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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025	L\$198.2009/US\$1.00	L\$200.0012/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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Continental News

Angola urges ceasefire ahead of DRC-M23 peace talks

Angolan President João Lourenço, currently chair of the African Union, has called for an immediate ceasefire in the ongoing conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Lourenço urged all parties to stop hostilities starting at midnight local time on Sunday, in an effort to create a peaceful

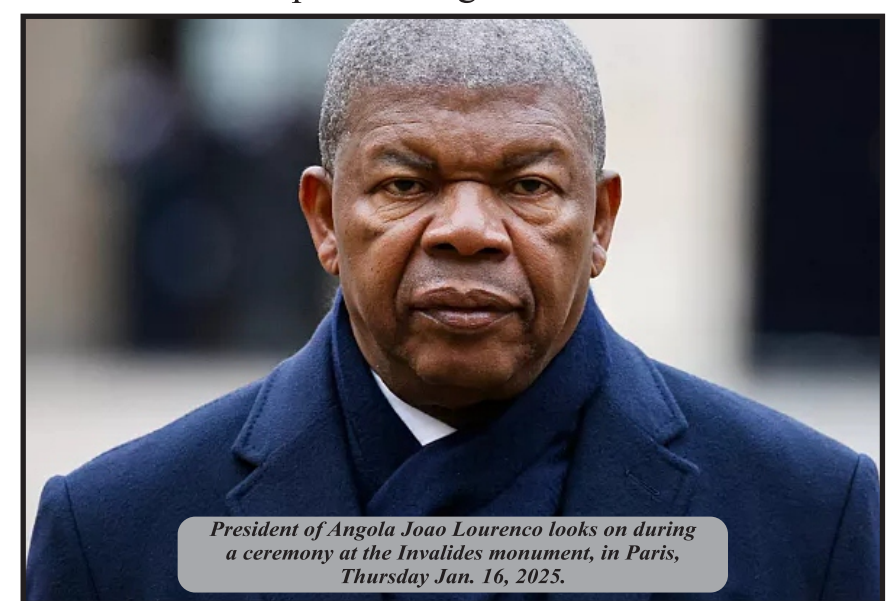
atmosphere for upcoming peace talks.

According to a statement from the Angolan presidency, the ceasefire must include all hostile actions against civilians and halt any attempts to gain new positions in the conflict zone. The talks are set to take place in Luanda, Angola, on March 18, where the DRC government and the M23

rebels will meet for the first time in three years.

The DRC government has not officially confirmed its participation yet. The M23, however, has expressed support for Angola's peace initiative, calling on President Felix Tshisekedi to publicly commit to direct negotiations.

The conflict has escalated recently, with the M23 rebels capturing key towns in North and South Kivu provinces, displacing thousands and worsening the humanitarian crisis. Despite diplomatic efforts, violence between the DRC and the M23 continues, highlighting the urgent need for dialogue.



President of Angola Joao Lourenco looks on during a ceremony at the Invalides monument, in Paris, Thursday Jan. 16, 2025.

Fatoumata Maiga: A woman leading Mali's fight for peace

As the world celebrates International Women's Day 2025 under the theme "Accelerate Action", Fatoumata Maiga's story stands as a testament to the power of women in shaping peace and security in conflict zones.* Maiga, a longtime activist and founder of the Association Defund Police Initiative to Pay, has dedicated her life to combating the proliferation of weapons in Mali. "You can't build peace in an environment of violence," she says. "Our goal is to see how people can resolve their differences without using weapons."

Born into a military family, Maiga experienced the brutal realities of conflict firsthand. One of her most haunting memories dates back to 2018, when explosions in Gao left devastation in their wake. "Buildings collapsed. People were gutted. It was blood, flesh, pain everywhere," she recalls.

Her experiences fuel her mission to educate women on the dangers of unchecked arms, revealing how firearms and explosives are often stored in homes, posing grave risks. "Women must be active in peace efforts," she insists. "Until now, many have

not realized the serious risks of weapons in the hands of non-professionals."

Beyond raising awareness, Maiga works closely with communities to disarm conflict zones and advocate for sustainable peace. She believes true security can only be achieved when women are included in decision-making and rebuilding efforts.

Her tireless efforts embody the spirit of "Accelerate Action", proving that women are not just victims of war but vital to securing peace and rebuilding nations ravaged by conflict.



Fatoumata Maiga

Lagos restaurant feeds the needy during Ramadan amid rising costs

At the back of a restaurant in Lagos a lamb is being butchered for iftar - the meal eaten by practising Muslims during Ramadan to break their fast at sunrise. During the holy month of Ramadan the faithful observe the requirement to fast between sunrise and sunset. But increasingly hard economic conditions here in Nigeria's largest city, means many families don't even have a simple meal to break their fast. They're reliant on the kindness of people like

people in major bus parks, mosques and the roadside," says Ishola.

She explains that she is supported by friends and family who also want to contribute. "At the beginning of every year, as part of my savings plan, I set aside some funds for majorly Ramadan outreach for the less privileged, and I also get some support from a few family and friends, like say 20% of everything I do comes from family and friends, and the profits from my business for the month of Ramadan goes into it as well," she says. According to Ishola the people's happiness is the reward. "There are some days during the holy months of Ramadan



Naheemah Ishola, founder of Meebelle Kitchen, right, distributes Ramadan cooked jollof rice and chicken to the less privileged women in Lagos, Nigeria, Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Naheemah Ishola, a restaurant owner who makes it her business to feed the hungry during Ramadan. Her contribution is especially important this year with food prices soaring. She says the cost of essentials has skyrocketed. By the end of 2024, a 50-kilogram bag of rice reached a staggering 75,000 naira (\$48.50) in Lagos and an even higher 99,000 naira (\$58.20) in Abuja, making everyday meals a luxury for many. With inflation stretching household budgets to their limits, more people are going hungry.

Ishola, has taken it upon herself to cook and share meals with those who might otherwise have nothing to eat. For her, and many others who are helping in different ways, Ramadan isn't just about fasting—it's about feeding those in need. "The motivation for me is I know that most people cannot afford a decent meal on a normal day and as a Muslim, during the holy month of Ramadan, one of the Five Pillars of Islam says we should give back to the society. So I've taken it upon myself since 2017 as my duty to feed the vulnerable

as humans, you know I wake up tired, and I don't feel the need to do this. But when I remember the smiles it's going to put on people's faces to hand them the food, it motivates me to get up and do it and this has kept me going since 2017."

But Ishola is not completely shielded from the financial difficulties she sees around her. "Every time I hand over the meal packs to the vulnerable people on the street there's this form of fulfilment I feel inside me. And at the same time, in recent times, I feel like I might not be able to do as much with the rising cost of living but if this rising cost of living is normalized, then I'll be able to do more," she says. Hunger led to stampedes during charity food handouts just before Christmas. It resulted in many deaths and injuries, including 35 children who died in two incidents alone. Muhammed Baba, a father of three, struggles with leprosy as well as poverty. His gratitude to Ishola is not just for feeding his family, but also for the dignity she affords him. "This month is the month of Ramadan, and everybody want to come and share food to those who need it and we are very, very happy for that and you know as we live in this community, we don't want to go out to, to be begging up and down," says Baba.

EDITORIAL

How the Majority Bloc disgraced Liberia

In their selfish and myopic quest for power, members of the Majority Bloc at the House of Representatives under the leadership of “Regime Speaker” Richard Nagbe Koon, took the entire country's image to international ridicule by adamantly writing the ECOWAS Parliament, seeking withdrawal of three Liberian Legislators to that regional body.

The request was made despite an earlier advice by Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe of Liberia, who chairs the Parliament's Committee on Regional Security that this is not possible.

But in their ignorance, and being obsessed with power, the Koon-led Majority Bloc went ahead and wrote the ECOWAS Parliament, recalling Liberian Representatives Samuel R. Enders, Sr., Moima Briggs-Mensah, and Taa Z. Wongbe. However, they received a damning slap in the face from ECOWAS, as the regional parliamentary body flatly rejected the request.

In an official response to the 55th Liberian Legislature, especially the House of Representatives, the Parliament states that following a thorough review of the communication from Liberia and in accordance with Article 18.1, 2 of the supplementary Act on the Enhancement of the Powers of the ECOWAS Parliament, the mandate of Community Parliamentarians is set for a fixed term of four years.

The regional Parliament unequivocally explains that once designees from Member States are sworn in there, they cannot be removed or replaced before expiration of their term, except in cases of non-re-election of the member at the national level, death, or resignation through written notification to the President of the ECOWAS Parliament.

It furthers that unless in cases of certified mental or physical incapacity to perform duties, resignation due to incompatibility or dismissal by the Parliament for misconduct as provided in the Rules of Procedure of the ECOWAS Parliament, no legislature and parliament of a member state has right to withdraw nominees forwarded.

"The Honorable Members Samuel R. Enders, Sr., Moima Briggs-Mensah, and Taa Z. Wongbe do not fall under any of the aforementioned circumstances, therefore, their replacement cannot be affected; consequently, the Honorable Members of the ECOWAS Parliament will continue to serve their mandate until its expiration, in line with the international commitments of the Republic of Liberia", the regional parliamentary body maintains.

Here is the embarrassment and international ridicule: The regional parliamentary body reminds that its decision is in line with the Republic of Liberia's international commitments to that body, which “Regime Speaker” Koon-led Majority Bloc is ignorant of, as demonstrated by their action that has no doubt, questioned the leadership and knowledge capacity of the Liberian Legislature.

But then we are not surprised at all. Members of the Majority Bloc-led House flagrantly violated the Constitution of Liberia and their own rules regarding removal of the Speaker, and illegally elected Representative Richard Nagbe Koon, who calls himself “Regime Speaker” despite presence of constitutionally-elected Speaker J. Fonati Koffa. They even went further and illegally and forcefully burst opened the office of embattled Speaker Koffa for “Regime Speaker” Koon to occupy.

