



CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES

LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR DATE **BUYING SELLING** TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025 L\$199.8230/US\$1.00 L\$198.0330/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.





VOL. 15 NO. 033 TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

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Continental News

DR Congo offers \$5m bounties for rebelleaders instead focused on trying to build international pressure for

he Democratic Republic Last year the three men were of Congo government has prosecuted in absentia by a offered a reward of \$5m military court and given death (£4m) for help arresting three sentences for treason. A reward leaders of a rebel group which of \$4m (£3) was also offered for has seized much of the east of the arrest of two journalists



the country this year.

head of DR Congo's electoral commission, now leads the Congo River Alliance, which includes the M23 rebel group. He has addressed large rallies in the cities under the group's control.

M23 leaders Sultani Makenga and Bertrand Bisimwa.

living in exile, and others the Corneille Nangaa, a former government describes as accomplices. But the chances of anyone being arrested appear

captured large parts of the The bounty is also on offer for mineral-rich eastern DR Congo, including the region's two largest cities - Goma and Bukavu.So President Félix Tshisekedi has

build international pressure for Rwanda to face sanctions for backing the rebels.

Last year, a report by UN experts said up to 4,000 Rwanda troops were working with the M23 in DR Congo.

Thousands of people have been killed during the fighting and hundreds of thousands left without shelter after fleeing their homes.

The Congolese government is also seeking US support in exchange for access to its minerals.

DR Congo accuses Rwanda of trying to take control of its minerals, which include gold and coltan, used in consumers electronics such as mobile phones and computers.

In response to the reports that DR Congo was offering access to the minerals in exchange for military help fighting the M23 rebels, presidential spokeswoman Tina Salama said on X last month that President Tshisekedi was inviting the US "whose companies source strategic raw materials from Rwanda, materials that are looted from the DRC and smuggled to Rwanda" to instead buy them from the Congolese - the "rightful

slim. In recent weeks the army has been no match for the Rwandanbacked rebels who have

owners". President's church donation

sparks Kenyan clashes olice in Kenya have church service went ahead the Nation site quoted him as fired tear gas to with tight security for disperse protesters worshippers, local media who tried to occupy a church reported. Bishop Edward that was recently given a Mwai said that unnamed

President William Ruto.

Ministry in the Roysambu Ruto, an evangelical suburb of Nairobi of 20m Christian, defended the shillings (\$155,000; donation, saying it was an £120,000) drew criticism attempt to address the from some young Kenyans country's moral decay."Kenya corruption. struggling with the high cost must know God so that we Last year, a wave of of living.

donation and has offered a associate with the church." similar gift to another church in Eldoret.

Last year, both Kenya's Catholic and Anglican leaders rejected donations, arguing that there was a need to protect the church from being used for political purposes.

At least 38 people were arrested during the clashes before being released without charge.

The clashes saw protesters try to get into the church and light fires and use rocks to block nearby roads.But the

substantial donation by people had mobilised "thugs" to disrupt the church service, The gift to the Jesus Winner reports the Star website.

Ruto has defended his telling us that we cannot

saying at another church, in Eldoret.Kenyans have been angered by a series of tax rises introduced since Ruto was elected in 2022.

He says they were needed to pay off the huge debts he inherited from the previous government but many Kenyans argue that he should first tackle public waste and

shame the people who are nationwide protests forced Ruto to withdraw his Finance | Fugard onto the international Bill, which contained a series stage - with the play shown in of tax rises.BBC



Athol Fugard: Death of a great **South African playwright**

thol Fugard, who has died aged 92, was widely acclaimed as one of South Africa's greatest playwrights. The son of an Afrikaner mother, he was best known for his politically charged plays challenging the racist system of apartheid. Paying tribute to Fugard,

South Africa's Arts and Culture Minister Gayton McKenzie hailed him as "a fearless storyteller who laid bare the harsh realities of apartheid through his plays".

"We were cursed with apartheid, but blessed with great artists who shone a light on its impact and helped to guide us out of it. We owe a huge debt to this late, wonderful man," McKenzie

Fugard wrote more than 30 plays in a career that spanned 70 years, making his mark with The Blood Knot in 1961.It

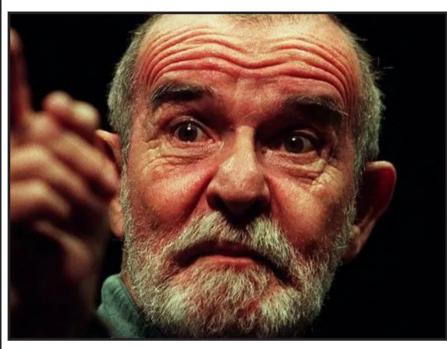
premiered in 1969, it was made into a film in 2000 starring Danny Glover and Angela Bassett.

His novel, Tsotsi, was made into a film, winning the 2006 Oscar for best foreign language movie.

The premier of South Africa's Western Cape province, Alan Winde, said that Fugard had a "penetrating, sharp wit", and his "acute understanding of our country's political and cultural make-up is unmatched". "He will be sorely missed," Winde added.

Other well-known plays by him include Sizwe Banzi Is Dead and The Island, which he co-wrote with the actors John Kani and Winston Ntshona, in a powerful condemnation of life on Robben Island, where anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela was imprisoned.

In a simple tribute on X, Kani posted: "I am deeply saddened by the passing of my dear friend Athol Fugard. May his soul rest in eternal peace. Elder Fugard won several awards for his work, and received a



was the first play in South Africa with a black and white actor - Fugard himself performing in a front of a multiracial audience, before the apartheid regime introduced laws prohibiting mixed casts and audiences.

The Blood Knot catapulted the US, and adapted for British television. The apartheid regime later confiscated his passport, but it strengthened Fugard's resolve to keep breaking racial barriers and exposing the injustices of apartheid. He went on to work with the

Serpent Players, a group of black actors, and performed in black townships, despite harassment from the apartheid regime's security forces.Fugard's celebrated plays included Boesman and Lena, which looked at the difficult circumstances of a mixed-race couple. Having

lifetime achievement honour at the prestigious Tony awards in 2011, while Time magazine described him in the 1985 as the greatest active playwright in the English-speaking world.

"Apartheid defined me, that is true... But I am proud of the work that came out of it, that carries my name," Fugard told the AFP news agency in 1995.

Fugard feared that the end of apartheid in 1994 could leave him with little to do, but he still found enough material to write. In a BBC interview in 2010, he said that he shared the view of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu that "we have lost our way" as a nation.

"I think the present society in South Africa needs the vigilance of writers, every bit as much as the old one did."It is a responsibility that young writers, playwrights, must really wake up to and understand that responsibility is theirs, just as it was mine and a host of other writers in the earlier years."

EDITORIAL

The Sethi incident: Government should share some blames too

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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By Jayati Ghosh

he United Nations Survive Trump 2.02

most revealing.

resolution establishing an "International Day Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and now at risk. the Sustainable Development Goals, and it will voting against.

