Cllr. Nyenati Tuan

Jefferson Karmoh

Tweah, others plea immunity

What's inside AML's New Deal for Liberia



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Continental News

Kenyan police officer killed confronting gang members in Haiti

A Kenyan police officer who was on patrol with the international security force in Haiti has been

Constable Kitwai had been injured in Artibonite, a region north of the capital. Gen Otunge said the officer had

Police Service added that the MSS was working "tirelessly" in collaboration with Haiti's police force to restore peace and stability in the Caribbean country.

The MSS was boosted earlier this month by the arrival of an additional 200 Kenyan police officers, but the force is outgunned and outmaneuvered by the gangs, which continue to arm themselves with powerful weapons illegally smuggled from the US.

The future of the multinational force - which also has officers from Bahamas, Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and Jamaica among its ranks - was thrown into doubt some weeks ago when the Trump administration ordered a freeze on foreign aid programmes.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio later approved a waiver for US funds destined for the MSS and Haiti's National Police, but it is not yet clear whether the US government supports turning the MSS into a UN peacekeeping operation, which would make its funding more secure.

On Monday, the US Ambassador to Kenya, Marc Dillard, expressed condolences to the family of the killed officer, saying that "the United States is grateful for the courageous Kenyan police who are serving in harm's way to keep our world safer". With additional reporting by Ashley Lime in Nairobi.BBC

US star John Legend defends playing Rwanda concert during war

American singer-songwriter John Legend has told the BBC he is unfazed by a public backlash against his decision to perform in Rwanda, despite the country's involvement in the war in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

"I don't believe that we should punish the people of Rwanda and punish the people of other countries when we disagree with their leaders," he said after last week's concert in Kigali.

In recent weeks, M23 rebels, backed by Rwanda, have seized the two largest cities in the mineral-rich east of the DR Congo. There is evidence Rwanda has sent 4,000 troops across the border to support the rebels. Hundreds of thousands of civilians are now destitute having fled their homes, and

international stars on so-called world tours. "I'm aware of what's happening [in DR Congo] and I'm aware of the calls there have been for me to not do this show, but I really believe that the mission of Move Afrika is still important," he told the BBC.

Delighted fans at the sold-out show agreed, but the social media backlash was ferocious enough to force Legend to delete an Instagram post he had made promoting the event.

Belgium-based activist Denise Zanesa had argued that "performing under the banner" of Rwanda "would be akin to collaborating with oppression itself", in a message posted to X (formerly Twitter).

It was a sentiment echoed by others, including Simone Umba in the US, who wrote in a TikTok video caption: "So are we ready to talk about Rwanda's use of Black American culture in their soft campaigning to normalise their



Kenyan police officers arrived in Haiti in June to bolster Haiti's National Police

killed in a confrontation with gang members.

The officer, 26-year-old Police Constable Samuel Kitwai, is the first casualty suffered by the Kenyan-led Multinational Security Support mission (MSS). The force was sent to Haiti in June last year to help restore order to the country, where gangs have seized control of almost the entire capital, Port-au-Prince, as well as large swathes of rural areas.

More than 5,500 people were killed in gang-related violence in Haiti in 2024 and more than a million people have fled their homes. The commander of the multinational force, Gen Godfrey Otunge, said

been immediately airlifted to hospital, where he died a short while later. His family has been notified.

Jack Ombaka, the spokesman for the MSS, said in a statement sent to Reuters news agency that Constable Kitwai was a "fallen hero" who "was killed while fighting for the people of Haiti", while Kenya's foreign ministry said it was "heartbroken by the loss" of the officer.

Mr Ombaka said the officer had been shot by a gang member during a security operation in the town of Pont-Sondé. He added that the multinational force would "pursue these gangs to the last man standing".

A spokesman for Kenya's National

Sudan army ends two-year siege of key city

The Sudanese army says it has broken a near two-year siege imposed by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on the key southern state capital of el-Obeid.

The breakthrough came hours after the RSF signed a political charter in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, to establish a breakaway government in areas under its control.

The RSF and the army have been in a vicious battle for power since April 2023, with tens of thousands of people killed and millions forced from their homes.

The war has split the country, with the army controlling the north and the east while the RSF holds most of the Darfur region in the west and parts of the south.

El-Obeid, the capital of North Kordofan state, is a strategic hub connecting the capital, Khartoum, to Darfur. This is the latest army advance in recent weeks following the recapture

of several parts of Khartoum from the RSF. There was jubilation on the streets as Sudanese soldiers marched into the city.

A military spokesman, Nabil Abdallah, confirmed the gains in a statement, saying army forces had destroyed RSF units.

Finance Minister Jibril Ibrahim said the move was a "massive step" in lifting the RSF siege of el-Fasher, the capital of North Darfur province, and would also allow the delivery of

humanitarian aid to Kordofan. Sudanese civil society activist Dalia Abdlemoniem told the BBC Newsday programme that the recapture of the city "was huge" and "significant". She said the RSF had "held the civilians captive for nearly two years" in the city.

The situation there was "horrific", she said, adding that there had been no medical or food aid in an area considered "to be very risky in terms of famine and malnutrition". She said she hoped more aid would now be allowed in.



The Sudanese army has been making major advances in recent weeks



'We shouldn't punish people when we disagree with their leaders', he told the BBC

shocking violence, including the rape of children, has skyrocketed.

Critics argue that Legend could have made a powerful statement by pulling out of the concert, especially given his highly respected "EGOT" status as someone who has won Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony awards.

Fellow Grammy-winner Tems did pull out of a concert she was due to give on Saturday in Rwanda, saying she would "never, ever intend to be insensitive to real-world issues". But Legend defended his decision to headline the Move Afrika event in Kigali, which was run by the Global Citizen NGO and attracted thousands of fans from across the continent.

He said he was not being paid for the performance but felt it was his duty to help "grow touring capabilities" on the African continent, which is often overlooked by

terrorising of eastern Congo?" Taking a political stance would have been nothing new for the star.

Legend is outspoken in his criticism of US President Donald Trump. He also severed ties with former mentor Kanye West when he ran for president, suspecting it was part of a wider Trump campaign to "siphon" black people's votes away from the Democrats.

The debate over Rwanda's relationship with popular global figures is also not new.

Most recently, Rwanda has been accused of "sportswashing" - with critics saying it uses the feel-good factor of international football to cover up alleged human rights abuses at home.

The East African nation is said to receive \$1bn (£800m) a year in foreign aid and its tourism arm - Visit Rwanda - has lucrative sponsorship deals with Arsenal in England, Bayern Munich in Germany and Paris St-Germain in France.BBC

EDITORIAL

The Sethi incident: Government should share some blames too

It is hardly believable that a huge steel manufacturing company like Sethi Steel Factory would operate in Liberia without license and other requisite operational documents. Sethi also faces concerns over safety issues that its employees have protested against for time in memorial.

The glaring deficiencies came to public attention when an Oxygen explosion at the factory killed an employee on Monday, February 19, 2025, with reports of injuries, though the company says there was no injury besides the death of an employee, Saah Samukai.

Perhaps what is even more disappointing and disgusting about the incident is disclosure by the Environmental Protection Agency that Sethi that enjoys a monopoly on building materials such as steel, zinc, nails and others, has been operating in the country without license.

“This is a serious matter, because a Liberian’s life has been taken away, so my team of the EPA has come to observe and find out exactly how the accident took place.

And we have gathered in our preliminary findings a bit of safety concerns; there are several things: some are good and some are bad, and we must take the bad ones very seriously”, EPA Executive Director, Dr. Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo, told reporters last week.

But how come that the EPA, under the watch of Dr. Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo did not know that Sethi Steel Factory has been operating in the country without license and safety gears for its workforce, most of whom are Liberians, who do the physical labor-intensive aspect of the job.