This is the same level of viciousness they took to the ECOWAS Parliament by requesting withdrawal of Liberia's nominees to that august body in spite of a clear advice from their colleague in the Liberian Senate, Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe, that this is not feasible. But they received the backlash they deserve without any pity for their ignorance and obsession to exercise power that does not belong to them, bringing shame to the Motherland.

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COMMENTARY

By Kenneth Rogoff

What Trump 2.0 Means for Africa and Latin America

CAMBRIDGE – While global attention is focused on US President Donald Trump's policies toward Europe, China, and Russia, his impact on Africa and Latin America could be just as profound. My forthcoming book, [Our Dollar, Your Problem](#), will likely resonate with emerging and developing economies, for which US policy has long been an inescapable force beyond their control.

In the book, I examine the dollar's extraordinary postwar run and what its current strength tells us about the future of global finance. In the near term, calculated chaos seems inevitable. But while the effects of today's strong dollar remain uncertain, the fallout from Trump's policies – especially his retreat from America's foreign-aid commitments – is immediate and far-reaching, with aid-dependent countries already [feeling the strain](#).

Africa has been hit particularly hard. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) czar Elon Musk's first target was the US Agency for International Development (USAID), which has served as the cornerstone of US foreign aid since the early 1960s. As one of the largest funders of global health initiatives – from anti-malarial drugs to AIDS treatments – USAID has played an indispensable role in improving public health across the developing world.

Although USAID programs are not without flaws, the agency's [\\$40 billion budget](#) – less than 1% of federal spending – has provided a cost-effective way to help the world's poor and advance US interests. The abrupt and unexpected funding cuts to hospitals and aid projects are not only cruel and reckless but also undermine America's credibility, especially among African countries.

The decision to [shut down](#) USAID rather than overhaul its funding priorities makes little sense. Trump has justified his push to cut off aid to South Africa by citing alleged anti-white bias in [land confiscations](#), echoing Musk's claim that the country has enacted “racist ownership laws.” While South African governance has long been a mess, it's hard to see how abruptly cutting targeted aid to the world's most vulnerable populations will lead to meaningful improvements.

If the US were the only country cutting its foreign-aid programs, things would be bad enough. But Trump's insistence that Europe starts paying for its own defense – an entirely reasonable demand – will almost certainly push European governments to redirect funds away from foreign aid to protect their generous welfare systems. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has already [announced](#) aid cuts to boost defense spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2027.

There is little doubt that China will rush to fill the vacuum. Despite its own economic problems, China remains deeply committed to expanding its access to Africa's vast natural resources. In fact, its ongoing economic slowdown will probably drive the Chinese government to gain an even stronger foothold

on the continent.

The outlook for Latin America is somewhat brighter. Admittedly, the Trump administration's policy toward the region has been erratic at best. In addition to attempting to re-establish US control over the Panama Canal and telling Mexico that the US is not bound by the free-trade agreement he himself negotiated during his first term, Trump's global tariff war poses a significant threat to Latin American economies.

But there is a silver lining, as Trump's return to the White House may signal a broader global shift to the right. While the necessity of such a change in developed economies is debatable, it is long overdue in Latin America. The region's largest economies – Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina – have served as a playground for left-wing economists for much of the twenty-first century, particularly in recent years. The results have been disastrous. Latin America's chronic failure to generate sustained economic growth over the past four decades has severely constrained governments' ability to provide basic education and health care, let alone more ambitious goals like guaranteed income. Brazil is a prime example. During his first presidency (2003-11), [Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva](#) benefited from a commodity boom and pursued relatively conservative macroeconomic policies. But in his current term, his administration has struggled to rein in public spending and control inflation. Lula has also repeatedly [clashed](#) with Brazil's central bank over its interest-rate hikes, even as the country's currency fell to record lows.

Argentina is a rare bright spot. Since taking office in December 2023, libertarian President Javier Milei has managed to lower inflation from [211.4%](#) to [84.5%](#), with some private forecasts suggesting an annual inflation rate as low as [23%](#) in 2025. He has also stabilized the economy after a brief period of austerity, reduced the size of the government, and [eliminated](#) the budget deficit – something even previous conservative governments failed to achieve. Milei's early success offers real hope that Argentina may finally break free from its cycle of economic mismanagement.

While many American progressives bristle at Milei's close relationship with Trump, their alliance is understandably celebrated in Argentina. After all, when has a US president – and a significant portion of the American electorate – expressed such admiration for a Latin American leader? US backing could bolster Milei's regional standing, potentially catalyzing a broader shift away from Latin America's failed socialist experiments and ushering in an era of greater economic stability.

Kenneth Rogoff, a former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at Harvard University and the recipient of the 2011 Deutsche Bank Prize in Financial Economics. He is the co-author (with Carmen M. Reinhart) of [This Time is Different: Eight Centuries of Financial Folly](#) (Princeton University Press, 2011) and the author of the forthcoming book [Our Dollar, Your Problem](#) (Yale University Press, 2025).

OP-ED

By Antara Haldar

Why Global Governance Is Failing

CAMBRIDGE – The United Nations was established in 1945, succeeding the failed League of Nations, to pull humanity back from the brink of self-destruction. It was a bold experiment in collective security, designed to prevent another world war and manage conflicts through diplomacy rather than violence.

Yet, 80 years later, we find ourselves back on the precipice of disaster. Global temperatures have [breached](#) the 1.5°Celsius threshold that scientists see as a Rubicon for reining in climate change over the long term. Public trust in institutions – and in democracy – is [critically low](#), and geopolitical tensions are [rising](#). What happened? The UN has, justifiably, drawn criticism for a variety of reasons. The composition of the Security Council is antiquated. Violent conflict, and even genocide, still occur with alarming frequency. And the organization has proven to be generally ineffectual, overly bureaucratic, and unfair in its treatment of the Global South.

But the inadequately diagnosed problem is that the UN is bringing a twentieth-century logic to bear on the twenty-first century's fundamentally planetary problems. Today's most urgent challenges – climate change, pandemics, AI regulation, financial contagion, supply-chain disruptions – do not respect national borders, yet UN institutions remain stuck in a framework of nation-states jealously guarding their sovereignty. Our international institutions simply were not designed to address essentially systemic issues indifferent to national borders. The UN is not just slow; it is structurally incapable of tackling such problems at scale.

With even conventional governance structures faltering in the face of heightened tribalism and nationalism, any proposed new paradigm of planetary governance runs the risk of sounding utopian. Fortunately, the world already has a serviceable blueprint: the European Union, for all its flaws, has demonstrated that a [supranational federation](#) can work, allowing previously warring countries to pool sovereignty in exchange for economic and political stability. Nor is this such a radical idea. In a 1946 Gallup [poll](#), 54% of Americans believed that “the UN should be strengthened to make it a world government with power to control the armed forces of all nations, including the United States.”

In 2024, by contrast, 58% per cent of Americans [thought](#) that the UN was doing a “poor job.” This description suggests that the UN needs to take a bolder approach. Big, planetary issues like global warming are what philosopher Timothy Morton [calls](#) “hyperobjects.” They are “entities of such vast temporal and spatial dimension” as to require a fundamentally different kind of human reasoning. To change how we think about such problems calls for both an intellectual and a psychological shift – beyond the nation-state, or what Benedict Anderson famously called “[imagined communities](#).”

Intellectually, planetary thinking requires its own theoretical framework. This demand is not new. In the twentieth century, John Maynard Keynes [saw a need for](#) a global currency and proposed the “bancor” to replace the dollar-focused Bretton Woods institutions; Hannah Arendt advanced her own vision of [planetary politics](#); and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin developed his [concept](#) of the “noosphere” (collective human consciousness). In more recent scholarship – from [Johan Rockström's work](#) on “planetary boundaries” to Bruno Latour's description of our [ecological age](#) – the intellectual elements of a new planetary paradigm are beginning to come together.

Psychologically, we need a new narrative. The historian Yuval Noah Harari argues that human civilization is built on [shared myths](#); nationalism, religion, capitalism. If planetary governance is to succeed, it needs to tell a compelling new story, one that moves beyond outdated ideas about sovereign nation-states to acknowledge humanity's interconnectedness.

Again, the impulse is not entirely novel. As the psychologist Ara Norenzayan has shown, many major world religions (the “[Big Gods](#)”) did exactly this. In the same vein, Joshua Greene's work on “[moral tribes](#),” [Peter Singer's](#) views on “[expanding the circle](#),” and Kwame Anthony Appiah's insights into “[how moral revolutions happen](#)” have provided much of the scientific and philosophical arsenal that we need. Equally important, imaginative works – from Octavia Butler's [Parable of the Sower](#) to Kim Stanley Robinson's [The Ministry of the Future](#) – have offered narratives to convey the urgency of the challenge we confront.

To reach people where they are, rigorous planetary thinking must be accompanied by stronger local thinking. Improvements to our governance structures must look both “up” and “down,” as the Berggruen Institute's Jonathan Blake and [Nils Gilman](#) have [put it](#). Global governance cannot succeed without resilient, empowered local structures. The nation-state would remain one element, but cities, regions, and local networks would be given more attention and integrated into planetary decision-making. This kind of nested approach could offer an alternative to the outdated system of nation-states without requiring its wholesale dismantling.

The growing urgency of planetary crises – from the 2008 financial crash to pandemics and climate change – graphically illustrate the inadequacies of the UN in its current form. The UN itself emerged from the shell of the League of Nations, and now it is time to build anew. Governance must pivot from the nation-state-based logic of the Bretton Woods system to the planetary sensibilities of the bancor. Even if the United Nations had succeeded in uniting the world's nations, its current design would be unequal to a moment defined by inherently planetary challenges. It's time to imagine new communities centered on our planetary realities.

Antara Haldar, Associate Professor of Empirical Legal Studies at the University of Cambridge, is a visiting faculty member at Harvard University and the principal investigator on a European Research Council grant on law and cognition.

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OPINION

By Raghuram Rajan

Trumponomics' Exorbitant Burden

NEW YORK – A prominent economist once told me that macroeconomic policy debates are all about the prime mover to which other variables respond. The implication, he explained, is that “You can invert policy prescriptions simply by claiming a different forcing variable.” A [paper](#) by [Stephen Miran](#), published just before he was nominated to chair US President Donald Trump's Council of Economic Advisers, does precisely this. Since his views likely reflect those of the administration, they surely warrant close attention.