Hope" and an "International Day for Judicial to unravel. Well-Being." It was also the sole vote against a (DEI) programs.

These moves may well foreshadow America's including the Human Rights Council (UNHRC) the need for collective solutions. and the Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and is now Global solidarity is thus not just a moral ongoing UN Tax Convention negotiations.

framework that even suggests equality among countries.

longer seem essential.

Should the US leave the UN, the financial billion in 2022, accounting for roughly 20% of International Corporate Taxation. the organization's total funding.

EW DELHI - Of all the geopolitical stunts Notably, more than 70% of US contributions Donald Trump has pulled since returning went to just four UN entities: 40% to the World to the White House, the United States' Food Programme, 12% to the High votes at the United Nations General Assembly Commissioner for Refugees, 10% to UNICEF, and (UNGA) on March 4 stand out as some of the another 10% to the Department of Peace Operations. And since much of this funding was channeled through USAID - an agency Trump has First, the US opposed a seemingly innocuous shut down - it may have already vanished.

of Peaceful Coexistence" and reaffirming the This represents yet another blow to the already UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable underfunded UN system. Given the current Development. Despite its symbolic nature, the geopolitical climate, it would take nothing US voted against the resolution, with short of a miracle for other governments to step representative Edward Heartney explaining in immediately to fill the gap. As a result, many that the US "rejects and denounces the critical - and even life-saving - UN programs are

no longer reaffirm them as a matter of But the paradigm shift in US foreign policy does course." "Simply put," he added, "globalist not necessarily signal the impending decline - if endeavors like Agenda 2030 and the SDGs lost not outright collapse - of multilateralism and at the ballot box." Despite US opposition, the the UN system. To be sure, the Trump resolution ultimately passed with 162 administration has made its preference for countries voting in favor, two abstaining, and unilateralism and coercion abundantly clear, only three - the US, Israel, and Argentina - using its power to bully individual countries rather than work through international institutions. As the world's leading superpower Later that day, the US doubled down by turns its back on global cooperation, the system opposing UNGA resolutions calling for the of multilateral governance that the US helped establishment of an "International Day of establish nearly eight decades ago could begin

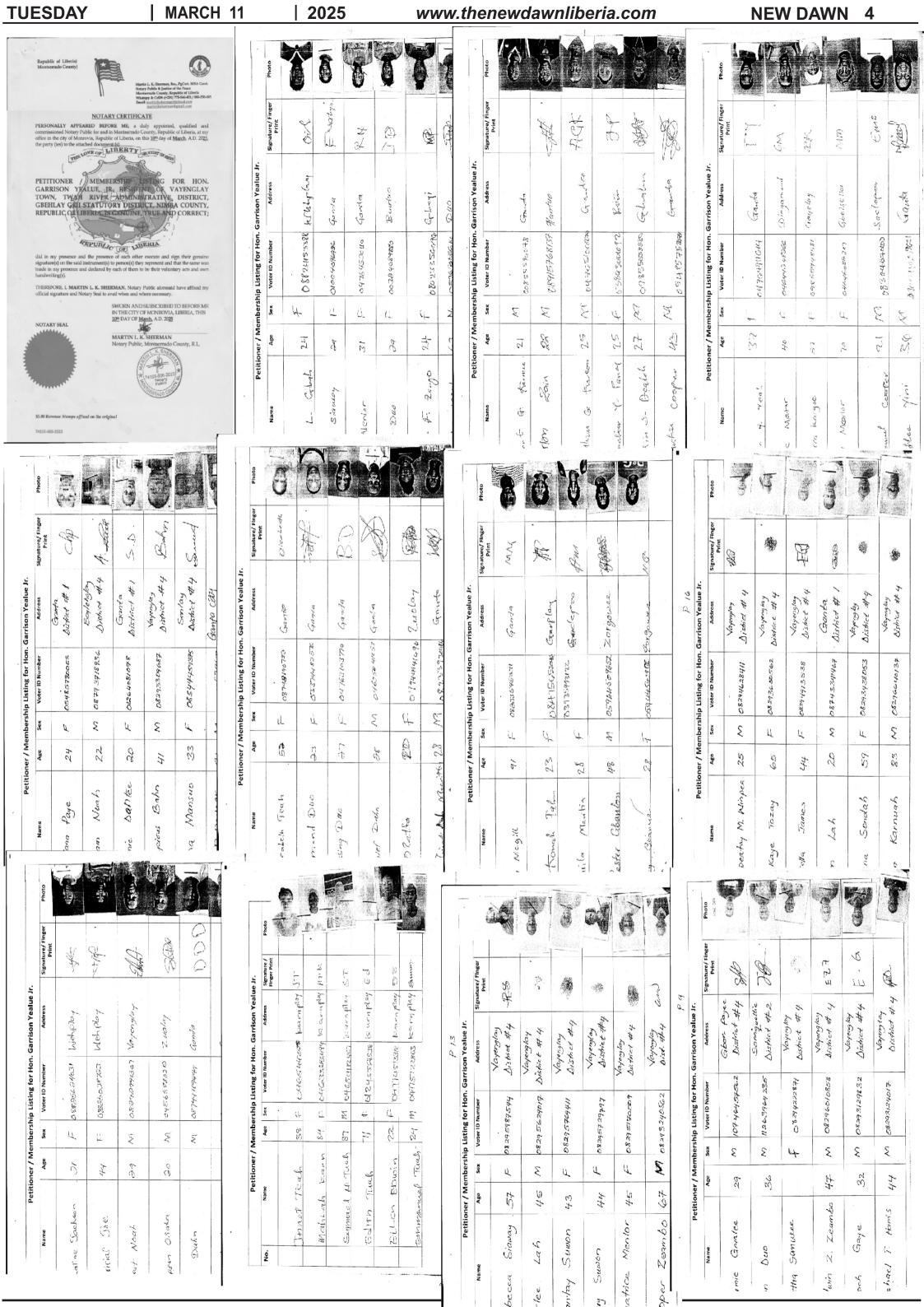
resolution reaffirming "the right of everyone Paradoxically, however, Trump's actions could to education," which highlighted "the also serve as a catalyst for greater international importance of equal opportunities for young cooperation, impelling other countries to work people, including young women," likely together more closely. The reason is simple: no because it conflicted with a pillar of the Trump matter how vehemently the White House administration's domestic agenda: denies it, humanity's most pressing challenges dismantling diversity, equity, and inclusion are global in nature. They will not go away simply because Trump refuses to acknowledge them.

withdrawal from the UN - something Elon Musk After all, climate change, environmental and other Trump supporters have urged. degradation, extreme inequality, emerging Trump has already pulled the US out of the health threats, the rise of disruptive new World Health Organization and, as he did technologies, and the erosion of stable during his first term, abandoned the Paris employment all transcend national borders. climate agreement. His administration has These forces are fueling social and political also withdrawn the US from several UN bodies, polarization around the world, underscoring

reassessing its involvement in the UN imperative but an existential one. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Encouragingly, many political leaders seem to Organization (UNESCO). It has also exited the understand this and remain committed to multilateralism despite the influence of what John Maynard Keynes once called "madmen in These actions by the US - along with its recent authority." International negotiations on opposition to a resolution condemning Russia's taxation, climate action, and development invasion of Ukraine - show that the Trump financing are moving forward, even without US administration is not merely unhappy with participation. In fact, the absence of the US certain international institutions. Rather, it is which has all too often acted as a spoiler, even fundamentally opposed to any multilateral under previous administrations - could pave the way for more ambitious and effective globa agreements.