We are getting to know now that it took Dr. Yarkpawolo and the EPA more than a year since he took office in 2024 to visit Sethi Steel Factor which is less than an hour’s drive from central Monrovia to Japan Freeway in Gardersville to know that the company has been operating outside of Liberian law.

“The first thing, when we heard about the accident, our team came immediately and shut down the factory; another thing, we have observed Sethi Ferro has been operating without license, and we are going through the investigation for a stringent action”, he added.

The Government of Liberia has reportedly fined the company US\$5,000 and shut it down, for operating without license and standard safety policies. However, it took the death of a fellow Liberian to have Dr. Yarkpawolo and his team at the EPA do their job of proper monitoring and enforcement of required safety regulations.

We wonder how many companies out there across Liberia that are having their way, violating the laws of the country and endangering public lives, especially Liberians that work in those places just to earn a living at the expense of their lives.

We are hearing that the House of Representatives has summoned the Ministers of Labor, Commerce, Bureau of Concession, Environmental Protection Agency and Serthi Ferro Fabrik Steel Factory to appear before it this Tuesday, 25 February to address the oxygen explosion at the factory that led to the death of an employee.

Plenary took the decision last Thursday, 20 February based on a communication from Rep. Ivar K. Jones of Electoral District 2, Margibi County.

In his communication, Rep. Jones cites Article 8 of the 1986 Constitution, which guarantees just and humane working conditions for all citizens, stressing that the government must ensure that factories operating in Liberia adhere to strict safety standards.

"When people leave their homes in the morning to go to work, their families expect them to return safely. If safety measures are not enforced, and these investors continue to operate without regard for human life, then this is a concern for all of us", he emphasized.

However, it is glaring that both the Legislature and the Executive are paying lip-service when it comes to safety and enforcement of laws on the book, leaving the citizenry vulnerable. The two important branches of government are preoccupied with achieving their selfish desires at the detriment of the people they claim to serve.

COMMENTARY

By Jim O'Neill

The Global Economy Without America

LONDON - It is still early days in the second Trump administration, but one must already ask what it means to “Make America Great Again.”

After all, the country is already great, judging by all the most basic economic metrics. It accounts for between 15% and 26% of global GDP (depending on whether one uses the nominal figure or adjusts for purchasing power), and its economy is bigger than the rest of the G7 combined. Despite having a population one-quarter the size of China or India, the US dwarfs both economies (in nominal terms). The average American household’s income is far above that of any other country with more than 50 million people.

That said, the US has a dreadfully low domestic savings rate and exhibits extreme inequalities of income and wealth compared to its peers. Despite spending colossal sums on health care, it ranks below all other advanced economies in health outcomes, with some population cohorts even suffering declining life expectancy. Most economists would say that if America is to be made greater, it needs to improve its fiscal position, unlock higher social returns from its huge expenditures on health, and achieve more inclusive growth, with broadly rising incomes, especially for those at the bottom of the distribution.

Given its size and systemic importance, developments in the US economy tend to have implications for the rest of the world, too. Over the past few decades, everyone else in the global economy has taken for granted three key features of the US system: its huge defense spending (which reinforced its alliances and gave it power over adversaries); its central position in the postwar rules-based global system of governance; and, somewhat less discussed, its colossal consumer demand.

At the end of 2024, personal consumption expenditures accounted for 68% of US GDP. That is a very high level for any economy at any point in time, and in the US case, it has persisted for many years. The US share of global consumption of goods is significantly greater even than the US economy’s already large share of global GDP. And because there is a strong relationship between US

consumption and US imports, the rest of the world - friends and foes, and providers of essentials (like energy) and luxury goods alike -has come to rely on this aspect of the US economy.

By constantly threatening higher tariffs against America’s largest trading partners, President Donald Trump and his advisers seem unfazed by the fact that reducing overall imports into the US will almost certainly harm the US consumer, either through higher prices or by forcing the US to increase its savings rate as the rest of the world turns its attention elsewhere.

Could this happen? Although the US accounts for 15-26% of global GDP, the rest of the world economy is still 3-5.5 times larger. So, it is easy to imagine a scenario in which other countries decide that they no longer want to rely so much on the US consumer. Why not diversify?

Consider the BRICS, which has been expanding its original composition (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) to incorporate new members and “partner countries.” What if these countries suddenly decided to do more than hold symbolic annual summits? Instead of dictating the terms for projects in countries participating in its Belt and Road Initiative, China could start offering them low- or zero-tariff trade and investment. Together with India - whose population is four times larger than America’s - it could create the conditions for an explosion in global trade that excludes the US.

Similarly, one can imagine a new, more outward-looking German government finally realizing that its self-imposed “debt brake” has been holding it back. Like the relatively new Labour government in the United Kingdom, it could adopt a policy of not only permitting but encouraging more borrowing for domestic infrastructure and defense spending. And why not revisit those perennial French proposals to develop a European bond market, or finally get serious about extending the European single market to all goods and services?

If MAGA ultimately helps everyone break their dependency on the US consumer, the rest of the world will have much to thank Trump for. The only losers will be ordinary Americans.

OP-ED

By Masatsugu Asakawa

Meltdown at the Top of the World

MANILA - The United Nations has declared 2025 to be the International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation, making it a fitting moment to confront the stark reality that the world’s ice sheets are melting. Climate change is accelerating this trend, particularly in the Hindu Kush Himalayas - a region known as the Earth’s Third Pole because it contains the largest volume of ice outside of the Arctic and Antarctica.

This mountain range, which stretches across 3,500 kilometers and spans eight countries, from Afghanistan to Myanmar, is warming roughly three times faster than the global average. If temperatures rise by 3° Celsius above pre-industrial levels by the end of this century, up to 75% of the region’s glaciers will melt, reducing water availability, undermining food and energy security, and exacerbating biodiversity loss.

Glacial melt thus threatens irreversible damage to nearby communities and local economies. But it would also fuel instability around the globe by increasing migration, disrupting trade, and causing food prices to rise.

The 2021 flood disaster in Nepal’s Melamchi River offers a glimpse of what is to come. Unusually heavy monsoon rains, coupled with excessive snowmelt, triggered a debris flow that wiped out thousands of hectares of agricultural land and destroyed critical infrastructure, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without access to water.

As the glaciers retreat, there will be too little water - a problem that is projected to afflict the Hindu Kush Himalayas by 2050. Dwindling river flows would make it more difficult to irrigate crops in an area that produces around one-third of the world’s rice and one-quarter of its wheat. Water-supply and sanitation systems will become difficult to maintain, adding to the one billion people who already lack access to basic sanitation in the region. Food insecurity will almost surely worsen as well, while communities and even entire industries will likely need to migrate in search of fresh water. Asia’s poorest and most vulnerable populations will be hit the hardest.

The world must take urgent action to avert the disastrous effects of accelerating glacial melt in this region. That means deepening our knowledge by investing in multi-hazard risk assessment, because the extent of the damage will largely depend on whether global temperatures rise by 1.5°, 1.8°, 2°, or 3°C. We must also strengthen integrated river-basin management by enhancing data collection, facilitating knowledge sharing, optimizing water management, and coordinating among people and communities living upstream and downstream.

Ensuring that new and existing infrastructure is climate-resilient is essential for maintaining access to safe drinking water and energy security, as well as sanitation, irrigation, and transport systems. It is equally important to protect ecosystems and promote nature-based solutions such as afforestation, reforestation, wetland preservation, and flood-plain restoration.

Every component of this strategy requires more financing. Development institutions must continue to scale up investment in the Hindu Kush Himalayas, and to work together to recast this glacial region and its river basins as a global public good, especially given their importance for agricultural and industrial activities.