The traditional view of why the United States runs chronic trade deficits is that it overspends, owing largely to its fiscal deficits (the forcing variable). But the true forcing variable, Miran argues, is the rest of the world's hunger for US financial assets, especially Treasuries. Foreigners want ever more US Treasuries for their foreign-exchange reserves and for financial transactions, and the US has had to run large fiscal deficits to meet this exorbitant demand. The resulting capital inflows keep the dollar too strong for US exporters to compete, leading to persistent trade deficits.

The argument is unpersuasive, for several reasons. First, consider the timing. The US started running a [steady trade deficit](#) in the mid-1970s. It began running a steady fiscal deficit around the same time, with the exception of the late 1990s, when [capital-gains taxes](#) and [private consumption](#) soared because of the dot-com boom, temporarily shifting the locus of US overspending from government to households.

While foreigners have been buying US financial assets for a long time, and US entities have been repaying the compliment, the “forcing” effect of dollar accumulation by foreign central banks really took off only after the Asian financial crisis of 1997, when East Asian economies, seared by the harsh conditions imposed on them by the International Monetary Fund, built reserves to protect against sudden stops in financing. Again, the timing is off. Moreover, the US does not run a uniform trade deficit. Rather, it has a trade deficit in goods and a net surplus in services (nearly [\\$300 billion in 2024](#)). When economists encounter that kind of pattern, they see orthodox comparative advantage at work, which benefits the United States. Apple reaps large profit margins selling the superbly designed iPhone (and its software content) to the world, while Foxconn gets tiny margins manufacturing iPhones in China and India. Even though the overall trade numbers may reflect a large deficit, the US is far from being a victim.

Another problem is that any excess demand for US Treasuries from the rest of the world should show up in a huge excess premium for US bonds. Yet Miran complains that US bond interest rates don't reflect such a premium, giving the US little benefit from producing high-demand financial assets. This seems strange. Why would such demand hold up the dollar but not push down US bond rates?

The simpler explanation is that the US Congress spends as it wishes, relying on the rest of the world to buy Treasuries to fund what domestic revenues cannot cover. Has there ever been a member of Congress who says the US should run deficits to accommodate the world's need for Treasuries? If excess demand for US financial assets was really such a problem, the US Congress could simply run smaller deficits, have foreigners scramble over one other to buy the smaller issuance of Treasuries, and thus orchestrate lower US interest rates (and higher US production).

Moreover, if creating reserve assets is such an exorbitant burden, why not allow other countries to shoulder it? Far from entertaining this possibility, Trump recently [threatened](#) the BRICS group of major emerging economies for even daring to contemplate separate non-dollar payment arrangements. While admitting that the US does need foreign money to fund its fiscal deficit (perhaps a tacit recognition that the fiscal deficit really is the primary forcing variable), Miran suggests another reason to have foreigners buy US financial assets and use its financial system: Doing so gives the US more ways to punish foreign countries that step out of line including, alarmingly, imposing a selective tax on Treasury interest payments.

If the US does not want to give up its exorbitant burden, could import tariffs help US manufacturers overcome an overvalued dollar? As Miran points out, tariffs will partly be offset by a stronger dollar, as was the case in 2018-19, when the US imposed sweeping tariffs on China. But a stronger dollar will hurt US exports, and if the dollar prices of imported products do not change much, it is hard to see how US manufacturers will become more competitive.


Thus, Miran sets his sights on a concerted dollar depreciation, supported with interventions by non-US central banks who will be “persuaded” under the threat of tariffs or a withdrawal of US defense support. But even if such interventions were effective, foreign central banks would have to sell US Treasuries and buy domestic bonds, which would make the US fiscal deficit harder to finance.

Miran should be commended for trying to explain why the US is turning against the system it built. To be sure, the US fiscal deficit is not the only forcing variable. Chinese underconsumption also contributes to global trade imbalances. Moreover, the US has lower tariffs than some of its trading partners, some of them subsidize business more than the US does, and some have shown scant respect for intellectual property rights. But these issues are best addressed through negotiations (perhaps supported by implicit threats).

It is not clear where the Trump administration's current path of “shock and awe” is supposed to lead. The claim that the dollar's attractiveness is an exorbitant burden rather than an exorbitant privilege is unpersuasive, especially when those making such arguments are so reluctant to give up the burden. Markets are unnerved by the punishment that the administration, convinced that the US is a victim, is willing to inflict on close allies. If such behavior reduces the attractiveness of the dollar, perhaps it really will become an exorbitant burden. But that is not a future that any American should want.


Raghuram G. Rajan, a former governor of the Reserve Bank of India and chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, is Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and the co-author (with Rohit Lamba) of 'Breaking the Mold: India's Untraveled Path to Prosperity' (Princeton University Press, May 2024).


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REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
National Investment Commission (NIC)

M&E Professional Building/ UN Drive
Monrovia, Liberia





SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Invitation for Bids [IFB] for Works

IFB Number:

NIC/ADB/SAPZ/OCB-I/001/2025

Employer:

National Investment Commission of Liberia (NIC)

Project:

Liberia Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ)

Contract title:

Construction Works for a 4.27km non-existing Access Road to the Buchanan SEZ/SAPZ Site, Construction of perimeter fencing with a signature gate, and Site grading for the 210-ha piece of land for the SAPZ.

Country:

Liberia

Loan No. / Grant No.:

2100150042703

Procurement Method:

Open Competitive Bidding (International) (OCBI)

Project No:

P-LR-AA0-009

Issued on:

February 26th, 2025

1.

The Government of Liberia, GoL, has received financing from the African Development Bank (ADB) hereinafter called the Bank towards the cost of the Liberia Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Construction Works for 4.27km non-existing Access Road to the Buchanan SEZ/SAPZ Site, Construction of perimeter fencing with a signature gate and Site grading for the 210-ha piece of land for the SAPZ. “For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank’s Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing.”]

2.

The National Investment Commission of Liberia (NIC) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Construction Works 4.27km non-existing Access Road to the Buchanan SEZ/SAPZ Site, Construction of perimeter fencing with a signature gate and Site grading for the 210-ha piece of land for the SAPZ for a construction period of 18 months.

3.

Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding (International), OCBI procedures as specified in the Bank’s Procurement Framework. The new procurement Framework is effective as of the 1st of January 2016 and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.

4.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the National Investment Commission of Liberia, Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Andrew Anderson, Project Coordinator (aanderson2024@gmail.com, aanderson@investliberia.gov.lr and boimahgibson@gmail.com) and inspect the Bidding document during office hours from (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) at the address given below: (National Investment Commission of Liberia, M&E Professional Building, UN Drive/ 2nd Floor Room-15, Project Implementation Unit).

5.

The Bidding document in English may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of USD300.00. The method of payment will be through Cash, Cheque, or Wire Transfer (A/C Title: National Investment Commission/ A/C No. 002USD21223005201/ Bank Name: Liberia Bank for Development & Investment LBDI). The document will be sent only by Electronic Mail (email).

6.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 pm on April 10th, 2025. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below;

National Investment Commission of Liberia
Conference Room, 1st Floor,
M&E Professional Building, UN Drive,
Monrovia, Liberia

on April 10th, 2025 at 2:00 pm.

7.

All Bids must be accompanied by a “Bid Security” of [US\$ 300,000.00] Three Hundred Thousand United States Dollars.


8.

“Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder’s beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.”



9.


The address referred to above is:

National Investment Commission of Liberia
Andrew Anderson, Project Coordinator
Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) Project
M&E Professional Building, UN Drive, 1000-10, Liberia, Monrovia or street address,
(+231) 886 976 983 or (+231) 770 120 493, Liberia, Monrovia
aanderson2024@gmail.com / aanderson@investliberia.gov.lr or
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Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)
(Individual Consultancy Service)

Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) Project

CONSULTANCY SERVICE “ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT (EA) CONSULTANT FOR THE (LIBERIA) SPECIAL AGRO-INDUSTRIAL ZONE (SAPZ), BUCHANAN CITY – GRAND BASSA COUNTRY - LIBERIA”

Sector: Agriculture/Industry

Financing Agreement Reference: 2100150042703

Project ID: P-LR-AA0-009

1. BACKGROUND

The Government of Liberia through the National Investment Commission has received funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the preparation and implementation of the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) Project. The Project Development Objective is to facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth and sustainable value-added agricultural development in Liberia. The Project aims to reduce the unemployment gap/rate, decrease staple food imports, provide the required infrastructure, and enable an economic environment for the expansion of the private sector investment in the agriculture and Agro-industry.

The proposed Special Economic Zone is located in the City of Buchanan, the capital of Grand Bassa County. The SAPZ project will utilize 200 ha of the designated Special Economic Zone (631 ha) land space situated in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. The proposed sites for the construction and operation of the Agricultural Transformation Centers (ATCs) include Madina, Grand Cape Mount, Gbartala, Bong and Saclepea, Nimba County, respectively.

3. AUDIT OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of the environmental audit consultancy is to carry out an environmental assessment of the project area; determine the potential impacts and their mitigation measures, in compliance with EPA's national environmental legislation and standards, enforce compliance, and ensure environmental sustainability and protection of human health.

• Conduct public consultations to be termed as scoping to identify, inform, and receive input from affected stakeholders and interested parties at project sites and project sub-activities communities, and propose mitigation measures to address these impacts; All consultations and stakeholder engagements in the field visit to ensure equitable engagement of males and females.

• Assess the physical, biological, and environmental baseline of the project environment and identify the potential risks associated with the project implementation;

• Conduct field visit to water bodies, forests, and soil to determine potential impacts and mitigation measures during project implementation on all sub-project activities;

• Conduct a demographic survey to determine the number of existing farm and agricultural fields within the project areas, and the proposed 4.27km linked road, & transmission line corridor;

• Collaborate actively with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), and other line ministries and agencies that operate within the project areas/site; etc.