Some analysts argue that a complete US Ironically, the multilateral order that Trump withdrawal from the UN is unlikely, given the seeks to destroy has largely served the interests disproportionate influence America wields of global elites and powerful countries like the through its Security Council veto. But given US, often at the expense of the vast majority of Trump's law-of-the-jungle approach to the world's population. In this sense, the geopolitics - where raw power, not diplomacy, current climate of uncertainty and upheaval dictates action - even that advantage may no could represent a unique opportunity to build a truly international movement for progressive change.

consequences could be immediate and severe. Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the Even if it stays, the Trump administration has University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a made no secret of its intention to slash member of the Club of Rome's Transformational contributions. As the UN's largest financial Economics Commission and Co-Chair of the backer, the US contributed a record \$18.1 Independent Commission for the Reform of



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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

COWAS rejects Koon's nominees

2025

The ECOWAS Parliament refuses request by the House of until its expiration, in line with Representatives here to replace two members of the regional the international commitments parliamentary body.

By Bridgett Milton

onrovia, Liberia, March 11. 2025 -The ECOWAS Parliament turns down request from the House of Representatives of the 55th Legislature to replace two members of the House from Liberia.

According to a communication sent to the House of Representatives by K. Bertin Parliamentarians is set for a maintains fixed term of four years.

explains that once designees lawmakers to represent Liberia are sworn in, they cannot be removed or replaced before the replacing allies of embattled expiration of their term, except in cases of non-re-election of the member at the national level, death, resignation through written notification to the President of the ECOWAS



House of Representatives' Parliament.

Enhancement of the Powers of Honorable Members of the plenary approval and failed to ECOWAS Parliament, the ECOWAS Parliament will ensure proper political mandate of Community continue to serve their mandate representation.

incompatibility or dismissal by letter dated February 25, 2025, the Parliament for misconduct regarding the recall of three as provided in the Rules of members designated by the Procedure of the ECOWAS House of Representatives of Parliament."The Honorable Speaker" Richard Nagbe Koon, Liberia to serve in the ECOWAS Members Samuel R. Enders, Sr., Moima Briggs-Mensah, and Taa of the previous representatives. The Parliament states that Z. Wongbe do not fall under any following a thorough review of of the aforementioned a formal complaint from Rep. the communication and in circumstances, therefore, their accordance with Article 18.1, 2 replacement cannot be James Kolleh that Koffa's of the supplementary Act on the affected; consequently, the selections were made without

of the Republic of Liberia", the regional parliamentary body

The House of Representatives The regional Parliament recently elected three new at the ECOWAS Parliament, Speaker Fonati Koffa.

The decision reached through a white-ballot process, follows internal political disputes over legislative authority and the country's representation in the regional body.

The newly elected representatives were Moima Briggs Mensah of Bong County District # 6, Augustine Chiewolo of Lofa County district #5 from the ruling Unity Party and Rep. Samson Q. Wiah of Sinoe County district #2, from the opposition CDC.

Both Rep. Chiewolo and Rep. Wiah replace Rev. Samuel Enders and Taa Wongbe, both of whom were selected under embattled Speaker Koffa's leadership.

The new lawmakers were SOMÉ, Acting Secretary-General Parliament, certified mental or elected to represent Liberia in of the ECOWAS Parliament, they physical incapacity to perform ECOWAS policy discussions on acknowledged receipt of the duties, resignation due to trade, security, governance, and regional integration.

Their election follows a contentious ruling by the Majority Bloc under "Regime which ordered the withdrawal The lawmakers' decision follow Johnson S.N. Williams and

Bility's CMC calls for reforms electoral laws

Newly established political party here, Citizens Movement for Change calls for reform of Liberian electoral laws to ensure inclusiveness.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah & Thomas Domah, Nimba County

onrovia, Liberia, March

11, 2025 - The Citizens **Y** Movement for Change (CMC), a newly established political party in Liberia, calls on government to prioritize reforms of the country's electoral laws. The call aligns with ongoing discussions and recommendations from various stakeholders aiming to enhance Liberia's democratic processes. In 2018, the Carter Center released a comprehensive report, urging Liberia to undertake several electoral

reforms, including promotion of political participation of minorities, removal of racebased citizenship requirements, and elimination of race-based criteria for citizenship. The Center also recommended a

review of candidate qualifications, assessing and potentially revising restrictive qualifications for electoral candidates, such as property ownership requirements and references to mental health.It

thirty to fifteen days. CMC leader Musa Hassan Bility notes that the call is also aimed at strengthening financial autonomy of the Commission and to establish an election adjudication court, which will make it easier for the NEC to focus on its work of monitoring and managing elections.

"We want to inform the people of Liberia for the future function of democracy, the CMC calls for reform of the electoral law."

The CMC's advocacy for electoral reforms reflects a broader consensus on the need to refine Liberia's electoral system to promote inclusivity, fairness, and efficiency.

At the same time, Bility urges Finance Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, to ensure timely allocation of funds for the upcoming Nimba County senatorial by-election, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding the electoral rights of the people of Nimba.

This call comes amid concerns over the National Elections



Arcelor Mittal sets record straight on Liberia's railways debate building schools, hospitals, and roads. CMC Leader, Represent suggested strengthening Electoral Dispute Resolution

blocking other companies Australia, Brazil, and Canada. from using the Yekepa-Buchanan Some argue that Liberia should meaning all companies can use it of election results clearly for the 2024 election. railway as false. "This is simply bring in a different company to at a fair cost. not true," the company said.

supports a system where money. It would cost the multiple companies can use the government millions of dollars, railway fairly, under clear rules set by the government.

"When AML first came to Liberia, the railway was not working, and the government didn't have the money to fix it. As part of its agreement, AML fully repaired and has been maintaining the railway so that mining exports and other businesses could continue," it said.

However, the Government of Liberia (GoL) has put in place a Rail System Operating Plan, which the company says it has agreed to.

This plan ensures that any company can use the railway while AML continues to operate

operate the railway, but that Arcelor Mittal Liberia says if its outcomes. Additionally, a 2020 highlighted scarcity of financial According to the company, AML would be a waste of taxpayers' money that could instead go to

rcelor Mittal Liberia has and maintain it—just like similar AML has already invested \$3.5 described claims that it is models in countries such as billion in Liberia and is willing to run the railway at no profit.