Lastly, the international community must advance the equitable use of shared glacial resources through cooperation and diplomacy. This would help defuse potential tensions and promote sustainable development, ensuring that the region’s glaciers serve as a force for peace rather than conflict.

The Asian Development Bank (of which I am president) has taken steps to meet some of these goals. Together with the Green Climate Fund and country partners, ADB recently launched the Glaciers to Farms program, which will mobilize \$3.5 billion to strengthen climate resilience in agriculture in Central and West Asia. Meanwhile, its Building Adaptation and Resilience in the Hindu Kush Himalayas-Bhutan and Nepal initiative is helping plan and design climate-resilient infrastructure and services. And ADB is also piloting new financing instruments, such as eco-compensation mechanisms, carbon markets and water trading, and sustainability-linked bonds.

When UNESCO and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) launched the International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation last month, WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo said that it should serve as “a wake-up call to the world.” The global community must do everything in its power - from building climate resilience to accelerating the green transition and promoting regional cooperation - to ensure a sustainable future for the billions of people who depend on glaciers and their related ecosystems. Failure to act now would have catastrophic consequences for us all.

OPINION

By Mariana Mazzucato

Resisting Digital Feudalism

LONDON – This month’s AI Action Summit in Paris comes at a critical juncture in the development of artificial intelligence. At issue is not whether Europe can compete with China and the United States in an AI arms race; it is whether Europeans can pioneer a different approach that puts public value at the center of technological development and governance. The task is to move away from [digital feudalism](#), the term I coined back in 2019 to describe the dominant digital platforms’ model of [rent extraction](#).

AI is not just another sector. It is a general-purpose technology that will shape all sectors of the economy. That means it could either create tremendous value or cause serious harm. Though many commentators talk about AI as if it was a neutral technology, this understates its fundamental economic power. Even if AI was free to build, it would need to be powered and deployed, which requires access to the gatekeeper’s cloud computing platforms – such as Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud.

This dependency makes steering the technology’s development toward the common good more urgent than ever. The real question isn’t whether to regulate AI, but how to shape markets for AI innovation. Rather than regulating or taxing the sector only after the fact, we must create a decentralized innovation ecosystem that [serves the public good](#).

The history of technological innovation shows what is at stake. As I argued in my book [The Entrepreneurial State](#), many of the technologies that we use every day came about as a result of collective public investment. What would Google be without the DARPA-funded internet? What would Uber be without US Navy-funded GPS? What would Apple be without CIA-funded touchscreen technology and DARPA-funded Siri?

The companies that have profited from these public investments – while often dodging their tax contributions – are now using their excessive rents to drain talent from the very public institutions that made their success possible. This parasitism is best epitomized by Elon Musk’s “Department of Government Efficiency” (DOGE), which advocates cutting the government funding programs that allowed for Tesla to benefit from [\\$4.9 billion](#) in government subsidies.

A lack of state capacity will make regulating new technologies [in the public interest](#) increasingly difficult. The state has already been depleted of expertise, owing to higher private-sector wages and decades of outsourcing to private consultants (what [Rosie Collington](#) and I call [The Big Con](#)). What happens when most technical knowledge becomes concentrated in just five private companies? Instead of waiting to find out, we must step in now to regulate AI in a dynamic and adaptable way, while the AI technology stack and various mechanisms of monetization are still evolving. In a recent research project at the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, my colleagues and I took another look at digital feudalism and the need to differentiate between value creation and value extraction in AI – what we call “[algorithmic rents](#).” We show that platforms like Facebook and Google have evolved in ways that focus on “attention rents.” As users’ experience is manipulated to maximize profit, their feeds are crammed with ads and “recommended” addictive content in a process the Canadian journalist [Cory Doctorow](#) colorfully described as “enshittification.” Infinite scroll, nonstop notifications, and algorithms designed to maximize “engagement” by displaying harmful content and borderline-illegal activities have all become the norm. AI systems could follow the same extractive path and supercharge this rent-seeking behavior, such as by requiring payment for access to essential information, data privacy, online safety, freedom from advertising, or basic listings for one’s small business in global information searches. Because platforms currently hide their algorithms and attention-allocation mechanisms (the sources of their “[algorithmic attention rents](#)”), the key to regulating the sector, as in addressing climate change, is to force digital gatekeepers to disclose [how their algorithms are being used](#). This information should then be integrated into reporting standards for all digital platforms.

Similarly, AI developers like OpenAI and Anthropic hide, among other things, the sources of their training data; what guardrails they have placed on their models; how they enforce their terms of service; their products’ downstream harms (such as addictive use and underage access); and the extent to which their platforms are being used to monetize eyeballs around the world through targeted advertising. Moreover, AI’s large and growing [environmental impact](#) adds yet another layer of urgency to the challenge. Major AI companies’ emissions have surged, leading the International Energy Agency to [warn](#) that global “electricity consumption from data centers, AI, and the cryptocurrency sector could double by 2026.” Fortunately, recent developments suggest that alternative pathways are possible. DeepSeek, the Chinese AI company that sent many US tech stocks into a brief tailspin in late January, appears to have demonstrated that comparable performance can be achieved with significantly less computing power and energy consumption. Could more efficient approaches to AI development help break the stranglehold that major cloud computing companies have established through their control of vast computing resources? While it is too early to tell whether DeepSeek’s breakthrough will lead to a market restructuring, it does remind us that innovation at the software level remains both feasible and necessary for addressing AI’s environmental impact.

As UNESCO’s [Gabriela Ramos](#) and I have argued, AI can enhance our lives in many ways, from improving food production to bolstering resilience against natural disasters. European leaders from [Mario Draghi](#) to [Ursula von der Leyen](#) and [Christine Lagarde regard AI](#) as crucial for [reviving](#) European productivity. But unless they address the nature of digital feudalism, the extractive behavior that underpins AI model development, and the current lack of regulatory capacity in the public sector, any attempt to unleash more robust, sustainable growth will crash on the rocks of new and deeper inequalities. One potential path forward is “EuroStack,” an independent digital infrastructure initiative that includes cloud computing, advanced chips, AI, and data, all governed as public goods rather than through monopolistic enterprises. This isn’t about choosing between innovation and regulation, nor is it about managing technological development from the top down. It is about creating incentives and conditions to steer markets toward delivering the outcomes we want as a society. We must reclaim AI so that it provides public value, rather than becoming another rent-extracting machine. The Paris summit offers an opportunity to showcase this alternative vision.

Mariana Mazzucato is Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London and author, most recently, of [Mission Economy: A Moonshot Guide to Changing Capitalism](#) (Penguin Books, 2022).



OFFICE OF THE PROCUREMENT DIRECTOR

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NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY OF LIBERIA
GATEWAY TO LIBERIA’S ECONOMY

NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

TITLE: INSTALLATION OF AN ACCESS CONTROL, PERIMETER FENCING AND ADVANCED SECURITY SYSTEMS

RFP NO. NPA/QCBS/003/2025

DATE OF ISSUANCE: 25 February 2025

BACKGROUND

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

To strengthen the contribution of these ports to the national economy the, **INSTALLATION OF AN ACCESS CONTROL, PERIMETER FENCING AND ADVANCED SECURITY SYSTEMS for the National Port Authority of Liberia** is aimed to establish a modern and automated access control systems to ensure efficiency and effectiveness at the various port of entries within the freeport of Monrovia. This project seeks to address the growing demand for port services, improve operational efficiency and accountability. By aligning infrastructure development with best practices in port management, the project will position Liberia’s ports as competitive, resilient, and a responsible trade hub, supporting the nation's long-term socio-economic growth.

Purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP)

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

The National Port Authority now invites qualified consultancy firms, or consortia to submit proposals for the, **INSTALLATION OF AN ACCESS CONTROL, PERIMETER FENCING, ADVANCED SECURITY SYSTEMS at the National Port Authority**. The objective is to create a sustainable and efficient port operations that align with the economic sustainability goals.

All interested eligible firms or consortia may obtain copy of the **Request for Proposal (RFP) Document** from the Procurement Department of the National Port Authority, beginning February 25, 2025, Mondays through Fridays at 9:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M, when a non-refundable fee of **USD 51.50** is paid to NPA’s ECO Bank USD Account.

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

Submission and Opening of Proposals

Submission of the Proposal

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

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

The Executive Director for Procurement
The Procurement Department
National Port Authority
Bushrod Island

Email: info.procurement@npa.gov.lr
Contact number: +231886501319/770777242

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

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

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

- **A Financial Proposal**
- **All the supporting documentation** in relation to the evaluation criteria.
- Proposals must be submitted in **two separate Envelopes**.
- The Technical Proposal must be named **RFP NO. NPA/QCBS/003/2025-TECHNICAL Proposal**.
- The Financial Proposal must be named **RFP NO. NPA/QCBS/003/2025 -FINANCIAL Proposal**.
- All financial information must **ONLY** be included in the Financial Proposal. No Financial proposals, quotes or any other related financial information should appear in the Technical Proposal.
- Proposals which do not comply with these requirements, e.g. combining the financial and technical proposals in one submission or submitted in any way, other than outlined above, will be rejected.

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

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

Signed: _____
MANAGEMENT

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

State of Public Schools in rural Liberia

-The cry of kamara-Ta, Sanoyea District#7 only public school

At the time President Boakai is calling for a stricter oversight and regulation of universities to ensure quality education in the country, the only public elementary school in Kamara-Ta, Sanoyea District 7, Bong County, is in a deplorable condition, as students sit on the bare floor to write.

By: Edwin N. Khakie
Bong County, District #7- February 25, 2025/ The Youth President of the Town, Aloysious Joe told journalists touring the town



Only Public school in Kamara Town

that the only public elementary school in district is fast becoming a deplorable environment for learning. Mr. Joe said kids from the kindergarten division use mats to sit on due to shortage of armchairs. Other students in upper grades often stand to attend lectures. The school, which is located in a remote area of Bong County, has no proper desks or chairs for the students. The classrooms are overcrowded and lack basic

teaching materials such as textbooks, notebooks, and pencils.Mr. Joe stated that the lack of resources has been a major hindrance to the students' learning. He said that the students are often distracted by the uncomfortable seating arrangements and the lack of basic materials.The situation has also led to a decrease in enrolment, as many parents are reluctant to send their children to a school with such poor conditions. One parent, who has two children attending the school, expressed her concerns about the lack of basic facilities and

how it affects her children's education. In addition to the lack of resources, the school also faces challenges with staffing. There are only two teachers for over 100 students, leading to large class sizes and limited individual attention for students.The situation has prompted elders of the area to call the Ministry of Education to intervene and address the issues facing the school. They have also urged non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to assist in improving the school's condition. The kids and youths in the town are in dire need of quality education; as such, MOE should urgently intervene in the provision of basic educational materials to create a conducive atmosphere for learning.They also added that the lack of qualified teachers is another impediment for students of the school, adding that some of the students walk over 45 minutes to get to the school but sometimes there is no teacher because most of the teachers are not on government payroll. Joe disclosed that the employment of teachers is essential to the growth and development of the school, and at the same time, underscored the importance of a well-working facility will help to curtail some of the difficulties students are going through on campus. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

GVL rehabilitates roads in Sinoe and Grand Kru counties

Sinoe County, Liberia, February 21, 2025 - The Management of Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) begins major road repair works in Sinoe and Grand Kru counties, where it operates palm plantations. According to a press release, the maintenance of roads aims to ease movement of people and goods in both counties and several other areas that have struggled over bad roads caused by heavy rain. Besides helping to fulfil its commitment to promote development and improve accessibility for Liberians in the southeast, the move will also help the company recover from losses incurred due to logistical difficulties during the rainy season. Despite several interventions made by the company to ensure roads in Grand Kru and Sinoe remain pliable, road damage posed a major challenge during the rainy season. Poor inland transportation disrupts fuel supply, resulting in

higher logistics costs and inability to operate efficiently. Last year, GVL suffered significant losses due to bad road conditions caused by heavy downpour. The rehabilitation of major roads linking its farm sites to the mill in Tarjuowon and bulking facilities in Greenville is part of GVL's plans to reduce such losses this year. This includes ongoing efforts to reduce operational costs.

The rehabilitation works will boost the company's operational productivity while bringing relief to commuters from Sinoe, Grand Kru and Maryland Counties who have endured challenges caused by poor road conditions, especially during the rainy season. GVL remains committed to improving the well-being of its host communities and employees. Press Release



Citizens blame Sen. Moye for abandoned Townhall project

-But he declines ownership

By: Edwin N Khakie
Bong County-February 25, 2025/ Bong County Senator Prince K. Moye seems to be in hot water with residents of the Duncan Village Community. This is because his town hall project is now a criminal hideout which is hampering free movement of peaceful residents in the community. The residents said Sen. Moye allegedly abandoned this town hall project in the area during his years as Representative for District #2. According to them, Moye who served Bong County as representative for two terms before ascending to the Senate initiated the abandoned Town Hall project in early 2016, with the motive of helping to train women in soap making, tie-dying among others. But, in an interview with a team of Journalist on February 24, 2025, in the Duncan Village Community, the Chairlady, Esther V. Sumo, sadly narrated that the inability of the Bong

dan but a death trap in the community. The Duncan Village Community Chairlady further alleged that the worst case is their only hand pump that was serving the community was completely damaged by Sen. Moye's contractors who were hired to construct the town hall project. She said due to the lawmaker's inability to make available the pumps, residents of the community are now fetching water in bushes which is unsafe; something she narrated is causing serious health hazards in the community among children and adults. However, when contacted, the head of the contractors that were hired to carry out the Project by the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE), Ansu Saysay, said his construction firm (Saysay Brother Construction Firm) was hired to do the project for US\$ 115,000. Mr. Saysay said he was able to



County lawmaker to complete the town hall is a clear manifestation that they have been abandoned by their lawmaker whom they stood in the rain and sun to elect in 2011 and 2017 as well as in the 2020 special senatorial elections in the county. The Duncan Village Community Chairlady who believes that their right to have access to equal opportunity has been denied, said over several years she has been seeking a timely solution to these problems that continue to confront residents on a daily basis. She said due to the inability or failure of Sen. Moye to complete the project, she has also advised her people not to allow their children to play around the abandoned town hall project, on grounds that it has not only become a criminal

take the project from the foundation level to the roof level; something he said he received US\$19, 500 for and added that since then, LACE has not been able to pay his balance money, this has led to the project being abandoned.t. When Senator Prince K. Moye was contacted, he said the project is a LACE project that started during the tenure of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf based on the community request noting, "It was through me but since the Weah government came in, LACE has failed to finish it. I have engaged LACE since 2018, but everything is like the same with other projects that the Weah government has promised and hasn't done. My personal town hall projects are all completed, namely Gbartala, Old Iron Gate Community, Gwunemah etc."

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Sen. Joseph questions time lines of bill to make ports autonomous

Montserrado County Senator, Saah Joseph, cautions against hasty decision on making ports autonomous.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Weala, Liberia, February 25, 2025 - Montserrado County Senator, Saah Joseph, raises concerns about the proposed port autonomy bill,

operations and services in Liberia. It will also facilitate a safer, orderly, and transparent development of port facilities, services and other purposes. But Senator Joseph shared his

revenue streams to operate independently.