• Used GPS coordinate to Geo-map all project sites required and develop a map indicating the project areas of intervention; and

4. SCOPE OF SERVICES:

1. Conduct and prioritize high-impact activities in the project sites, which will;

a. Determine every aspect of the project activities in the developmental stages; medium impact activities in the road intervention, which shall cover other activities in rice, oil palm, cocoa, and other crops; and

b. The assessment should focus on the agriculture impacts, road construction impacts, and the invention of smallholders to be highly considered; cocoa and vegetables shall be considered; smallholder farmers and wastewater treatment shall be considered.

2. Conduct an Environmental Survey of the project sites:

a. Describe the Social environment (socio-cultural characteristics; various communities, cultural beliefs/practices, occupation, means of livelihood, settlement pattern, gender issues, etc.) of the project area;

b. Identify various areas of potential environmental impacts with a complete environmental assessment

c. The EPA laws under Part III, provide specific measures in complying with the requirement established under section (25) of the EPML shall in consultation with the relevant Line Ministry, be responsible for carrying out periodic environmental audits of activities or projects that are likely to have adverse effects on the environment. Moreover, the EPA describes specific procedures in carrying out the environmental audit in accordance with EPML and its effectiveness in compliance with the provisions of AfDB.

d. 1, which provide environmental management plans, climate change vulnerability assessment, and public consultation.

d. Determine, through appropriate procedures concurrent with Operational Safeguard (OS) 1(prior to the overarching safeguard governs the process of determining a project environment and social category and the resulting environmental and assessment requirement.

e. Organize stakeholder consultations before, during, and at the close of the project to capture the concerns of the various stakeholders (especially the Environmental Audit) about the project: - this shall include but not be limited to the distribution of questionnaires and other information gathering techniques,

f. Document the results of the consultations for each of the project sites and recommendations.

5. AUDIT METHODOLOGY

Pre-audit Activities

The foremost objective of Pre - audit activities is to make the required arrangements and preparation for conducting the on-site audits. It includes a general or overall plan which identifies the audit locations, scopes, and procedures.

The National Investment Commission/Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone and the Environmental Protection Agency will notify the various stakeholders that there is a consultancy that has been commissioned to conduct the audit. The fullest cooperation of the stakeholders and the communities will be solicited.

Consultancy will set up a team leader or lead auditor who will be appointed based on his knowledge and expertise. All activities will be organized with respect to a work schedule for conducting documentation review, on-site audit and report submission, to be reviewed and approved by the EPA and the NIC/SAPZ.

The audit will focus on specific environmental issues relating to the site being audited, which will be prepared and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency for review and approval. The checklist covers environmental issues which include:

• Overall environmental management

• Procurement policy

• Energy management

• Materials management

• Water and wastewater management

• Waste management

• Noise monitoring and control

• Air quality monitoring and control

• Emergency response procedures

• Occupational health and safety

• Transportation and travelling

• Staff awareness and training

• Publicity of environmental information

• Response to public inquiries and complaints

6. QUALIFICATION, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS OF KEY EXPERT

The consultant must meet the following qualifications and skills for the assignment:

• Master’s Degree in Environmental Science, Social Science, Environmental Management, Land Administration, Rural Development, Agriculture, or a closely related field.

• Minimum of 5 years of practical experience in environmental management, environmental government, social/ inclusive development, land administration, and/or rural development and infrastructural projects in Africa.

• Consultant should have prepared at least two (2) Environmental Audits for the AfDB, WBG or other donors projects, MDB/DFI)

• Proven experience in digital mapping and Geo-tagging technologies relevant to environmental audit.

• Excellent communication skills.

• Fluency in English and the ability to communicate effectively with diverse stakeholders, including local communities.

• Females are encouraged to apply.

Demonstrated experience working and reporting results for AfDB, WB, including familiarity with AfDB reporting requirements and indicators, with understanding of working in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Eligibility criteria, the establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank’s “Procurement Policy and Methodology for Bank Group Funded Operations” (BPM), dated October 2015”, which is available on the Bank’s website at <http://www.afdb.org>.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM Monrovia Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in hard copy only to the address below and clearly marked “EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT CONSULTANT” on or before 4:00 pm Local time Monday, March 31, 2025.

All communication shall be addressed to:

Mr. Andrew Anderson
Project Coordinator
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Ghana's Mahama discloses help boost Liberia's Cocoa Sector

The Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama has revealed that arrangements are underway to extend technical support to Liberia's Cocoa sector through the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) and Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG).

Speaking at during the around the technical support which include research innovation, and sustainable practices. According to the Ghanaian leader, through this collaboration, Ghana COCOBOD and the CRIG will deploy agronomists, researchers, and extension officers to work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Liberian farmers to provide farmer training and

“Recognizing the potential for regional growth and solidarity, the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) and the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana will have to step forward to provide technical support to help revitalize Liberia's cocoa sector” the Ghanaian leader added.

He furthered that COCOBOD will not only provide high-yield, disease-resistant cocoa seedlings to replace aging or diseased trees, laying the foundation for more resilient farms but will also focus on Post-Harvest Processing Techniques which will include experts guiding farmers on fermentation and drying methods that enhance bean quality, ensuring Liberian cocoa meets international standards.

For her part, Ambassador Ruhle, on behalf of the government and people of Liberia, extended deepest gratitude for Ghana unwavering support and kind gesture toward Liberia. She added that Ghana's generosity and commitment to



presentation of Liberia's Ambassador Musu Jatu Ruhle Letter of Credence, President Mhama stated that a team of experts will leave for Liberia soon to initiate discussion

Capacity Building on best practices in Cocoa cultivation — from proper pruning techniques to effective pest management, Seedling Distribution and Nursery Development amongst others.

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Patient in critical condition blames ELWA Hospital

-As C-Section operation leads to alleged kidney and uterus failure

Jamesetta J. Kugmeh, a pregnant Liberian Registered Nurse, who underwent C-Section at ELWA Hospital is suffering kidney and uterus complications, calling for help from Liberian health authorities.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, March 17, 2025 -A Liberian Registered Nurse (RN) Jamesetta J. Kugmeh, accuses doctors and nurses at ELWA Hospital in Paynesville of alleged operational blunder during delivery, performing surgical Cesarean Section (C-Section), resulting to her kidney and urethra's failure.

Madam Kugmeh is calling on the Liberia Medical and Dental Council (LMDC), Liberia Board of Nursing and Midwifery and Liberia's Ministry of Health to thoroughly investigate the case, as she is currently experiencing uncontrollable bleeding and severe pain at John F. Kennedy Hospital where she has been transferred.

Cesarean Section or Cesarean Birth, (C-Section) is surgical delivery of a baby through a cut (incision) made in the birth parent's abdomen and uterus. However, this is provided by healthcare providers when they believe it is safer for both the mother and the baby.

Liberians on social media are currently soliciting funds for Madam Kugmeh to seek further

medical treatment outside the country to stabilize her urine flow and stop the bleeding. Speaking in tears during an interview over the weekend at the John F. Kennedy Hospital, where she has since been transferred, she narrated that early February 24, 2025, she woke up and beautifully dressed along with her husband, and they were on while on their way to purchase something, she decided to go and do her regular Absolute Neutrophil Count (ANC) at the ELWA hospital where she has been undergoing treatment since her pregnancy.

The Absolute Neutrophil Count

(ANC) is calculated as part of a complete blood count (CBC) test, which gives an estimate of the baby's ability to fight infection.

According to her, when she got at the hospital, the nurse told her that she was forty-two weeks, five days in her pregnancy, which she says she knew being a Registered Nurse (R.N) herself, but the nurses told her that she needed to be admitted in the ward.

“I told the nurse that even my first pregnancy, I went longer. I informed her that my pregnancy usually takes longer, and I will get in pain by myself. But the Nurse told me that I can't leave; it's the hospital's policy. When they did my ANC checkup, the child's

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Madam Kugmeh

Death is not God's punishment

-General Butt Naked slams critics By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Ex-rebel general Evangelist Joshua Milton Blayi, just from battling kidney disease, tells Liberians that they should not see death as a punishment from God, but an appointment that is to all men.

Monrovia, Liberia, March 17, 2025 - Former Liberian ex-fighter turned-evangelist, Joshua Milton Blayi, aka “Gen. Butt Naked” replies critics here, after returning home safely from Nairobi, Kenya where he had gone to treat kidney disease, saying death is not a punishment from God.

Fresh from “Solutions hospital” in Kenya, appearing healthy on Thursday, March 13, 2025, after several weeks of reported deteriorated kidney condition, Evangelist Blayi reacts strongly against those who had wished him dead, because of his role in the Liberian Civil War.

He slams critics, saying that he survived the storms of life and that his battle with critical kidney condition, wasn't God's will that

comes after death and that is judgment. So, if whatsoever I have done and when judgment day comes, and God decides to punish me, he will send me to hell, not just death and when he forgives me, he will send me to heaven. So, Liberians should stop thinking that way.”

General Butt Naked, as he was popularly called at the battle front, has been seeking redemption from his past by establishing a public ministry that focuses on his penitence, as he seeks out those whose lives he has affected, while helping to transform disadvantaged or drugs-addicted youths and ex-fighters.

Upon his return on last Thursday, Evan. Blayi commended Liberians, who stood by him



he should die because of his involvement in the Liberian Civil War.

“I thank God I'm back; I want to say thanks to God almighty I'm back, and in good health. People believe that death is God's punishment. Death cannot be God's punishment, because it is appointed on all men once to died, and by God's grace, he rescued us”, the rebel general-turned evangelist says.

He reiterates that critics thought he would have died in his ailment, because of his past life and involvement in the Liberian Civil war, emphasizing that death is not a punishment for man, but an appointment for every man.

“People believe that death is a punishment for man, but death is not; the true punishment of God

during his sickness.

“There are some Liberians that were praying for me, and I want to say thanks for your prayers; it has kept me alive and I'm back stronger”, he expresses.

He calls on national government to help elevate public health facility in the country to save lives of Liberians, while decrying the civil war that has pushed the country's health sector backward, leaving citizens in dire need of improved health services.