> expansion is approved, Liberia will benefit greatly:

> More exports: Iron ore shipments

CONT'D ON PAGE 7



(EDR) System by reviewing timeframes, while noting that constitutional referendum in Liberia proposed several amendments to the electoral framework, like reducing term lengths - shortening the terms for Senators from nine to seven years, the President of the Senate from six to five years. members of the House of six to five years.

Representatives from six to five years, and the President from Calls also came for moving general elections from the second Tuesday in October to the second Tuesday in November to avoid the rainy season as well as adjusting complaint

investigation period, decreasing

the time allocated to the

Elections Commission for

investigating complaints from

Commission's (NEC) proposed budget of over US\$2.5 million for the April 22, 2025, byelection, a significant increase disputes requesting annulment from US\$1.7 million allocated

demonstrate an impact on the Minister Ngafuan has recently resources, mandating government entities to adhere strictly to budgetary priorities to avoid premature depletion of funds.

Given these constraints, Bility's appeal underscores the necessity for the Ministry of Finance to prioritize electoral funding, ensuring the democratic process in Nimba County proceeds without financial hindrances. The byelection follows the death of Senator Prince Y. Johnson on November 28, 2024. The NEC has scheduled the election for April 22, 2025, in accordance with constitutional requirements to fill legislative

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CENTAL calls for reduction in car accidents

2025

Integrity watch institution, CENTAL frowns on increase wave of Miamen continues that the road accidents across Liberia, calling on government to Liberia National Police must be intervene.

By Lewis S. Teh

Boy's Town Junction along across the country. Robertfield highway in Harbel, "What hurts most is that most of

podcast on Monday, March10, onrovia, Liberia, March 2025, blamed the government 11, 2025 - Following for failing to institute safety reports of a devastating measures to help minimize the motor accident that occurred at current wave of road accidents

Margibi County, leading to these accidents are avoidable,



deaths and injuries, the Center only if the Police is adequately Accountability in Liberia or he further underscores. reducing numerous road collecting bribes from accidents across the country.

"I may not have the numbers at assessing vehicles for road others in critical condition in hand, However, it is clear that worthiness and other serious hospital. the number of road-traffic road safety issues. accident appears to be He says the Executive and the a result of a truck colliding with Anderson Miamen, says.

Mr. Miamen in a live Facebook emergency.

for Transparency and supported to work, as required",

increasing daily, properties and Legislative branches of a taxi, causing significant treasured lives are being lost in government must seriously look damage. the process; this is so sad and into the matter at hand by Authorities have not yet alarming, government must act working with the Police and confirmed the full number of swiftly to protect lives and other law enforcement agencies casualties, but reports indicate properties", CENTAL head, to deal with the situation that is multiple fatalities from the fast becoming a national crash. Editing by Jonathan

drivers and road users, but scrupulously enforcing the vehicle and traffic law of Liberia. "People ride defective vehicles on our roads and speed excessively unchecked. These issues have to be dealt with; also the county 5.1 million United citizens must be educated to prevail on drivers to reduce their speed limits to that which is lawful and acceptable" he adds. However, he notes that at times passengers on those speeding vehicles sometimes encourage drivers to run excessively or say nothing when they are speeding, forgetting that accident can occur at any given time. "We need a collective approach to deal with this situation, as it is becoming alarming, as for vesterday's fatal accident in the Boy Town area, the perpetrator must be punished, in line with relevant Liberian Laws", he concludes.On Sunday, a devastating accident occurred a CENTAL, underscores a need for He notes that many police Boy's Town intersection along government to act swiftly to Officers are interested in the Robertsfield Highway, resulting to several persons commercial drivers, and not losing their lives and several

adequately funded to do its job

by increasing highway patrol,

not for the purpose of harassing

According to report, the crash is

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STAND petitions S/Court to lift "No-Go-Zone" restriction Chambers, led by Cllr. Sayma provisions of Article 13 of the police using an isolated

Cyrenius Cephus and STAND 1986 Constitution

Chief Executive Officer Article 13 of the 1986 Mulbah K. Morlu, petitioners Constitution states: (a). Every noted the sense of national person lawfully within the urgency with growing unease, Republic shall have the right uproar, a serious commuter to move freely throughout "The Respondent's "no-go transportation crisis, and Liberia, to reside in any part zone" policy unfairly blames severe hardship for thereof, and to leave and indicts an entire commuters throughout therefrom, subject, however, organization without due Liberia because of the to the safeguarding of public process, in violation of Article restriction. The petitioners security, public order, public 13 of the 1986 Constitution, argued that by restricting the health, or morals, or the the petitioner argued. free movement of the Kehkeh rights and freedoms of others. and motorbikes within the

Market, and other parts of acknowledging the role of the to respond to the petition. Liberia, the respondent's police, the petitioner Othelio B. Garblah. conduct is repugnant to the questions the rationale of the

incident of alleged lawlessness by a few individuals to witch-hunt and incriminate over 200,000 other members.

Meanwhile, the LNP, through City of Monrovia, Duala Moreover, while the Ministry of Justice is yet

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Arcelor Mittal sets record straight

will increase from 5 million tons conditions remain favorable. bringing in more revenue.

\$200 million every year

More money for Liberia: The "Liberians need jobs and with the agreement said. government could receive at economic growth. Instead of least \$3 billion in revenue, and pushing away a company that possibly \$4 billion if market has invested heavily in the

mining operations.

country, the government should per year to 20 million tons, More jobs: AML will create 2,000 focus on making sure AML's new direct jobs, plus many more investment benefits Liberia and Give the government of Liberia for businesses that support its people, not foreign interests," a source familiar

GoL owes Bong County \$5.1M in Unpaid Funds

-County Finance Officer.

The Government of Liberia is wrapped up in another debt obligation in Bong County where funds due for that county have remained in central government coffers.

By: Edwin N Khakie

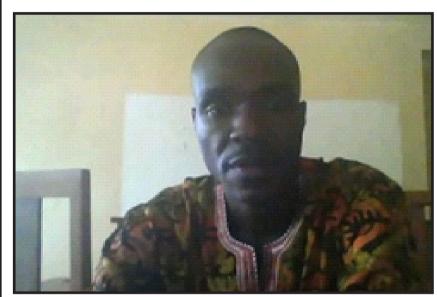
ong County Finance Officer, Mr. Silas Tokpa, has disclosed that the Government of Liberia owes States dollars in unpaid funds.

Appearing as guest on "Let's Talk" on super Bongese radio over the weekend in Gbarnga, Mr. Tokpa stated that the discovery was made following a thorough financial review.

He explained that the debt resulted from the alleged

failure of central government, through the Ministry of Finance, to disburse some of the County Social Development Funds during the previous administration.

Mr. Tokpa assured residents that this year, the county leadership will actively engage the Ministry of Finance to ensure that a portion of the outstanding debt is settled to facilitate development projects within the county. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.