His concern appears to be that granting autonomy to such ports at this stage might be premature, as they may lack the necessary financial and logistical capacity to sustain themselves without external support. His comment suggests a preference for a more gradual approach, ensuring that new ports develop sufficient economic activity before being expected to stand on their own. The National Port Authority (NPA) also opposes legislation that would make ports under its control autonomous, suggesting concerns about the feasibility and impact of such a move. However, the bill is consistent with the decentralization strategy of Government, which includes but is not limited to decentralization of the Management and operation of the four seaports that had been managed by the National Port Authority, including the Freeport of Monrovia, Port of Buchanan, Port of Greenville, and the Port of Harper, respectively.

The Senate made the decision following a recommendation by the Joint Committee on Public Corporation and Judiciary, Human Rights, Claims, and Petitions. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Sen. Saah Joseph

particularly regarding its timeliness. In November, 2024, the Liberian Senate controversially passed into law a bill seeking to create the Liberia Sea Port Regulatory Authority and Liberia Sea Port Decentralization, thereby granting ports across the country autonomy. The bill, when concurred by the House of Representatives, will provide for regulation and sustainable development of Seaports and Inland Ports’

thought here on Monday, 24 February regarding autonomy when he appeared on OK Morning Rush, describing the idea as "good" but whether it is timely. "The idea is good, but is it timely? Do they have the capacity?" He questioned. He cites a distinction between established ports like Buchanan, which already benefit from concessions and economic activities, and newer port such as Harper Port, which may not yet have the infrastructure or

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could receive up to \$200 million per year. Liberia’s iron ore production is also projected to triple under the expansion, increasing from the current 5 million tons per annum (mtpa) to 15 mtpa of high-value concentrate. The agreement also lays the foundation for a future expansion to 30 mtpa, which would firmly establish Liberia as a major iron ore producer in West Africa. Community Development and Healthcare Support Government sources indicate that additional community benefits are being secured under the amended agreement. AML has already invested over \$48 million in community initiatives, including training programs in agriculture, cosmetology, literacy, and furniture-making.

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disclosure to procure an ambulance for the Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC), which is another significant step in improving emergency response services in the area. While it will primarily serve the Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) clinic, making it

What’s inside AML’s

The government is pushing for even more investment in direct community support, particularly in education and healthcare. Currently, AML operates two hospitals and two clinics in Buchanan and Yekepa, serving nearly 30,000 patients annually. More than 60% of these patients are from local communities. AML has also compensated farmers with over \$24 million for crop losses and resettlement due to mining operations. The government is now negotiating for additional compensation, increased funding for health services, and broader support for local schools. Final Push Before Ratification The NIC sources emphasized that the government is making a final push to maximize Liberia’s benefits before sending the deal to the legislature. “This

expansion is not just about mining,” one source stated. “It represents a transformative opportunity for economic growth, job creation, infrastructure development, and social progress.” As Liberia awaits the next steps, attention will turn to the legislature, which must ensure that the final agreement secures the best possible outcome for the country—avoiding the pitfalls of past negotiations and setting a new standard for responsible resource management. With this deal nearing completion, Liberia stands on the brink of a historic economic transformation that could redefine its mining sector and elevate the country’s standing in the global iron ore market.

Jeety to improve fire safety in Weala

available to the entire district ensures that more people have access to critical medical transport when needed. Jeety’s commitment to Liberia, despite being an "Indian by passport and a Liberian by heart" reflects a strong sense of belonging and

a dedication to improving lives of those around him. His promise to always be there for the community is powerful and could make a lasting impact on Weala’s growth and safety. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Zena Hill community residents lack safe-drinking water

-Water shortage puts residents in Paynesville at risk

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Weala, Liberia, February 25, 2025 - Struggle for safe-drinking water continues in Zena Hill, GSA Road Community, Paynesville, as residents allege contamination of the only water facility in the community, exposing them to water borne disease.

Besides fear of contamination, the water is also being sold to residents in an alarming situation.

“To get water here free, you must come early in the morning between 5 and 6 am; besides, even when you come soon, the que is long, and you will have to buy water”, explains Hawa Massaley, a resident.

According to her, the acute water shortage has constrained residents to pay 20 Liberian Dollars for a gallon of water. “Here we pay \$20 LD, sometimes, 25 for

The residents continue that they had engaged the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation, hoping for a solution, but so far, nothing has been done to address the scarcity.

Meanwhile, water from Yankee Fresh Water, the only source of water in the Zena Hill community is posing health threat to residents.

They say while it is true the water helps them, it also spreads diseases, because it is not properly treated.

They disclose that owner of the facility pumps the water directly from a well that is far from the main water station. From there, it travels through several pumps without any purification or treatment.

Eventually, the untreated water is stored in a poly tank and sold to the community for consumption.

One resident notes, “Yankee Fresh Water is the only source



gallon, just to get water for our homes. As for me, I pay 500 Liberian Dollars every two days to get five gallons of water”, another resident, Philip Sumo, adds. According to them, their struggle for safe-drinking water has continued for years, as those of them with the means purchase mineral water daily, while others that cannot afford to do so, go to fetch water daily from Yankee Fresh Water in the community.

“This Water issue, has stayed long and every day is the same issue; we have even contacted our Representative Samuel Enders; nothing he has done”, Korpo Mulbah says.

The troubling situation has led to some residents fetching water from nearby wells.

of getting water, but it’s spreading diseases transmitted through water.” Many others echo similar concerns, stressing that the water is unsafe and poses serious health risks to everyone who uses it.

The constant demand for water from this single facility further highlights the dire need for a better solution.

Zena Hill residents are calling on government, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and other relevant authorities to intervene and provide safe, purified drinking water to the community. The residents are seeking help, and hoping for action that will deliver clean water to their homes and improve their health and well-being. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Boakai déclare la guerre à la prolifération des universités de faible qualité

Le président libérien Joseph Nyuma Boakai a lancé un appel pressant en faveur d'un renforcement du contrôle et de la réglementation des établissements d'enseignement supérieur, afin de garantir la qualité de l'éducation dans le

comté de Margibi, le président Boakai a dénoncé la prolifération des universités non accréditées ou de faible qualité qui, selon lui, menace les normes académiques nationales. Un appel à l'action pour le secteur éducatif Le chef de l'État a averti que l'essor incontrôlé d'institutions

économique du pays. « La multiplication d'universités médiocres porte atteinte à notre avenir. Nos enfants méritent le meilleur enseignement possible, et il est de notre devoir de le leur offrir », a-t-il déclaré. Il a exhorté le ministère de l'Éducation et la Commission nationale de l'Enseignement supérieur à appliquer des normes d'accréditation plus strictes et à renforcer leur rôle de surveillance pour préserver la qualité des formations dispensées.

Un processus d'accréditation rigoureux Le président Boakai a insisté sur la nécessité d'un processus d'accréditation rigoureux pour toutes les institutions souhaitant obtenir le statut universitaire. Selon lui, ces procédures doivent reposer sur des critères clairs et transparents afin d'éviter l'ouverture d'établissements non conformes aux standards



pays. S'exprimant lors de la 3^e cérémonie de remise des diplômes de l'Université de Margibi, tenue le vendredi 22 février 2025 à Harbel City,

académiques insuffisamment encadrées risque de produire des diplômés mal préparés au marché du travail, compromettant ainsi le développement socio-

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Des inquiétudes autour de l'alliance entre Robert Gumedé et HPX-Ivanhoe Atlantic

Le partenariat entre Robert Gumedé, influent homme d'affaires sud-africain au passé controversé, et le groupe HPX—désormais rebaptisé Ivanhoe Atlantic—fait l'objet d'un examen minutieux, soulevant des préoccupations quant à l'impact potentiel sur l'environnement des affaires au Liberia.