Evangelist Joshua Milton Blayi fought for the disbanded rebels ULIMO-J of the late General Roosevelt Johnson and gained the nick-name “Butt Naked”, for going to battle against his enemies striped-naked. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Starts from page 6 **Ghana's Mahama discloses help boost Liberia's Cocoa Sector**

fostering unity and cooperation between the two countries exemplify the true spirit of African solidarity.

"This act of kindness strengthens the bond between Liberia and Ghana, it reflects our shared vision for peace, progress, and prosperity across the region, we are profoundly grateful for your compassion, which continue to inspire hope and deepen the friendship between our peoples," she said.

Liberia's cocoa sector holds immense potential, but challenges such as low yields, aging trees, and limited access to research-based farming practices have hindered growth. In response these challenges, CRIG work with Liberian agricultural authorities and farmer cooperatives to share decades of scientific research and field-tested solutions.

Liberia, though rich in natural resources and fertile lands, has faced numerous challenges in building a competitive cocoa industry. Limited access to modern farming techniques, low-yield crops, and post-harvest losses have hindered productivity. Understanding these challenges, COCOBOD and CRIG stepped in to share its wealth of knowledge, helping Liberian farmers and policymakers unlock the sector's full potential.

"This partnership will serve as a powerful example of how intra-African cooperation can accelerate development. By sharing resources and expertise, Ghana and Liberia will demonstrate the strength of regional unity and the potential for mutual prosperity. As Ghana COCOBOD and CRIG will continue to support Liberia's cocoa sector, it will not only uplifts farmers but also contributes to the broader vision of a thriving, interconnected African agricultural landscape.

In closing, the Ghanaian leader reiterated that the offer is not only in connection with the two nations long standing relationship but also his personal friendship with the Liberia's President Joseph Nyuma Boakai. **-Dispatch.**

Starts from page 6 **Patient in critical condition blames ELWA Hospital**

health and vital sign everything was well and okay. The child's vital sign was 136 when they did the incision. So, they transferred me on the ward. They did the incision on February 24 at 7:00 pm and I remained there up to February 25, 2025, in serious pain", Madam Kugmeh discloses.

She continues that she was in severe pain when later doctors at ELWA told her that they needed to do C-Section operation on her, something, she says she agreed to and they took her in the theater where she offered prayers before the surgical operation was performed.

She says they did the surgical operation, and the process was guided and done by one Dr. Yasu, instead of Dr. Susay, adding that due to the drip that was between her and Dr. Yasu, she didn't recognize his face while he was performing surgery.

But, when she saw on the Child Card Road to Health, she said she saw Dr. Yasu's name as the doctor that did the operation, and so she asked who he is, because she doesn't know him and so, after the C/S, she went back on the ward and held her baby with oxygen on her.

She explains that when she was taken on the ward with oxygen, she started bleeding severely, but they told her that her uterus was not contracting, something, she says she understood, as a medical person because in some cases the uterus doesn't contract, especially for multifarious women.

"From there, they suggested total history histo-restoration and I agreed. They took me the second time and did the total histo-restoration operation but, when they brought me back, everything became abnormal again. So, the nurses suggested that I be taken to the Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) for monitoring and stability. I was semi-conscious because I was talking to them. People can attest. Even when they brought me to JFK, they said this other patient can talk. Even in the room before they burned me with something that looks like hot water when I was going off, I talked", Madam Kugmeh recalls.

She says while in the ORS to ensure that she is stabilized, they requested for twenty units of blood from her husband to infuse in her, at which time they kept her in the ORS from February 25-28.

Accordingly, she states that when she went into shock, the last thing she heard was that they should pack her things and call the ambulance after which she was transferred to John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital for further examination.

"And so, maybe their hope was when I was coming, I was going to die. The third time they took me in the Outpatient Department (OPD) to do my X-lap. So, I was wondering why C-Section has to do with X-Lap, because I never had any history of kidney and liver failure or problems, neither did I have any abnormality throughout my pregnancy," she explained.

Madam Kugmeh notes that she has been taking her medication and doing checkup and so when they brought her to JFK, they did their best to revive her but, relating to the issue of her urine, only dialysis she is on.

"I am here suffering every day and dying. I can't urinate. Every morning, I am crying. I am in pain and so, I need answer. I am calling on the Liberia Medical and Dental Council (LMDC), Liberia Board of Nursing and Midwifery and Liberia's Ministry of Health to do a thoroughly investigate in this case. Now, I need medical treatment outside the country to stabilize me and ensure that I can urinate, and the bleeding can stop," she pleads.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

African Theology Leadership Institute opens in Liberia

Margibi, Liberia, Gueh of Living Stream March 17, 2025 - Tabernacle Church, emphasized African Theology the true essence of church and Leadership Institute (ATLI) leadership, urging pastors to officially launches in Liberia, prioritize impacting lives over bringing together bishops, personal enrichment. He pastors, church leaders, and cautioned against misuse of theologians to discuss church leadership for personal sustainable church growth and gains, while congregants effective pastoral leadership. struggle in poverty.

The event, held at Providence Preaching from Psalm 23, Pastor Baptist Church in Monrovia, Gueh underscored the aims to equip faith leaders with importance of responsible theological and leadership skills leadership, referencing David's to guide their congregations declaration, "The Lord is my with integrity and vision. shepherd."

Speaking at the opening He called on church leaders to ceremony, Pastor Solomon take full responsibility for their congregations' well-being.

"Leadership is about serving the people, not enriching oneself, unfortunately, many church leaders today prioritize their own welfare over

New lottery game is a rescue in action

-NLA Deputy Director *By Lewis S. Teh*

The Deputy Director General for Lotto Games at the National Lottery Authority (NLA), Richlue Burphy, has hailed the recently signed 5/90 lottery games as a pivotal initiative that aligns with the government's broader rescue agenda.

The new lottery format, which also promises to invigorate the local economy and provide much-needed revenue for national development, has since been met with enthusiasm from some sectors across Liberia.

On February 20, 2025, the NLA awarded Blue Star Hi-Tech Liberia Limited International Competitive Bid to operate the 5/90 Lotto Game in Liberia, designed to enhance the gaming experience while also increasing potentials for substantial winnings.

projected revenue from the 5/90 lottery is expected to reach millions of dollars annually, adding "This revenue will be crucial for funding various programs and initiatives to improve the quality of life for our citizens."

"With that being said, we are committed to transparency and accountability in how these funds are or will be utilized, like our corporate social responsibility is one key area that these funds will be spent," he assured.

Burphy, at the same time, emphasized the importance of community engagement in the rollout of the 5/90 lottery, noting that the authority plans to collaborate with local organizations, including the media and residents, to ensure that the lottery benefits all segments of society.

"We want to ensure that the 5/90 lottery is inclusive and accessible to everyone. As such, we will be working closely with the community and the media to promote responsible gaming and to educate the public about the benefits of participating in the lottery."

In response to concerns raised about gambling in the country, he notes, "We take the issue of gambling addiction very seriously. So, as part of our rollout plan, we will be implementing measures to promote responsible gaming and those who are to play the game."

Burphy affirmed that they plan to monitor its performance closely and adjust as needed to ensure its success, adding, "We are committed to making this lottery a sustainable and beneficial program for all Liberians."

Editing by Jonathan Browne

that of their "Every church member Also speaking at the congregants," Pastor looks to their leader for conference, Dr. Samuel Gueh noted.He outlined direction; the gospel is Reaves, Pastor of core responsibilities of not about money, yet Providence Baptist church leaders, some pastors establish Church, delivered a stressing their duty to churches merely to powerful message on protect followers and amass wealth instead of "Spiritual Leadership leave a lasting impact preaching the true word in Uncertain Times – on future generations. of God," he added. Anchored in Christ."



Deputy Director General Richlue Burphy

Français

"Rendez-lui justice" – Un ancien camarade de classe de Boakai plaide en faveur de Nancy Doe

Monrovia, mars 2025 – L'écrivain libérien et analyste international Dagbayonoh Kiah Nyanfore II, ancien camarade de classe du président Joseph Boakai, a adressé une lettre à l'Exécutif en février 2025 pour plaider en faveur de Madame Nancy B.



Doe, veuve de l'ancien président Samuel K. Doe. Dans sa correspondance, il exhorte le chef de l'État à lui rendre justice, dénonçant une violation prolongée de ses

droits humains et constitutionnels. Des décisions judiciaires ignorées M. Nyanfore souligne que plusieurs administrations successives ont omis d'exécuter des jugements rendus en faveur de Mme Doe par la Cour suprême du Liberia et la Cour de justice de la CEDEAO. Selon lui, cette situation remonte à 2011, sous

l'administration d'Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, lorsque Mme Doe a saisi la justice libérienne pour réclamer la restitution de 4 947 830 dollars, une somme appartenant à son défunt époux.

L'affaire remonte à la période où Samuel Doe, alors président, était un investisseur discret dans plusieurs entreprises, notamment dans le secteur du diamant et de l'or. Ces investissements lui rapportaient plus de 2 millions de dollars de bénéfices nets annuels, qu'il déposait à la Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) au Liberia. Cependant, avec l'effondrement de la BCCI durant la guerre civile, la Banque nationale du Liberia (devenue par la suite la Banque centrale du Liberia) a récupéré ces fonds mais ne les a jamais restitués à leurs ayants droit. Bien que la Cour suprême ait tranché en faveur de Mme Doe en 2019, lui accordant un total de 5 209 382 dollars avec un intérêt de 6 %, l'administration Sirleaf n'a pas exécuté la décision. Des analystes ont suggéré que cette inaction était motivée par des considérations politiques, craignant que la famille Doe n'utilise les fonds pour contester le pouvoir en place. En 2016, Mme Doe a porté

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200 Millions de Dollars Américains Présument Détournés : Le Sénateur McGill Exige des Comptes au Ministère de l'Agriculture

Par Lincoln G. Peters
Monrovia, Liberia, 14 mars 2025 – Le sénateur du comté de Margibi, Nathaniel F. McGill, exprime de vives préoccupations concernant la gestion de 200 millions de dollars américains de financements accordés par des donateurs au Ministère de l'Agriculture. Dans une communication adressée à la plénière du Sénat le jeudi 13 mars 2025, M. McGill pointe du doigt les programmes STAR-P et RETRAP, mis en œuvre sous l'égide du ministère avec des fonds de la Banque mondiale et d'autres partenaires internationaux. Il exige un rapport détaillé sur l'exécution de ces projets, qu'il qualifie de « cruciaux et indispensables » pour le développement agricole du Liberia. Des Fonds Destinés aux Petits Agriculteurs en Péril ? Le sénateur McGill rappelle que ces deux initiatives, d'un montant total d'environ 200 millions de dollars, avaient pour objectif principal de soutenir les communautés locales et d'aider les agriculteurs libériens à développer l'agribusiness.