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Bility's CMC calls for

vacancies within 90 days. Bility's CMC aims to challenge the longstanding dominance of the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) in Nimba County, marking a significant shift in the region's political landscape. Ensuring the timely disbursement of election funds is crucial for maintaining the integrity and fairness of this electoral contest.

accreditation of the Citizens lawmakers, the Majority Bloc Movement for Change (CMC) as a failed to achieve to give them registered political party in the legal ground to act Liberia, held at the National Elections Commission (NEC) in Monrovia, on Friday, March 7, 2025.

'We also want to announce here that the CMC will feature a candidate in that election", he

Joseph Boakai for the leadership crisis in the House of Representatives here that led to illegal removal of Speaker J.

Fonati Koffa.

According to him, both parties in the leadership brawl (Majority Bloc and Minority Bloc) met with President Boakai and explained about the crisis, and the President agreed to intervene, but he is yet to do so, thus exacerbating the situation. Addressing a press conference in Saclepea, District#7 Nimba County, the CMC leader explained that their rule in the House allow them to change a Speaker but such decision must be executed by 49 of the 73 accordingly. Bility blamed Boakai for the delay in resolving the crisis in the House.

He stressed that a leader should be able to solve problems in the interest of the people rather than being selective. At the same time he disclosed plans to Meanwhile, he blames President decentralize the party by opening sub-offices in Bong, Grand Gedeh, Margibi and Grand Cape Mount Counties to promote unity among Liberians. Editing by Jonathan Browne



rança

Koffa qualifie d'irrélevante nterrogation de la police

Chambre représentants, Cllr. J. en difficulté, a qualifié d'irrélevante son interrogation par la police nationale libérienne concernant l'incendie du décembre 2024 au

e président de la personne potentiellement que, de manière décevante, d e s impliquée, M. Koffa a laissé entendre que ce législateur se Fonati Koffa, actuellement trouvait au Capitole la nuit de l'incendie, mais n'a jamais été inclus dans la liste de la police des personnes d'intérêt.

> S'exprimant lors d'une interview avec des journalistes mercredi 5 mars 2025, après plus de deux



bâtiment du Capitole, tout heures d'interrogatoire au en soulevant des questions critiques.

sur l'identité d'un député qu'il considère comme une

siège de la police nationale à Monrovia, le président Koffa a Bien qu'il soit resté discret déclaré qu'il y avait un législateur identifié présent au bâtiment cette nuit-là, mais

il n'avait pas été convoqué par la police.

« Si vous dites que l'incendie était criminel ou autre, que s'est-il passé avec les chaises du Capitole qui n'ont pas brûlé ? Qui était dans le bâtiment à minuit? Qui est ce législateur identifié mais jamais considéré comme une personne d'intérêt? Ce sont quelques-unes des questions que je me pose. J'attends que la police conclue son enquête et partage ses conclusions avec le peuple libérien. Quant à leurs questions, elles ne semblaient pas en lien avec un incendie criminel. Je les ai trouvées irrélevantes, mais je suppose qu'ils savent ce qu'ils cherchent », a déclaré un Koffa visiblement déçu.

Le président Koffa a révélé que les questions posées lors de son interrogatoire portaient principalement sur un de ses employés

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présidente de l'Université du Liberia établit des partenariats à l'étranger

présidente de l'Université du Liberia (UL), Dr. Layli Maparyan, a annoncé avoir conclu d'importants partenariats à l'étranger visant à renforcer les programmes académiques de l'université et à consolider les liens avec des institutions internationales.

Lors d'une conférence de presse tenue le mercredi 5 mars 2025 sur le campus de Capitol Hill, Dr. Maparyan a présenté un bilan de sa visite aux États-Unis en février dernier, marquée par la signature de deux stratégiques avec des H.T. Bartekwa. institutions américaines.

Le premier protocole d'accord a été signé avec MBC pour proposer un programme de certificat en ligne en gestion hôtelière, offrant ainsi aux étudiants de l'UL des compétences précieuses pour le secteur.

Le second accord, signé avec CSU, porte sur un programme en administration des soins de santé, visant à renforcer les capacités éducatives de l'université dans ce domaine essentiel. Cette initiative a été facilitée par le président du conseil d'administration de

protocoles d'accord (MoU) l'UL, le sénateur Numene

Dr. Maparyan a également annoncé des projets pour accroître le nombre de membres du corps professoral titulaires de doctorats et des efforts pour obtenir des places de formation pour les professeurs de l'UL auprès des institutions membres du University Consortium for Liberia (UCL), dans le but de promouvoir l'excellence académique.

Lors de son séjour aux États-Unis, la présidente de l'UL a

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Éditorial

<u>L'anarchie s'impose au Capitole</u>

Par Daron Acemoglu

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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F'rançaıs

Koffa qualifie d'irrélevante Starts from page 8

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arrêté ainsi que sur des commentaires fait que certains disent que la cause de publiés sur sa page Facebook intitulée 'alermom'.

Bien qu'il ait exprimé sa méfiance envers l'enquête policière, M. Koffa a expliqué qu'il avait décidé de se présenter à l'interrogatoire par sens du devoir, la police l'ayant désigné comme personne d'Intérêt. Il a également réitéré son regret concernant l'incendie de la Chambre conjointe du Capitole, qu'il a qualifié de « malheureux », tout en critiquant la manière désordonnée don't l'enquête a été menée, avec des accusations formulées à la hâte et des pompiers américains impliqués don't il conteste les conclusions.

« L'enquête se poursuit. Ils ne m'ont pas donné de délai précis pour un éventuel retour. Je n'ai pas encore vu le rapport complet des pompiers américains, mais le

l'incendie est liée à une isolation me fait penser qu'ils étaient peut-être biaisés. Je ne suis pas certain de leur méthode, mais je pourrai en dire plus une fois le rapport consulté », a-t-il ajouté.

M. Koffa a précisé qu'il ne se précipitera pas pour tirer des conclusions hâtives, rappelant que ce n'est pas lui qui a mené l'enquête, mais bien la police et les services d'incendie. Bien qu'il accepte provisoirement l'hypothèse d'un incendie criminel, il a affirmé garder ses propres réserves.

Pour rappel, un incendie s'était déclaré dans la nuit du 18 décembre 2024 au bâtiment du Capitole, siège du pouvoir législatif du Liberia, détruisant la Chambre conjointe. Selon la police, l'incendie serait de nature criminelle.

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La présidente de l'Université du Liberia

rencontré des représentants de Kennesaw State University (KSU) pour envisager une collaboration sur la création d'un programme de master ou de doctorat en résolution des conflits à l'UL, avec un volet spécifique sur les traumatismes. Ce programme offrirait une formation avancée en résolution des conflits, une compétence cruciale dans le contexte post-conflit du Liberia.