Alors que des accusations de corruption institutionnelle et de capture de l'État pèsent sur Gumedé, des doutes surgissent quant aux conséquences à long terme de son implication dans l'ambitieux projet d'infrastructure ferroviaire "Liberty Corridor", censé relier la Guinée au Liberia.

Des accusations graves contre Robert Gumedé Lors d'un débat parlementaire en Afrique du Sud, le 10 février 2025, Emme Louise Powell, porte-parole du principal parti d'opposition, l'Alliance démocratique (DA), a porté de lourdes accusations contre Gumedé. Elle a établi un

lien troublant entre l'homme d'affaires et la mort de 14 soldats sud-africains dans l'est de la République démocratique du Congo, insinuant que ces pertes faisaient partie d'un stratagème plus vaste visant à protéger les intérêts financiers de l'African National Congress (ANC) et de ses riches mécènes, dont Gumedé lui-même.

« Les droits miniers et les intérêts politiques se croisent au cœur de ces tragédies. Notre nation doit en discuter ouvertement », a déclaré Powell devant le parlement.

Ce n'est pas la première fois que les pratiques commerciales de Gumedé sont mises en cause. Déjà en 2024, l'unité spéciale

d'enquête sud-africaine (SIU) l'avait identifié comme un acteur clé dans un scandale lié à un contrat de 600 millions de rands (environ 32,6 millions de dollars américains) pour la fourniture d'équipements de protection individuelle (EPI) pendant la pandémie de COVID-19. Selon la SIU, le groupe Guma, appartenant à Gumedé, aurait gonflé les coûts tout en violant les règles de passation de marchés.

De plus, un contrat informatique de 360 millions de rands (19,5 millions de

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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

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Boakai déclare la guerre à la prolifération

académiques internationaux.

« Nous devons rester fermes dans notre engagement à offrir une éducation de qualité qui prépare nos étudiants à diriger avec excellence », a-t-il affirmé. Investir dans l'avenir des étudiants

Au-delà du contrôle qualité, le président Boakai a souligné l'importance des formations techniques et du mentorat professionnel dans le parcours des jeunes. Il a encouragé l'Université de Margibi à continuer de recruter des enseignants et formateurs qualifiés et à renforcer ses infrastructures.

« Il est crucial que l'université améliore ses installations, modernise sa bibliothèque, intègre les technologies de l'information et développe des ressources pédagogiques adaptées pour offrir à ses étudiants les meilleures conditions d'apprentissage », a-t-il souligné.

Le président a également mis en lumière la nécessité pour les établissements d'enseignement supérieur de s'aligner sur les normes éducatives mondiales et d'anticiper les évolutions technologiques. « Nous devons préparer nos étudiants aux défis futurs tout en assurant la pérennité financière de nos institutions », a-t-il ajouté.

Il a lancé un appel à la coopération avec des

partenaires locaux et internationaux, citant des entreprises telles que Firestone et China Union, afin de soutenir le développement de l'Université de Margibi. « Nous vous accompagnerons pour que vous puissiez continuer à contribuer au développement éducatif et économique du Liberia », a-t-il assuré.

Une fierté nationale pour Margibi En saluant la troisième promotion diplômée de l'Université de Margibi - la première depuis que l'établissement a acquis le statut d'université - le président Boakai a félicité les étudiants pour leur persévérance et leurs réalisations.

« Votre diplôme n'est pas seulement un accomplissement personnel, c'est aussi un jalon dans l'évolution de cette institution et, plus largement, du système éducatif libérien. Le savoir et les compétences que vous avez acquis ici doivent désormais servir le bien commun », a-t-il déclaré.

S'adressant directement aux diplômés, il a ajouté : « Le monde dans lequel vous entrez est incertain et en pleine mutation, mais il regorge d'opportunités. Votre éducation vous place désormais en position de contribuer à un Liberia plus prospère et plus juste. Vous êtes désormais les fiers ambassadeurs de l'Université de Margibi.

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Des inquiétudes autour de l'alliance entre

dollars) attribué à son entreprise GijimaAST avait également été jugé irrégulier. Gumede avait déjà été impliqué en 2009 dans une affaire de corruption concernant un contrat de 600 millions de rands avec la société sud-africaine Telkom.

Des ambitions régionales sous haute surveillance

Malgré ces antécédents préoccupants, Gumede poursuit son expansion en Afrique de l'Ouest. En février 2024, son groupe Guma Africa s'est associé à HPX (devenu Ivanhoe Atlantic) pour mener à bien le projet "Liberty Corridor". L'objectif : construire une ligne ferroviaire stratégique reliant les mines guinéennes aux ports libériens.

Cependant, ce projet rencontre d'importants obstacles. Des sources indiquent que la Guinée a fermement rejeté l'idée d'exporter son minerai via le Liberia. Par ailleurs, des manœuvres douteuses impliquant certains responsables libériens auraient tenté de contourner ces blocages, suscitant l'opposition de parties prenantes clés.

Des rapports affirment également que des collaborateurs d'HPX auraient établi des liens étroits avec Mamaka Bility, ministre d'État sans portefeuille, pour exercer des pressions politiques et faire avancer ce projet malgré ses incertitudes. Estimé entre 3 et 5 milliards de dollars, "Liberty Corridor" espérait obtenir des financements du Fonds américain de lutte contre l'influence malveillante de la Chine. Toutefois, la commission des affaires étrangères du Sénat américain a rejeté cette demande, jugeant que le projet ne correspondait pas aux objectifs stratégiques du fonds.

Des risques majeurs pour le Liberia

Le maintien du partenariat entre HPX et

Gumede, malgré les enquêtes en cours en Afrique du Sud, soulève de sérieuses interrogations sur l'intégrité des processus de sélection de partenaires par HPX.

Pour le Liberia, le danger est double. D'une part, s'associer à un homme d'affaires éclaboussé par des scandales risque de ternir la réputation du pays auprès des investisseurs internationaux. D'autre part, les risques de corruption et de mauvaise gestion sont exacerbés dans un projet d'une telle envergure.

Le gouvernement libérien doit agir avec la plus grande prudence. Tout manquement à la transparence et à la rigueur pourrait non seulement détourner des fonds publics, mais aussi compromettre les intérêts nationaux au profit d'une poignée de privilégiés.

Les bailleurs de fonds et institutions financières internationales accordent une attention particulière à la gouvernance et à la conformité éthique. Une gestion douteuse du projet "Liberty Corridor" pourrait décourager les futurs investissements et isoler le Liberia sur la scène économique mondiale.

La nécessité d'une gouvernance exemplaire Si le gouvernement libérien souhaite attirer des investissements durables et responsables, il doit impérativement réévaluer ses relations avec Robert Gumede et HPX. Cela implique la mise en place de procédures de diligence rigoureuses et la sélection de partenaires ayant fait preuve d'intégrité et de transparence.

L'avenir économique du Liberia ne peut être laissé entre les mains d'intérêts douteux. Seule une gestion responsable et éthique des projets d'infrastructure garantira au pays un développement durable et une meilleure attractivité pour les investisseurs internationaux.

Le Sénat libérien examine la demande d'audit des fonds de l'USAID

Le Sénat libérien a annoncé qu'il étudiait une demande d'audit de tous les programmes financés par l'USAID dans le pays.