"Notamment, dans le cadre du programme STAR-P, plus de 40 millions de dollars avaient été alloués sous l'administration précédente pour octroyer des microcrédits aux petits exploitants agricoles à travers le pays", révèle-t-il. Il souligne que, dans un souci de transparence et de responsabilité,

la plénière du Sénat doit convoquer la ministre de l'Agriculture afin qu'elle fournisse un compte rendu exhaustif de la mise en œuvre de ces projets. Une Demande de Clarifications Urgente Dans sa communication, le sénateur McGill insiste sur la nécessité d'obtenir des informations précises, notamment :

- Une ventilation détaillée des fonds, précisant leur mode d'attribution et leur répartition ;
- Le nombre total de bénéficiaires, notamment les agriculteurs ayant reçu des prêts dans le cadre de ces initiatives ;
- La localisation des bénéficiaires afin d'assurer une distribution équitable et inclusive des ressources sur l'ensemble du territoire ;
- L'état d'avancement et les processus de gestion actuels des deux programmes.

Étant donné que ces initiatives impliquent des prêts aux agriculteurs, le sénateur insiste sur l'importance d'un



suivi rigoureux pour s'assurer que les fonds ont été utilisés efficacement afin de renforcer le secteur agricole libérien. "Un document de travail extrait du site de la Banque mondiale, détaillant certains aspects du programme, est joint à cette communication pour référence", ajoute-t-il. Enfin, il exhorte le Sénat à prendre des mesures rapides pour convoquer la ministre de l'Agriculture et obtenir des réponses claires sur l'état des fonds. "J'encourage respectueusement la plénière à agir sans délai en invitant la ministre de l'Agriculture à fournir ces mises à jour essentielles, afin de renforcer notre engagement en faveur de la transparence, de la responsabilité et du soutien continu à nos petits agriculteurs", conclut-il.

Éditorial

Comment le Bloc Majoritaire a couvert le Liberia de honte

Par Raghuram Rajan

Dans leur quête égoïste et à courte vue du pouvoir, les membres du Bloc Majoritaire de la Chambre des représentants, sous la direction du « Président du Régime » Richard Nagbe Koon, ont exposé l'image du Liberia à l'opprobre international en adressant une demande à l'Assemblée parlementaire de la CEDEAO visant au retrait de trois parlementaires libériens de cette institution régionale.

Cette requête a été formulée malgré l'avis préalable du sénateur Edwin Melvin Snowe, président de la Commission sur la sécurité régionale de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la CEDEAO, qui avait clairement indiqué que cette démarche était impossible.

Ignorant cet avertissement et aveuglés par leur obsession du pouvoir, les membres du Bloc Majoritaire dirigé par Koon ont tout de même écrit à l'Assemblée parlementaire de la CEDEAO pour rappeler les représentants libériens Samuel R. Enders, Sr., Moima Briggs-Mensah et Taa Z. Wongbe. Leur initiative s'est soldée par un rejet catégorique de la part de l'institution régionale, infligeant ainsi un camouflet retentissant à la majorité parlementaire libérienne.

Dans sa réponse officielle adressée à la 55^e législature libérienne, et plus particulièrement à la Chambre des représentants, l'Assemblée parlementaire de la CEDEAO a rappelé que, conformément à l'article 18.1 et 18.2 de l'Acte additionnel relatif au renforcement des pouvoirs du Parlement de la CEDEAO, le mandat des parlementaires communautaires est fixé pour une durée de quatre ans.

L'Assemblée a précisé sans équivoque qu'une fois les représentants des États membres investis, ils ne peuvent être révoqués ni remplacés avant l'expiration de leur mandat, sauf dans les cas suivants : non-réélection au niveau national, décès ou démission notifiée par écrit au président du Parlement de la CEDEAO.

Elle a en outre souligné que, sauf en cas d'incapacité mentale ou physique certifiée, de démission pour incompatibilité ou de révocation par l'Assemblée parlementaire pour faute grave, aucun Parlement national ne peut exiger le retrait de ses représentants une fois ceux-ci nommés.

Ainsi, l'institution régionale a affirmé que les députés Samuel R. Enders, Sr., Moima Briggs-Mensah et Taa Z. Wongbe ne se trouvent dans aucune de ces situations et ne peuvent donc être remplacés. Par conséquent, ils poursuivront leur mandat jusqu'à son terme, conformément aux engagements internationaux du Liberia.

C'est là que réside l'embarras et l'humiliation internationale : l'Assemblée parlementaire de la CEDEAO rappelle que sa décision s'aligne sur les obligations internationales du Liberia, obligations dont le « Président du Régime » Koon et son Bloc Majoritaire semblent ignorer l'existence. Leur action imprudente met en cause non seulement leur leadership, mais aussi leur compréhension des responsabilités parlementaires du pays.

Cependant, cette situation n'étonne guère. Les membres du Bloc Majoritaire ont déjà violé la Constitution du Liberia ainsi que leurs propres règlements internes en destituant illégalement le président de la Chambre et en élisant de manière contestée le représentant Richard Nagbe Koon, qui s'auto-proclame « Président du Régime », en dépit de la présence d'un président élu constitutionnellement, J. Fonati Koffa. Ils sont même allés jusqu'à forcer l'accès au bureau du président Koffa pour le faire occuper par Koon.

Ce même mépris des règles et cette brutalité institutionnelle ont été projetés sur la scène régionale lorsque le Bloc Majoritaire a tenté de retirer les représentants libériens de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la CEDEAO, en dépit de l'avertissement clair du sénateur Edwin Melvin Snowe sur l'impossibilité d'une telle action. Le rejet catégorique de leur demande constitue une réponse cinglante à leur ignorance et à leur ambition démesurée, plongeant une fois de plus le Liberia dans l'embarras sur la scène internationale.

Français

Starts from page 8 **"Rendez-lui justice" – Un ancien camarade de**

l'affaire devant la Cour de justice de la CEDEAO, qui, en 2019, a conclu à une violation de ses droits humains et lui a accordé une indemnisation de 18 millions de dollars. Toutefois, l'administration de George Weah n'a ni honoré ce jugement ni engagé de négociations avec elle.

Un appel à la conscience nationale

Pour M. Nyanfore, l'affaire dépasse le cadre juridique et soulève une question de droits humains fondamentaux. Il rappelle que Mme Doe est avant tout une citoyenne libérienne, dont les droits doivent être respectés. Il interpelle le président Boakai en ces termes :

"Les Libériens peuvent avoir des opinions divergentes sur le coup d'État du 12 avril 1980 qui a porté Samuel Doe et le PRC au pouvoir. Mais Mme Doe et sa famille doivent-elles être punies pour cet événement ? Les droits de ceux qui ont travaillé sous le régime Doe doivent-ils être bafoués ? Leurs enfants doivent-ils être privés de leurs droits ? L'histoire nous a enseigné que la violation persistante des droits fondamentaux engendre des injustices durables. Nous devons éviter qu'un tel scénario ne se répète."

M. Nyanfore salue néanmoins la création par le président Boakai du Bureau du Tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et économiques au Liberia, y voyant un signal fort en faveur de la justice et de la réconciliation nationale.

Le rôle de Samuel Doe dans l'histoire libérienne

Dans un entretien avec *New Dawn*, M. Nyanfore rappelle que l'ancien président Samuel Doe, malgré ses controverses, a contribué à l'ascension de plusieurs personnalités aujourd'hui influentes. Il a, par exemple, sauvé Ellen Johnson Sirleaf de l'exécution après le coup d'État et l'a intégrée comme conseillère gouvernementale. Il a nommé Joseph Boakai ministre de l'Agriculture et l'a fait libérer lorsqu'il était accusé de détournement de fonds publics. De plus, il a soutenu financièrement la carrière de George Weah dans le

football, un fait confirmé par le *New York Times*, qui rapporte :

"Weah serait peut-être resté au Liberia, un joueur local talentueux mais sans formation, sans l'intervention personnelle du président Doe. Doe l'a nommé capitaine de l'équipe nationale et l'a invité au palais présidentiel pour discuter de stratégies footballistiques. Après les victoires, il distribuait des primes en liquide à Weah et à ses coéquipiers. À une époque où l'économie libérienne s'effondrait, Doe a envoyé l'équipe nationale, incluant Weah, au Brésil pour un stage de perfectionnement. Cette initiative a porté ses fruits lorsque, en 1988, le club français AS Monaco a signé un contrat avec Weah."

Cependant, M. Nyanfore insiste que son plaidoyer ne vise pas à obtenir justice pour Mme Doe en raison des actions de son époux, mais parce que cela relève d'un impératif de droit et d'équité.

Un besoin de réparation et de réconciliation

Enfin, il félicite le président Boakai pour sa proposition d'organiser des funérailles honorables pour les anciens présidents William R. Tolbert et Samuel Doe, annoncée lors de son dernier discours sur l'état de la nation. Il regrette toutefois que cette initiative soit teintée de considérations politiques et suggère que Mme Doe soit indemnisée afin qu'elle puisse organiser elle-même un hommage digne à son mari.

Jusqu'à présent, l'appel de M. Nyanfore constitue la deuxième initiative publique en faveur de Mme Doe. En avril 2024, la journaliste et militante Allison Z. T. Dunner avait déjà interpellé le président Boakai sur la nécessité d'appliquer le jugement de la CEDEAO.