Dr. Maparyan a également discuté avec Georgia Tech d'un partenariat potentiel autour de leur programme de master en ligne en informatique, ouvrant la voie à de futures opportunités éducatives conjointes. En outre, elle a échangé avec le directeur pays de la Banque mondiale sur un éventuel soutien au programme de pêche de l'UL, visant à renforcer les capacités du Liberia dans ce secteur clé.

La présidente de l'UL a également participé à des événements de levée de fonds et de sensibilisation organisés par l'UCL à Atlanta,

en Géorgie, renforçant ainsi la mission de l'université de bâtir des partenariats mondiaux et d'attirer des investissements pour ses programmes.

Parmi les autres points forts de sa visite, figurent des rencontres avec des unités affectées par l'arrêt des activités de l'USAID ainsi que des discussions avec MAP International sur l'approvisionnement en matériel pour les sciences de la santé à l'UL.

Dr. Maparyan a par ailleurs reçu une lettre de soutien du président de l'Université de Géorgie (UGA), réaffirmant l'engagement de l'UGA à collaborer avec l'UL pour faire progresser l'enseignement supérieur au Liberia.

Cette visite aux États-Unis devrait apporter des avantages durables à l'Université du Liberia, en la positionnant pour une plus grande excellence académique et des partenariats internationaux renforcés dans les années à venir.



Boakai prolonge le mandat de la Task force de récupération des act

ans le cadre de ses efforts pour renforcer la lutte contre la corruption et récupérer les actifs publics, le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. a signé l'Ordre Exécutif n° 145, prolongeant d'un an le mandat de la Task Force de récupération des actifs.

Ce nouvel ordre modifie l'Ordre Exécutif n° 126, qui avait initialement créé la Task Force en mars 2024, avec pour mission d'identifier, de localiser et de récupérer les actifs du gouvernement prétendument détournés par d'anciens responsables.

Un départ difficile entravé par des batailles juridiques Les opérations de la Task Force avaient été perturbées par une longue bataille judiciaire avec Gracious Ride Incorporated, entamée en mars 2024, après la saisie de plusieurs véhicules appartenant à la société. La Task Force alléguait que ces véhicules avaient été frauduleusement acquis par un ancien fonctionnaire.

Après près d'un an de procédures judiciaires, la Cour suprême du Liberia a statué en faveur de la Task Force le 18 février 2025, permettant ainsi à ses travaux de reprendre. Cependant, le mandat initial d'un an étant arrivé à expiration en mars 2025, cette dispute légale a fortement freiné ses capacités à enquêter sur d'autres dossiers.

Bilan et perspectives de la Task Force Le président de l'équipe de récupération des actifs et de restitution des biens (AREPT), Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin, a indiqué au journal *NewDawn* le 20 février 2025 qu'en dépit des obstacles juridiques, la Task Force avait pu vérifier et saisir 17 affaires de haut niveau. Ces affaires incluaient des vols d'actifs publics, des acquisitions suspectes de propriétés, des détournements de fonds via de fausses entreprises de construction routière et le vol de liquidités.

Il a également révélé que durant les neuf mois de suspension imposée par la Cour suprême, des individus impliqués avaient transféré des fonds suspects, changé de comptes bancaires, transporté illégalement des véhicules du gouvernement libérien vers des pays voisins, falsifié des documents et modifié l'identité des biens publics.

Renouvellement du mandat et nouvelles stratégies Lors du point de presse régulier du ministère de l'Information, de la Culture et du Tourisme, le 6 mars 2025, le vice-ministre de l'Information chargé de la presse et des affaires publiques, Daniel O. Sanoe, a annoncé le renouvellement du mandat de la



Task Force pour une année supplémentaire. L'objectif est de poursuivre les affaires non résolues et de garantir la récupération des actifs publics détournés à des fins privées.

« Cet Ordre Exécutif renforce l'engagement du gouvernement à combattre la corruption, à promouvoir la responsabilité et à récupérer les actifs acquis de manière illicite, tant par d'anciens que par des responsables actuels », a déclaré M. Sanoe.

Composition de la nouvelle Task Force La Task Force sera supervisée par un comité de cinq membres, présidé par Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin, avec Dr. Ranney B. Jackson comme vice-président. Les autres membres incluent John Mulbah Gbilee, Crosby Johnson et Atty. Suzanne A. Johnson.

Elle fonctionnera sous l'autorité du ministre d'État chargé des services spéciaux et collaborera avec plusieurs agences gouvernementales clés, notamment:

- Le ministère de la Justice
- La Commission anti-corruption du Liberia (LACC)
 - Le Bureau de l'Ombudsman
- L'Agence des services généraux (GSA)
- L'Autorité fiscale du Liberia (LRA)
- L'Agence de renseignement financier (FIA)

Ces institutions uniront leurs efforts pour enquêter, poursuivre et récupérer les actifs volés, tant à l'intérieur du Liberia qu'à l'international.

Mesures supplémentaires pour renforcer l'efficacité La Task Force aura également le pouvoir d'imposer des restrictions de voyage aux personnes sous enquête et de collaborer avec Interpol et d'autres partenaires diplomatiques pour rapatrier les suspects et récupérer les actifs volés à

l'étranger. Pour garantir la bonne exécution de ce nouveau mandat, le président Boakai a ordonné au ministère des Finances et de la Planification du Développement d'allouer immédiatement des fonds pour soutenir les opérations de la Task Force.

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Budget 2025 — A Nation in Crisis, Burdened by Expensive Lead

Seltue Karweaye Sr.

he escalating cost of governance has emerged as a pressing national concern in Liberia. Currently, the government allocates an estimated 35.8% of its total revenue to support less than 1% of the population employed as public servants. This disproportionate spending is evident in the recurrent expenditure, which constitutes over 87.9% of the national budget. As a result, the nation invests significantly more resources in sustaining governmental operations than in enhancing the quality of life for its citizens or developing essential infrastructure.

A closer examination of the National Legislature highlights the extent of this financial imbalance. Over recent years, the annual budget for the Legislature has fluctuated between \$44.3 million and \$67.9 million. In 2024, asset declarations from Senators Dillion and Sogbie, submitted to the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, reveal that each Senator receives a substantial annual gross salary of \$129,992, translating to about \$10,832 monthly. Meanwhile, a 2024 salary structure document obtained for the House of Representatives indicates that each representative earns a gross annual salary

of \$105,000, or approximately \$8,810 monthly. In addition to their base salaries, Representatives receive a generous gas allowance of \$26,700 annually, which amounts to about \$2,225 per month.

Moreover, the compensation package for lawmakers extends beyond these figures. They are allotted funds to employ two security personnel for their protection, along with financial support for household staff such as a yard boy, a driver, a steward, and a page. This comprehensive arrangement raises concerns about the transparency and accountability of the legislators' total compensation, particularly as considerable ambiguity

surrounds the value of the hidden benefits and perks that members of the legislature may receive. As citizens grapple with poor infrastructure and limited public services, the government's financial priorities starkly contrast with the pressing needs of the

population.