La plénière du Sénat a mandaté sa Commission des comptes publics et d'audit pour analyser en profondeur la requête adressée à la Commission générale d'audit (GAC) visant à auditer l'ensemble des institutions publiques ayant bénéficié de financements de l'USAID. Cette décision fait suite à une communication du sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Saah H. Joseph, adressée le jeudi 20 février 2025 à la présidente pro tempore du Sénat, Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence. Dans sa lettre, le sénateur Joseph a souligné l'importance de la transparence et de la reddition de comptes dans l'utilisation des fonds des donateurs.

Il a reconnu la contribution significative de l'USAID au développement du Liberia, notamment par des appuis financiers et techniques dans les secteurs de la gouvernance, des infrastructures, de l'éducation, de la santé et de l'économie.

Selon le sénateur Joseph, l'audit proposé permettra d'évaluer l'allocation et la distribution des fonds, la conformité aux règlements financiers ainsi que l'efficacité des projets financés. Il estime également que cet audit aidera la Législature à mieux comprendre l'utilisation des ressources et pourrait conduire à une révision du budget 2025 afin de combler les lacunes financières apparues suite à l'annulation des aides américaines par le président Donald Trump.

Le ministre libérien des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, a reconnu les impacts directs et indirects de l'arrêt des aides. Il a rappelé que plusieurs organisations internationales soutenues par l'USAID ont réduit leurs



activités, l'USAID étant le deuxième plus grand donateur du Liberia après la Banque mondiale.

Il a précisé que l'USAID avait investi environ 422 millions de dollars entre 2021 et 2029 et que des accords étaient en cours pour débloquer plus de 100 millions de dollars supplémentaires pour l'éducation, la santé, l'agriculture et d'autres secteurs clés avant que l'aide ne soit interrompue.

Interrogé sur les mesures envisagées pour pallier les conséquences de cette suspension, le ministre Ngafuan a déclaré que le gouvernement avait pris acte de la décision des États-Unis. Il a ajouté que son ministère avait finalisé un rapport sur les impacts à court et à long terme, qui sera prochainement soumis au président Boakai et à la 55e législature pour orienter les actions à entreprendre face à ces défis.

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FEATURE ARTICLE

The Consequences of US Health Funding Cuts on Liberia: A Call to Action

By Seltue Karweaye Sr

Recently, President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the World Health Organization is threatening funding for critical health programs such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis in various parts of the world, including Liberia.

In an appearance on the Voice of America (VOA), Liberia's Finance Minister, Augustine Ngafuan, stated that canceling a \$17 million USAID-sponsored project and other initiatives will directly and indirectly impact the country's development. Ngafuan highlighted that USAID has been Liberia's second-largest donor, following the World Bank, supporting health, education, agriculture, and elections projects. Despite these challenges, Minister Ngafuan expressed confidence in Liberia's resilience and ability to overcome this latest obstacle in its development. The purpose of this article is to outline what Liberia stands to lose in the health sector due to the US halting its funding.

To what extent does Liberia rely on U.S. funding to support its health care system?

Liberia, alongside many other countries in Africa, faces a significant challenge in its reliance on funding from the United States and various international donors to support essential health services and interventions. These services are not just beneficial but are fundamental responsibilities of a government dedicated to ensuring the well-being and welfare of its citizens.

Since 2021, the U.S. government has committed nearly \$20 billion to health programs across Africa, highlighting a substantial investment in the continent's healthcare infrastructure. In 2022, Liberia entered into a bilateral partnership with the U.S., securing approximately US\$55 million dedicated to enhancing the health outcomes of its population over the subsequent five years. This funding accounted for around 6.9% of Liberia's total health budget for that year, underscoring the critical role foreign assistance plays in sustaining health initiatives.

Historically, Liberia has allocated an average of 10% of its national budget to the health sector; however, a large majority of this funding—approximately three-quarters—is directed toward recurrent expenditures, primarily salaries for healthcare workers. This leaves limited resources available for new health initiatives, infrastructure development, and critical supplies.

For the 2025 fiscal year, Liberia's approved budget totals US\$880,661,873, with US\$91,347,192 designated for health, which represents 10.4% of the total budget. This allocation reflects a slight decrease from the 10.8% that was allocated in the previous year's budget, raising concerns about the sustainability of health services in the face of growing demand.

The private sector has increasingly become a pivotal player in Liberia's healthcare landscape, providing a considerable proportion of healthcare services and financing. In many regions, private healthcare providers often surpass public facilities in terms of accessibility, quality of care, and community reach, thus playing an essential role in

filling the gaps left by public health resources. Additionally, traditional medicine is gaining recognition in Liberia as an important source of complementary and alternative treatments, supporting the services provided by the Liberian government.

What vital health programs does the United States support in Liberia?

The U.S. support in Liberia focuses on several key health initiatives, including preventing malaria through the US President's Malaria Initiative, addressing HIV/AIDS through the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and promoting Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH), as well as Family Planning and Reproductive Health. These efforts also aim to end preventable child and maternal deaths.

Malaria remains a significant public health issue in Liberia, with an estimated 1.9 million cases reported in 2021, resulting in an incidence rate of 358.5 cases per 1,000 inhabitants and 3,548 deaths. According to the Malaria



Indicator Survey of 2022, the prevalence of malaria in children under five years old is 10%.

HIV is also a major health concern in Liberia, with prevalence rates among people aged 15-49 ranging from 1.5% to 2.1%. This issue is particularly pronounced in urban areas like Monrovia and among vulnerable populations, including sex workers and young women. In 2021, there were 1,100 deaths related to HIV/AIDS, and approximately 35,000 children aged 0 to 17 have become orphans due to the disease. Additionally, Liberia has faced outbreaks of Ebola, yellow fever, cholera, and COVID-19.

What are the critical elements at risk?

Interventions that are most at risk in Liberia are those for which the government has transferred its responsibilities to foreign donors. These critical services include the distribution of rapid diagnostic tests for malaria, which are essential for timely diagnosis and treatment; the provision of insecticide-treated bed nets to reduce malaria transmission; preventive malaria treatments for pregnant women to safeguard maternal and fetal health; access to fast-acting malaria medications that can effectively combat severe cases; and the application of insecticides for home spraying to eliminate mosquito breeding sites.

Similarly, HIV interventions are likely to experience significant adverse effects. The availability of HIV counseling and testing services is crucial, particularly for pregnant women, as these services help prevent the transmission of HIV from mother to child. Furthermore, the comprehensive care of individuals living with HIV, especially those co-infected with tuberculosis (TB), will be hampered, impacting their access to critical TB/HIV services. Additionally, support initiatives for orphans and

vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS are also at risk, potentially exacerbating the hardships faced by these populations.

Moreover, the ability to sustain laboratory capacity for rapid disease diagnosis will suffer serious interruptions. A reduction or complete lack of essential reagents and consumables means that timely and accurate diagnostics will be compromised. Much of the laboratory equipment presently in use is provided by international donors, and disruptions in funding will hinder necessary servicing and replacements of this vital equipment.

The health sector in Liberia is confronting numerous challenges, including inadequate funding, a chronic shortage of healthcare professionals, and poor access to healthcare services due to prohibitive costs. Additionally, the nation suffers from inadequate infrastructure, which further limits healthcare delivery and a high prevalence of preventable diseases exacerbates the situation. It is important to note that cutting off U.S. funding will not address the underlying shortage of healthcare professionals. The primary drivers of this shortage are persistently low wages and a deteriorating work environment, stemming from years of neglect and underinvestment in the healthcare system.

What factors contribute to Liberia's continued dependence on funding from the United States, and what implications does this reliance have for the nation's future?

Liberia faces a significant challenge in cultivating national pride, while concurrently depending on external assistance to harness the abundant resources at its disposal. This absence of pride is troubling, especially as the government seems to prioritize political interests and external relations over the fundamental well-being of its citizens.