L'issue de cette affaire reste incertaine, mais pour Nyanfore et d'autres défenseurs des droits humains, l'administration Boakai a une occasion historique de montrer son engagement envers la justice et la réconciliation nationale.

Colère au Sénat Libérien Face aux Retards de Paiement dans le Secteur de la Santé

Monrovia, Liberia, 14 mars 2025 – La session du Sénat libérien a été marquée, jeudi 13 mars, par une vive indignation des sénateurs face à la détérioration du secteur de la santé publique et aux retards persistants dans le décaissement des fonds destinés aux hôpitaux du pays. Le débat a été lancé par le sénateur du comté de Lofa, Momo T. Cyrus, qui a dénoncé le paiement progressif des fonds aux comtés de Grand Bassa, Nimba et Bong, alors que d'autres comtés n'ont reçu que 25 % ou moins des sommes qui leur sont dues.

Des Soupçons de Favoritisme

Le sénateur Cyrus s'interroge sur la raison de cette inégalité de traitement. Selon lui, la puissance politique de certains sénateurs occupant des postes stratégiques, alliés de la présidente du Sénat, Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence, pourrait expliquer cette différence dans l'allocation des ressources. Il affirme avoir contacté le ministère des Finances au sujet

des paiements destinés au comté de Lofa, mais on lui aurait répondu que la région ne soumettait pas ses rapports financiers. Pourtant, après s'être rendu sur place et avoir consulté les documents fournis par l'équipe sanitaire du comté, il affirme que cette information est fausse, car les rapports ont bien été envoyés aux ministères des Finances et de la Santé.

Une Crise Sanitaire Aiguë

Le sénateur de Gbarpolu, Amara M. Konneh, a également fustigé le retard dans le paiement des fonds du

secteur de la santé, dénonçant la situation catastrophique des établissements médicaux.

"Depuis six mois, je ne cesse de tirer la sonnette d'alarme. La majorité des centres de santé du pays n'ont pas reçu la totalité de leur financement pour l'exercice 2024. Cela compromet gravement la qualité des soins de base. Nos populations souffrent et meurent faute de médicaments", a-t-il déclaré.

Il a demandé à la plénière de convoquer les ministres des Finances et de la Santé devant le Comité plénier pour fournir des explications.



SENATOR KARNGA-LAWRENCE

Boakai Rend Hommage aux Victimes de la Guerre Civile Libérienne

Le Président libérien appelle à la réconciliation et à l'unité nationale en mémoire des victimes des 14 ans de guerre civile.

Monrovia, Liberia, 14 mars 2025 – Le Président Joseph Nyuma Boakai a rendu un vibrant hommage aux victimes de la guerre civile libérienne, soulignant que la vie de chaque citoyen a une valeur inestimable, quelle que soit son origine familiale, ethnique, religieuse ou politique.

Lors de son discours, prononcé le mercredi 12 mars, jour de la "Decoration Day", une journée nationale consacrée au souvenir des morts, le Président Boakai a insisté sur la nécessité de réconcilier la nation et de reconnaître la valeur de chaque vie perdue pendant les 14 années de guerre.

Le Président a rendu hommage aux victimes au Du-port Memorial Site, une fosse commune où reposent des centaines de Libériens massacrés pendant le conflit civil.

Un Appel à la Réconciliation

S'adressant aux Libériens, Boakai a déclaré qu'il était temps de se réconcilier et d'unir les forces pour construire un avenir meilleur.

"Nous faisons cela pour montrer aux Libériens qu'il est grand temps de se réconcilier, de reconnaître la valeur de chaque citoyen, indépendamment de son origine, son ethnie ou toute autre considération," a souligné le Président.

Il a insisté sur le fait que l'unité et la réconciliation sont



essentielles pour bâtir une nation plus forte.

Construire un Avenir Meilleur

Alors que les Libériens rendaient hommage aux anciens dirigeants et aux victimes des conflits passés, Boakai a exhorté la population à s'engager pleinement dans le processus de réconciliation nationale afin d'assurer un avenir stable aux générations futures.

"C'est une ère de réconciliation. Nous devons reconstruire la vie de notre peuple et préparer ce pays à un avenir meilleur. L'unité est indispensable pour maintenir cette nation debout. »

Un Site Mémoriel Emblématique

Le superviseur et gardien du Du-port Memorial Site, Duannah B. Paygar, a exprimé sa joie et sa gratitude pour la visite du Président, qualifiant ce geste d'acte de justice et de reconnaissance.

Le Du-port Memorial Site, construit en 2017 sous la présidence d'Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a été érigé en hommage aux milliers de Libériens morts entre le 24 décembre 1989 et le 11 août 2003.

Ce lieu commémoratif accueille les dépouilles de nombreuses victimes retrouvées à travers Monrovia et enterrées en fosse commune dans la communauté de Du-port Road Waterside, à Paynesville.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Government Jobs: Right or Privilege?

A Critical Investigation of Qualifications, Corruption, and Private Sector Growth in Liberia:

Authored by: Edward Weese and Austin S Fallah-Both studied Public Administration-Public Policy at Hamline University in Minnesota. The state of Minnesota's first University and the leader in Public Administration-Public Policy in the Midwest of the United States of America:

Whether government jobs should be considered a right or a privilege invokes nuanced considerations engaging ethics, justice, and the overall development of a nation.

In Liberia, a country with a tumultuous history of civil strife and systemic corruption, appointing individuals to government positions has been heavily influenced by political party affiliation rather than objective criteria such as qualifications, competence, and experience.

Our penned korero argues that while government jobs can be seen as a privilege, they should fundamentally serve as a right grounded in meritocratic principles.

Focusing on qualifications, experience, and competency is paramount to combat corruption and stimulate national development.

Moreover, fostering private sector growth and entrepreneurship should be a priority for the government rather than solely relying on public sector employment.

To begin with, it is essential to differentiate between rights and privileges.

As we learned in one of our graduate school classes in Public Administration-Public Policy, a right is generally considered an entitlement individuals hold about one another and their governance structures, often enshrined in legal frameworks and constitutions.

In contrast, a privilege is a unique advantage or liberty granted only to a specific group.

In many nations, government jobs are perceived as privileges afforded to a select few, which can lead to favoritism, nepotism, and corruption.

Liberians regularly observe how key positions have been appointed based on loyalty to political parties instead of merit considerations, leading to pervasive public distrust in the government.

We are not suggesting that party appointments of competent, qualified, and experienced people are wrong, but excluding independent minds is counterproductive to the nation's social and economic development.

Reliance on political affiliation as a criterion for securing government jobs contributes significantly to the erosion of qualified leadership in Liberia.

For instance, during recent administrations, top civil service positions have frequently been filled by party loyalists who may lack the necessary qualifications or experience.

This practice hinders the development of efficient governance and primes the stage for corruption.

Prominent cases of bribery and mismanagement have plagued government agencies, exposing the risk of appointing unqualified personnel.

By prioritizing political affiliations over competency, the government compromises its

integrity and jeopardizes Liberia's potential for advancement.

Such dynamics can be sharply contrasted with nations prioritizing merit over political allegiance.

In nations such as Singapore, an exemplar of successful governance, appointments to government positions are grounded in meritocratic principles.

Singapore has utilized a rigorous examination system to attract the most qualified leaders, thereby maintaining high governance standards devoid of corrupt practices endemic to politically motivated appointments.

The outcome of such practices can be observed in Singapore's robust economic growth and stability over recent decades.

Focusing on qualifications, competence, and experience establishes a strong foundation for effective governance and fosters national development.

The argument is further complicated when considering the role of independent minds in government positions.

In Liberia, the emergence of independent candidates not affiliated with the major political parties challenges the

Fostering an entrepreneurial spirit can help the government facilitate economic growth and create pathways to self-sufficiency.

Countries like South Korea and Germany have adeptly nurtured their private sectors, leading to unprecedented monetary expansion.

After the Korean War, South Korea strategically invested in industries through public-private partnerships while empowering individuals to create enterprises.

The case of Germany is equally illustrative. The country has long championed its small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as the backbone of its economy.

Germany has seen significant economic growth and job creation by creating an environment conducive to entrepreneurship and reducing bureaucratic barriers.

Such examples depict that encouraging private sector growth can produce a more resilient and diversified economy, ultimately serving the greater public interest more effectively than the reliance on government positions.

While it is essential to assert that government jobs should fundamentally promote merit, it is similarly crucial to recognize the role of the private sector in national development.

The government must prioritize policies that enable citizens to engage in and thrive within the private sector.

Initiatives such as tax incentives for new businesses and programs aimed at entrepreneurship education can empower Liberians with the necessary tools to explore self-employment opportunities.

By streamlining permits and creating favorable regulatory environments, the government can reduce the dependency on public sector employment, thereby lessening the burden of clientelism entrenched in government jobs.

However, while government jobs can indeed be a privilege, they should be treated as a right grounded in ethical standards and practical needs.

Qualifications, competence, and experience must be the primary measures for appointment to these positions.

This approach promotes better governance, significantly reduces corruption, and fosters national development.

Our Conclusion:

The growing challenge of political corruption in Liberia highlights the urgent need for reform in government employment practices.

Political affiliations should not dictate the right to serve in government roles; qualifications and competence are critical to effective governance.

Moreover, nurturing a robust private sector through entrepreneurship will empower citizens and diminish reliance on government jobs.

Integrating independent minds into the public service can strengthen the government through diverse perspectives, enabling more effective policies that benefit the nation.

Liberia stands at a junction where it must choose between the entrenched patronage network of political affiliations and a future grounded in merit and opportunity.

The path to national development lies firmly within a committed citizenry determined to prioritize integrity and competence in all forms of governance.



existing political culture.

Whether these independent individuals should have equal access to government positions arises since their perspectives may drive meaningful change and innovation.

In many democratic countries, independent candidates can disrupt the political status quo and catalyze reforms.

Liberia must embrace these independent voices into government roles to harness their expertise and creative thinking capabilities.

Their inclusion in decision-making enables diverse opinions, promoting policies that align more closely with public interest rather than partisan agendas.