In light of recent developments, this column will embark on a comprehensive sectoral analysis of the approved 2025 budget over the next few weeks. Our primary goal is to provide clear insights into the specific provisions laid out in the budget, aiming to inform all stakeholders-from government officials to citizens—about its implications.

We seek to identify potential areas for reducing wasteful expenditures, scrutinize prioritized spending, and eliminate inefficiencies, particularly as we face substantial reductions in funding from USAID and other U.S.-based financial programs. These cuts are poised to impact various sectors significantly, and we hope that the Liberia government will leverage this budget to truly benefit its citizens.

To kick off our analysis, we will closely examine the anticipated revenue profile for 2025, dissecting the sources of income and the challenges associated with revenue generation. Following this, we will spotlight the much-discussed expenditures allocated to the National Legislature, exploring their implications for national safety and resource allocation, and identifying any areas for improvement.

The Liberian government has set an ambitious goal for the fiscal year 2025, projecting to generate approximately US\$861.8 million in revenue. This revenue is expected to come from several key sources, including personal income taxes, corporate taxes, customs duties, and value-added tax. Each of these components plays a crucial role in the country's economic framework and contributes to the overall financial health of the nation. However, the government is planning to spend more than it anticipates receiving. Specifically, the budget outlines total expenditures of US\$880.6 million for the year, which results in a projected deficit of around US\$18.8 million. This shortfall raises important questions about funding.

To cover this deficit, the government intends to rely on contingent revenue. This term refers to funds that the government hopes to secure in the future, but



which hinge on certain conditions or events being realized. These income streams are uncertain and cannot be guaranteed, as they will only be recorded in the government's accounts once the preconditions for their collection are satisfied. In essence, the Liberian government's strategy for addressing the budget shortfall involves borrowing. Additionally, it is notable that the current budget does not allocate any funds for transfer to the National Reserves, an important aspect of financial planning.

For the citizens of Liberia, these details are crucial to understand, as they reflect the fiscal health and governance of the nation. Clarity on these budgetary decisions is essential for public awareness, enabling the National Legislature to make informed choices and hold the government accountable for fiscal responsibility.

What are the broader implications of the information provided regarding our financial strategies? Specifically, how does the proposal to borrow an additional millions of dollars align with the administration's stated goal of reducing our borrowing, which currently stands at a significant 58.8% of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP)? Furthermore, what insights does the projected

medium-term expenditure framework offer about our

revenue generation and spending habits? Are these economic patterns in harmony with the aspirations of the Liberian populace for a government that is not only smaller and less expensive but also more efficient in its operations? We encourage our readers to ponder these critical questions as they review the financial data presented here.

Looking closely at the approved 2025 budget, it becomes evident that a substantial \$44.3 million has been earmarked for the National Legislature. Within this allocation, the budget for the Office of Speaker of the House of Representatives is US\$1.5 million. This figure includes the Speaker's gross annual salary of \$245,540, translating to approximately \$20,461.67 monthly. In comparison, the budget for the Deputy Speaker is set at US\$1.2 million, with a gross annual salary of \$208,940, which amounts to around \$17,411.67 per month.

Additionally, in the approved 2025 budget, the Office of the Pro Tempore is allocated a budget of US\$1.2 million, accompanied by a gross annual salary of \$256,203, approximately \$21,350 per month. Senators in the Liberian Senate are entitled to a basic annual salary of \$110,642 each, approximately \$9,220, while members of the House of Representatives receive a slightly lower

> basic salary of \$102,830, approximately US\$8,569. Moreover, both Senators and Representatives are afforded additional funding for various support roles, including security personnel, yard staff, drivers, cooks, and other necessary supporting staff to help carry out their duties effectively.

An inspection of the funding provisions for the salaries and allowances of the National Legislature reveals a striking increase of roughly US\$9 million from the budgetary levels recorded in 2007, bringing the total to US\$44.3 million in 2025. This notable increase cannot be attributed merely to the routine annual salary increments that occur over time. Rather, it raises concerns regarding the administration's commitment

to reducing the overall cost of governance and suggests that underlying factors may be influencing this substantial fiscal growth.

Are our leaders not overly costly in a country that has been identified as the eighth poorest in the world? With so many pressing issues facing us, such as the urgent need for well-maintained roads that facilitate safe travel, reliable electricity that powers our homes and businesses, and quality schools that provide a solid education for our children, we must ask whether they truly listen to our concerns. Our healthcare system is in dire need of improvement, with hospitals that should be accessible and affordable for all. Additionally, affordable public transportation is crucial for daily commuting, and we desperately need job opportunities that can empower our youth and help them build a better future. Are our leaders paying attention to these critical needs, or are they detached from the challenges that we face daily? In next week's column, I will shine a spotlight on the national security sector, a significant issue that has long been ignored—an elephant in the room that seems untouchable. It's time for us to demand accountability and action! I rest my pen.

ief Justice apologizes

2025

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Yuoh extends apology to Liberians for what she terms perceived faulty and biased decisions rendered in political cases here, the first time in many, many years, for the nation's highest court to concede.

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, Liberia, March 11, 2025-Liberia's Chief Justice, Her Honor, Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Yuoh, apologizes to Liberians for perceived faulty and bias decision rendered in high profile cases, especially

considered bias particularly in cases where political figures are involved. As we continue this important workout, I extend my deepest sympathy to those who may feel at aggrieved and unsatisfied with our decision. It's the nature of justice that not all will agreed that it's the truly Constitutional



political cases. One of such decisions is the "ultra vires" opinion expressed in the leadership crisis facing the House of Representatives in which the Supreme Court left Liberians in suspense, leaving the Executive to come out with its own interpretation, justifying the illegal replacement of embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa by "Regime Speaker" Richard

Nagbe Koon. She says they are aware that their opinions have been met with criticism and bias, especially in cases that involved political actors, while extending sympathy to those affected by their decisions and ruling. Delivering what she considers her last opening address for the March Term of Court here on Monday, March 10, 2025 at the Supreme Court of Liberia, Chief Justice Yuoh said at the Supreme Court level, they are tasked to making difficult and contentious decisions in what is wildly referred to as high profile cases. According to her, they are deeply aware of the far reaching impact of their ruling, as the Court of last resort, while noting that they rely on the law and the Constitution of Liberia as final authorities and guidance, not only for locals and foreigners, but all conducts of the government and its officials.

"We are aware that our opinions have been met with criticism, oftentimes what I

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application of the law that will safe- guide the integrity of the judicial system. So, to add a little, I say sorry to those of you who are unpleasant", she says. The March Term 2025 official opening of the Supreme Court of Liberia was a center of emotion, as Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Yuoh delivered what she terms as her last remarks in her capacity as Chief Justice of Liberia.

Chief Justice Yuoh, who assumed the role on September 27, 2022, after the retirement of former Chief Justice Francis Korkpor, will officially retire on June 26, 2025 in line with Article 72 "b" of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, which sets the retirement age at seventy (70).