Regrettably, we often refer to ourselves as "America's Stepchild," adopting the mindset that Americans owe Liberia a debt of compensation. This notion stems from the historical context of our founding, where a group of permanent Americans from the American Colonization Society attempted to address the growing population of free blacks in the United States by resettling them in Africa. While this history is important, the more pressing dilemma is our lack of self-awareness regarding our identity and capabilities as a nation.

Liberia is frequently labeled as the eighth poorest country in the world, and lamentably, many Liberians accept this designation without challenge or introspection. This characterization ignores the reality that Liberia is not inherently resource-poor; rather, it suffers from mismanagement and inefficiency in harnessing its rich natural resources, which include vast mineral deposits, arable land, and a wealth of biodiversity. The true constraints on our development stem from systemic corruption and a lack of rule of law and accountability, rather than a scarcity of resources.

To break free from this cycle of dependency, Liberians must engage in a collective journey of self-discovery—recognizing our strengths, understanding our rich cultural heritage, and addressing the systemic issues that hinder our progress. Only through a deep understanding of our identity and the immense potential we possess can we begin to forge effective and sustainable solutions to our challenges, ultimately securing the future our citizens deserve.

Tweah, others plea immunity

Former Finance Minister Tweah and others are pleading immunity here in the ongoing economic sabotage.

Monrovia-February 25, 2025/Former Finance Minister Samuel Tweah and others have filed a motion for dismissal pleading



immunity to charges of economic sabotage.

The others, Cllr. Nyenati Tuan, Former Acting Minister of Justice and Attorney and at the same time, former Solicitor General, Stanley S. Ford, former Director of the Financial Intelligence Agency, Jefferson Karmoh, former National Security Advisor and former Secretary and Statutory member on the National Security Council and Mr. D. Moses P. Cooper, former Comptroller, Financial Intelligence Agency.

In a motion for dismissal filed on Monday, February 24, 2025, the former Government officials argued that they are immune to prosecution because the activities for which they have been indicted are based on National Security matters. "That the investigation conducted by the LACC, from which grew the Indictment now subject of this motion and the case currently venued before this Court surround activities and actions of members of the National Security Council of Liberia, which activities, under the laws cited supra in this motion, prohibit the disclosure of information which cannot be subject of judicial review," the former officials argued in a motion filed by their lawyers.

The defendants further argued that economic sabotage, theft, and related offenses, are legally deficient, constitutionally violative of their

fundamental rights as enshrined in Article III 21(g) of the 1986 Constitution.

According to the defendants, the indictment improperly seeks to criminalize constitutional, national security, statutory, and discretionary acts performed by officials while in the discharge of their official responsibilities to further national security interest of the Republic.

As such, they maintained that any such judicial process, as now being contemplated by the indictment, to review or ascertain the actions or activities of members of the National Security Council potentially risk exposing or disclosing classified and confidential government communications and intelligence.

Such a disclosure, the defendants explained, would be a direct contravention of the National Security Council Act. The National Security Reformed and Intelligence Act of 2011 as found in Section 3 (f), provides that "Every member, personnel or employee of the National Security Council shall be deemed a trustee of the secrets of the Republic and when entering upon the duties of the council shall be, in case of members, sworn by the chair and in case of the personnel and employees, by the secretary, not to divulge any information which has

come to his or her knowledge by reason of such membership or employment with the council except as required in the course of duty.

Any violation of this oath shall subject the offender(s) to a fine of One Hundred Thousand Liberian Dollars or up to ten years imprisonment or both. The oath shall be binding and enforceable on every member, personnel or employee of the council for a period of twenty years after severance of his or her relationship with the council."

It could be recalled that in December 2024, the Ministry of Justice petitioned the Supreme Court to halt proceedings, expressing concerns over the validity of an \$8 million property bond approved by Criminal Court 'C' Judge A. Blamo Dixon. Associate Justice Yarmie Quiqui Gbeisay responded by issuing a temporary stay on the trial and scheduling a conference for December 10, 2024, to deliberate on the prosecution's objections.

Subsequently, in January 2025, Justice Gbeisay ordered Judge Dixon's recusal from the case, following prosecution claims of judicial bias.

The defense has consistently criticized the prosecution for failing to provide necessary evidence, accusing them of employing delayed tactics that infringe upon the defendants' right to a speedy trial. In February 2025, Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie of Criminal Court 'A' mandated that prosecutors submit all pertinent evidence to the defense, emphasizing the importance of adhering to procedural timelines.

As of February 24, 2025, the case remains in a state of legal flux, with defense lawyers pushing for dismissal due to ongoing prosecutorial delays and questions surrounding judicial impartiality. The judiciary's forthcoming decisions will be pivotal in determining the trajectory of this high-profile trial.

Hearing of the Motion is scheduled for Wednesday, this week.

What's inside AML's New Deal for Liberia

Highly placed sources at the National Investment Commission (NIC) have exclusively disclosed that the government of Liberia is in the final stages of concluding a landmark deal with ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML).

Monrovia-February 25, 2025/The agreement, an amendment to AML's Mineral Development Agreement (MDA), is set to be forwarded to the legislature for review and ratification.

According to a recent publication by Frontpage Africa, the government has been pushing aggressively for greater benefits for Liberia, including increased financial contributions, job creation, and enhanced county development programs. "They are really pressing the company hard to secure even greater benefits for Liberia," said one source. "The negotiators want more money to be paid annually, more jobs, and a larger share of revenue for the affected counties."

Economic Transformation and Job Creation

One of the most significant aspects of the expansion deal is its potential to stimulate Liberia's economy. The Phase II expansion will bring an additional \$1.4 billion in foreign direct investment, making it the largest post-war investment in Liberia's history, following the \$1.7 billion already invested by AML since 2005.

CSDF will increase to \$3.5 million, benefiting Bong, Grand Bassa, and Nimba counties.

Previously, only 20% of the CSDF was allocated directly to community-selected programs, with the remainder being managed centrally. Under the new deal, however, 100% of the CSDF contributions will be directed to the counties, giving local authorities greater control over how the funds are used. This change opens up opportunities for substantial investments in infrastructure, healthcare, education, and other essential services. The government is reportedly negotiating for even higher contributions to further strengthen local development efforts.

Multiuser Rail and Port System

The agreement also reinforces Liberia's control over its railway and port infrastructure. The government remains the sole owner of the railway and port, while the amendment establishes a framework for multiple users, including Guinean mining companies, to access Liberia's transport corridor.

One of the most critical



The deal will also deliver a major boost to Liberia's job market, with 2,000 new jobs expected to be created during the construction of AML's new concentrator plant. Once operational in 2025, the plant will generate 1,200 permanent skilled jobs for Liberians. To ensure Liberians are equipped for these positions, the agreement includes training programs designed to develop a skilled workforce capable of operating the complex concentrator technology. This initiative will provide long-term employment opportunities, benefiting thousands of young Liberians.

More Funds for County Development

The leaked details indicate a major improvement in the County Social Development Fund (CSDF). Under the amended agreement, AML's annual contributions to the

provisions of the deal ensures that AML will operate the railway on a cost-recovery basis, meaning it will not make a profit from other users. Instead, any additional users will pay a transit fee directly to the Government of Liberia. Additionally, foreign companies seeking to utilize the infrastructure will be required to invest in expanding rail and port capacity, a move that will further enhance Liberia's trade and logistics capabilities.

Boosting Government Revenue

The new deal is set to significantly increase government revenue. Currently, AML contributes between \$30-40 million annually in royalties, taxes, and duties. The expansion is expected to push this figure to approximately \$75 million annually, and after full ramp-up of Phase II, the government

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