Moreover, one significant issue tied to government jobs is the undeniable connection between such positions and the breeding of corruption.

When public employment becomes synonymous with political patronage, the integrity of public administration is at stake.

Corruption thrives in environments where individuals who lack accountability and transparency gain positions of power.

In Liberia, the various public sector scandals involving the misappropriation of funds indicate corrupt practices directly resulting from politically motivated appointments.

Conversely, empowering individuals to engage in the private sector offers a sustainable solution to employment challenges in Liberia.

Trum gives Boakai 60 days ultimatum

-Correct deficiencies or your citizens will be allowed in the US

By: Kruah Thompson
Monrovia, Liberia, March 17, 2025: U.S. diplomats and security officials have developed a plan to impose strict travel restrictions on citizens from 43 countries, including Liberia, according



placed on a “yellow” list and given 60 days to address security deficiencies or face a potential travel ban. Though the security deficiencies were not listed in the report, other nations on the 'yellow' list include Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin,

While the Liberian Government is yet to comment on this development, The New Dawn conducted a search of official U.S. government sources but found no confirmation of the policy. However, this paper gathered that the planned imposition of a potential travel bans barring Liberians from entering the United States reportedly originated from an executive order signed by President Donald Trump upon taking office in January, instructing officials to compile the lists countries to face potential travel bans within 60 days. The list was described by Mr. Trump as necessary measure to protect the United States from potential security threats. Travel bans were imposed during President Trump's first term but were partially reversed by the Biden administration in 2021, and if implemented, the new restrictions would mark a return and expansion of those earlier policies. The U.S. State Department and security agencies are said to be reviewing the proposal, though a final decision has not been made. As the situation develops, Liberians and citizens of other listed nations will be watching closely to see whether the U.S. government moves forward with these travel restrictions.

to international reports. The plan categorizes these nations into three groups based on their perceived security risks and government effectiveness. Under the proposed policy, 11 countries are placed on a “red” list, meaning their citizens will be completely banned from entering the United States. Another 10 countries are on an “orange” list, which would restrict but not entirely block their travel to the US. Additionally, 22 countries, including Liberia, have been

Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Vanuatu, and Zimbabwe. Meanwhile, the report further indicated that the proposed restrictions stem from concerns over weak or corrupt governance and security challenges in the affected nations.

ArcelorMittal Liberia celebrates 20yrs of operations

ArcelorMittal marked two decades of investment, growth, and contributions to the country's economy and mining sector.

By: Kruah Thompson
Monrovia, March 17, 2025/ Global steel giant ArcelorMittal marked a significant milestone here on Saturday, March 15, celebrating its 20 years of operations in Liberia at the Invincible Eleven (IE) Sports Park near the Fish Market in Sinkor.

The celebration, attended by an array of high-profile guests, including South African Ambassador Iqbal Jhazbhay and several top government officials, also marked the company's two decades of investment, growth, and contributions to the country's economy and mining sector.

Mittal Steel began operations in the tiny West African country in 2005. It has played a key role in reviving the nation's iron ore industry, creating both direct and indirect jobs, and contributing to infrastructure development after more than two decades of brutal civil war.

In a special statement at the event, ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) CEO Michiel Vandermerwe highlighted the

company's commitment to sustainable mining practices and its contributions to the local economy. "Ladies and gentlemen, we have reached a significant milestone in our company's journey this year as we finalize our first two major projects. The first project is one of the largest mining expansion initiatives in West Africa, or perhaps even the entire continent," Mr. Vandermerwe said. “We, ArcelorMittal are steadfast in our dedication to sustainability, environmental

stewardship, and community development, ensuring that the benefits of the success of our operations are shared with all Liberians,” he continued, adding, “We are at a critical juncture of our operations this year, when we are finalizing our Phase II Expansion Project, one of the largest mining expansion projects in West Africa.”

Mr. Vandermerwe further expressed his heartfelt appreciation to attendees and extended his gratitude to those working across the company's mining sites to ensure the successful extraction of iron ore, while conveying a special



From Back Page

Indian Ambassador praises Jeety

leading to stronger economic growth in the region. In response, Amb. Verma acknowledges the request and stresses that India remains committed to supporting Liberia by enhancing education, healthcare, and youth empowerment. "We want to share our expertise and knowledge with our friendly countries, and Liberia is our partner in that context," Amb. Verma adds. "India is already providing significant scholarship support to the Government of Liberia, particularly in capacity building." The Indian envoy assures the people of Margibi that arrangements would be made with Salala Rubber Corporation and Jeety Rubber Factory to provide undergraduate scholarships, emphasizing that the selection process would be merit-based. With the promise of new scholarships, both nations stand to benefit—Liberia gains a more educated workforce, while India strengthens its diplomatic and economic ties with the West African partner. Meanwhile, Ambassador Verma expresses admiration for the socio-economic progress he observed at SRC and Jeety Rubber Factory, highlighting their contributions to infrastructure, employment, and the livelihoods of host communities. He emphasizes that strengthening bilateral ties between India and Liberia would encourage further investment from Indian businesses, ultimately supporting Liberia's broader development agenda. "India and Liberia share a long-standing relationship, and we are here to support initiatives that empower local communities," Amb. Verma assures. "I am impressed with the level of work done by our former Consul General in supporting the Liberian people. Moving forward, we will work with him to ensure that some of your children go to India on scholarships, return, and contribute to Liberia's development." “I want to thank the Government of Liberia and the people of Margibi for providing an enabling environment for my compatriots and others to invest.” As Upjit Singh Sachdeva (Jeety) plans to expand the Jeety Rubber factory's production to include tires and gloves, Amb. Verma is optimistic that the entrepreneur's vision would materialize, enabling better incentives and social services for the local population. According to Mr. Sachdeva, his goal is to maintain a sustainable corporate social responsibility model that enhances long-term well-being of those living in areas surrounding his businesses. "At the SRC School, we have announced to all 12th graders that if they achieve an A+ in WASSCE, we will provide them with undergraduate scholarships in India. If they earn an A, we will sponsor their studies at any university in Liberia," Mr. Sachdeva promises. "Education is the foundation of any community's future, and we want to ensure that the children of Margibi have access to quality education and good healthcare facilities," he adds while emphasizing the importance of education and welfare in community development. According to Mr. Sachdeva, within 24 months, the SRC under his administration will complete the renovation and upgrade all workers' living quarters and provide additional social amenities. **Editing by Jonathan Browne.**

message from the Executive Vice President and CEO of ArcelorMittal Mining, Mr. Aditya Mittal. According to him, Mr. Aditya declared 2025 as the Year of Liberia, disclosing that the first two expansions marked a substantial increase in mining output, with operations now expanding into three mining areas in Nimba County. He indicated that as ArcelorMittal continues its operations in Liberia, the country is poised to become a central hub for large-scale mining in Africa. Making a remark at the event, Transport Minister Sirleaf Ralph Tyler commended AML for its commitment to safety and environmental sustainability in rail transportation. Reaffirming the government's support, he expressed confidence that the company would adhere to the newly introduced rail regulations. He also expressed gratitude to the employees for their dedication to driving the company's success and thanked host counties Nimba, Bong, and Bassa for their continued support and hospitality. For his part, Nimba lawmaker Martins K. Tangba criticized the government for taking control of the railway from ArcelorMittal and handing it over to an entity he claims has yet to contribute meaningfully

to the Liberian people's livelihood. He noted that the government's controversial decision to do so threatens the company's investment in the country. He urged the company to continue supporting the local communities, particularly the people of Nimba, who host the iron ore operations, even if the government continues to exert pressure on them. Meanwhile, the superintendent of the three host counties encouraged the company to increase its engagement with the local communities, The event also showcased the company's achievements, including the creation of thousands of jobs, significant investments in local infrastructure, including the Yekepa-Buchanan railway, and initiatives aimed at environmental sustainability. ArcelorMittal Liberia has been a key player in the country's economic recovery since the end of the civil war, providing a stable source of employment and contributing to the national GDP. “Since 2005, ArcelorMittal has invested over 3.5 billion U.S. dollars in this country. Most of this investment was spent on the reconstruction of the railway, upgrading the port, and rehabilitation of other mining infrastructures and the construction of the concentrator.” - **Edited by Othello B. Garblah.**

Indian Ambassador praises Jeety

-For improving SRC's infrastructure

The Management of Jeety Rubber Factory receives commendation for improving Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC)'s infrastructure in Margibi County.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Margibi, Liberia, March 17, 2025 - Indian Ambassador to Liberia, Manoj Bihari Verma, lauds a fellow Indian here, Dr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva, commonly known as Mr. Jeety in Liberia for his efforts in improving Salala Rubber

opportunities to provide undergraduate scholarships to the people of Margibi County District #5.

The ambassador's pronouncement came in response to a collective appeal from local leaders for increased educational support during his tour of the Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) and Jeety

socio-economic impact of Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) and Jeety Rubber Factory on host communities and beyond.

Owned by Indian businessman Upjit Singh Sachdeva, the companies have been widely praised by visiting diplomats, government officials, and local residents for creating employment opportunities and investing in vital community projects. And since taking over SRC in November last year, the Sachdeva management team has moved swiftly in renovating schools and hospitals, as well as renovating and constructing new homes for the workforce.

Speaking on behalf of their people, township chiefs and district commissioners of Margibi District #5, appealed to the Indian Ambassador for an increase in educational support, emphasizing that scholarships for their children would help drive future economic development.

"Honorable Ambassador, we are serious about our request to help our children with scholarships," the leaders collectively state. "This, we say from our hearts. Please help our kids. Advanced education will make a big difference in District 5 and the entire Liberia."

They believe that increasing access to higher education will enhance the human capacity of their communities, ultimately

Corporation (SRC)'s infrastructure, including schools, hospital facilities, and housing for workers.

Ambassador Verma also pronounces that the Indian government will explore

Rubber Factory over the weekend. He assures residents that the scholarships would be merit-based and would contribute to the future economic development of the region.

His visit was aimed at assessing the



Ambassador Manoj Bihari Verma (Center) with Jeety

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