Following her retirement, President Joseph N. Boakai will nominate someone to the position, while the Liberian Senate will conduct confirmation hearing. However, following the recommendation from the Liberian Senate, the nominee docket. So, we will be appointed and commissioned by the President of each bill of to take office on October 10, 2025.

The opening of the October Term of Court was graced by President Joseph Boakai, but boycotted by Senate President Pro-Temp Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence and the leadership of the House of Representatives. Several members of the diplomatic corps and counselors of the Supreme Court Bar and the Liberian

National Bar Association were in attendance.

Chief Justice Yuoh argues that it's not the court duty or responsibility to satisfy any party that comes before the court, maintaining that their decision and judgment is based on the law and constitution, and not sentiment or immorality.

She discloses that their decision is by examining the facts and circumstances of cases brought before them, assuring Liberians that they remain resolute in upholding the rule of law, regardless of external pressure. The Chief Justice further indicates that she and her colleagues have remained steadfast in their role commitment, adding that commitment to their primary duty to hear and decide cases in a fair and impartial manner.

"Since my ascendency to the Office of the Chief Justice, my colleagues and I have made a decision to step up our work load in order to reduce the number of cases pending on the bucket of the Supreme Court. And we have made successful impact in doing so", she notes.

Accordingly, Chief Justice Yuoh points out that the record shows that as of March 10, 2022, a total of 41cases were heard and decision rendered, as it was also done with the October term of the same year which had 40 cases."During the

March term of court in 2023, we had a total of 50 cases and October of the same year 51 cased. Also, in 2024 March Term, we had 47, while in October of the same year we had 76 and all of them were heard with decision rendered. Also, we have taken measure to ensure that the number of bill of information don't crowd our court review the merits information before issuing writ. With this, we have realized significant reduction in the bill of information from 30 in a term of court to four", the Chief Justice reports. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Another arson attack at Salala Rubber Plantation

riome unknown men have set destruction could lead to job parts of the Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) plantation ablaze, marking the incident as the third within two months.

The incident, which happened in the early hours of Sunday night, resulted in extensive monetary and physical damage to the SRC rubber trees, raising serious economic concerns for the company.

The blazes, however, were contained due to the interventions of some community dwellers and the company's fire service team.

Eyewitnesses say that as the unknown men lit the fire across different sections of the plantation, gunshots were also heard.In a statement, SRC management said that while they have yet to determine the full extent of the damage, preliminary reports suggest that a significant portion of rubber trees and facilities were affected. "This is becoming an alarming pattern. The repeated attacks on our properties are not only hurting our business but also threatening the livelihood of many in the community," SRC Management said in a statement. "We urge the local communities to work with us in curbing these rising attacks and strengthening security."The latest arson attack follows two similar incidents in recent weeks, fueling fears of deliberate sabotage. With rubber production being a key contributor to the local economy, continued

losses and economic setbacks for the country, as SRC is the thirdlargest rubber plantation, employing over 900 people and directly contributing millions to the local economy annually.

While no arrests have been made yet, as the perpetrators remain at large, the management of SRC is appealing to local authorities to help with the investigation, ensuring that justice is served.

Meanwhile, SRC management is appealing to residents and community leaders to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities that could prevent further destruction.

"With each attack compounding the financial strain on the company, industry observers warn that if the situation persists, it could have long-term repercussions on the company's operations," SRC management said in a statement.

The management added that they expect to hold discussions with the communities in the coming days on how best to address security concerns and prevent further destruction.



CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CARI)

SUAKOKO, BONG COUNTY P.O BOX 3929 REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



March 6, 2025

IFB NO.: CARI/NSBA/NCB/001/25

Invitation for Bid

The Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) has received Government Core Budget funding from the Government of the Republic of Liberia and has decided to use part of this fund to procure stationery and cartridges.

Therefore, the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for stationery and cartridges.

Specification & Quantities

- I			
No	Description	Quantity	Bid Security
1	STATIONARIES AND CARTRIDGES	ASSORTED	BID SECURITY DECLARATION

4. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

Up to date tax clearance certificate;

Valid business registration certificate;

Submit a copy of the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC) vendor

registration form or certificate; IV Bid Validity Period (90) days

Ability to pre-finance or deliver as Contract is signed. VI.

Bid security declaration. Bid Submission form.

A bidder will be selected under the **National Competitive Bidding Method** and procedures described in this bid document by the provisions of the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission Act (PPCA) of September 2010 and its accompanying Regulation.

Interested bidders can obtain a copy of the bid documents from the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) sub-office, the Ministry of Agriculture Project Implementation Unit (PMU), for a non-refundable fee of USD 25.00 beginning March 6, 2025 to March 31, 2025, from Monday to Friday,9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Sealed bids must be delivered to the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) Office, Suakoko Bong County, no later than 2:00 PM, March 31, 2025. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders and their representatives who choose to attend on March 31, 2025, at 2:00 PM in the main conference room of the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), Suakoko, Bong County. For more clarification, please contact:

The Procurement officer Central Agricultural Research Institute, Suakoko, Bong County. Email Address: macarthur404@yahoo.com

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TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025 VOL. 15 NO. 033

D petitions S/Court to lift "No-Go-Zone" restriction

The restriction imposed on commercial motorbikes and Kehkeh barring them from plying certain areas in Monrovia has triggered a petition before the Supreme Court of Liberia.

onrovia, March 11, 2025/ Solidarity & Trust for a New Day (STAND) has petitioned the Liberian Supreme Court to lift the "No-Go-Zone" restrictions placed on commercial motorcyclists and Kehkeh riders here weeks ago.

advocacy organization in

its petition filed before Justice in Chambers imposed by the Liberian National Police is an undue punishment for commutters who rely on these operators' transportation services.

The restrictions placed on commercial motorcyclists and Kehkeh riders were introduced following a tragic

when a vehicle suffered

mechanical failure while

descending Crown Hill and

The restricted areas remain in place for now.

However, in its petition before the Justice in

CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Dozens of commercial motorcyclists descended into rioting, destroying police checkpoints and attacking police officers leading to a total mayhem.

motorcyclist Emmanuel

Trokon Pajibo.

On March 3, 2025, members of the Motorcycle Union of Liberia took to the streets in protest, urging the Liberia National Police (LNP) and the government to lift the temporary restrictions in key areas of Monrovia but the Police insist the restriction will remain enforce until a full assessment of security risks in the affected areas is completed.

include the stretch from ELWA Junction to Boulevard to Monrovia, as well as from Freeport through Logan Town, Clara Town, and Central Monrovia. But the Police have insisted that the restriction will

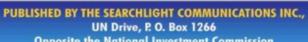


MoMo









Opposite the National Investment Commission Monrovia - Liberia.

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Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com







STAND, which is a grassroot incident on February 19.

Ceaineh D. Clinton Johnson collided with a motorbike.

