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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025	L\$198.2770/US\$1.00	L\$200.0765/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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"We're not taking this lightly"

-Gov't reacts to U.S strict travel sanctions

Min. Sara Beysolow Nyanti

ArcelorMittal boasts of \$2.5b investment in Liberia

P11

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Continental News

South African ambassador 'no longer welcome' in US, Rubio says

The US is expelling South Africa's ambassador to Washington, with Secretary of State Marco Rubio describing him as a "race-baiting politician".In a post on

sometimes expelled, it's highly unusual in the US for it to happen to a more senior official.In his post on Friday, Rubio linked to an article from the right-wing outlet Breitbart that quoted

electorate in the USA is projected to become 48% white," he said.

He suggested that South Africa was under attack because "we are the historical antidote to supremacism".In response, Rubio called Rasool "PERSONA NON GRATA", referencing the Latin phrase for "unwelcome person".Ties between the US and South Africa have been deteriorating since Trump took office.An executive order last month - which froze US assistance to South Africa - cited "unjust racial discrimination" against white Afrikaners, largely descended from Dutch settlers who first arrived in the 17th Century.It references a new law, the Expropriation Act, that it claims targets Afrikaners by allowing the government to take away private land.

"As long as South Africa continues to support bad actors on the world stage and allows violent attacks on innocent disfavoured minority farmers, the United States will stop aid and assistance to the country," a statement from the White House said at the time.

South Africa's 2022 census noted that white people - including Afrikaners - made up 7.2% of the population.However, according to a 2018 land audit by the South African government, white farmers owned 72% of the country's individually-held farmland.



X, Rubio accused Ebrahim Rasool of hating the US and President Donald Trump, and said the ambassador was "no longer welcome in our great country".The office for South Africa's president on Saturday called the decision "regrettable", adding that the country remained committed to building a mutually beneficial relationship with the US.The rare move by the US marks the latest development in rising tensions between the two countries.While lower-ranking diplomats are

some of Rasool's recent remarks made during an online lecture about the Trump administration.At the event, Rasool said Trump was "mobilising a supremacism" and trying to "project white victimhood as a dog whistle" as the white population faced becoming a minority in the US."We see it in the domestic politics of the USA, the Maga movement as a response not simply to a supremacist instinct, but to very clear data that shows great demographic shifts in the USA in which the voting

'Tortured and terrified' - BBC witnesses the battle for Khartoum

The BBC has heard evidence of atrocities committed by retreating fighters in a battle raging for control of Sudan's capital city Khartoum.The city has been held by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) since the start of the country's brutal civil war nearly two years ago - but the army has retaken much of it and believes it is on track to seize the rest.

Regaining the capital would be a tremendous victory for the military and a turning-point in the war, although by itself would not end the conflict.In recent weeks troops have mostly encircled Khartoum, coming up from the south after surging through central Sudan, and clearing city districts in the north and east, squeezing the remaining RSF fighters into the centre.Vast areas of the reclaimed territory are completely destroyed.Travelling with the army, we drove past block after block of damaged and ransacked buildings - some

of them blackened by fire, many pockmarked with bullet holes.The pavements in front of them were littered with vandalised vehicles, pieces of discarded furniture, the soiled remains of looted goods and other debris.But even in places that look untouched, the terror is fresh.In Haj Yusuf, a district of Khartoum east of the River Nile, residents described chaos and violence as fleeing RSF fighters turned on civilians."It was a shock, they came suddenly," says Intisar Adam Suleiman.Two of

her sons, 18-year-old Muzamil and 21-year-old Mudather, were sitting by the house with a friend.The RSF soldiers ordered them inside, then shot them in the back as they entered the gate, says Ms Suleiman.Muzamil escaped with a bullet wound in his leg but "our friend died instantly", he told me."Then the men wanted to enter the house, and my mother tried to hold the door shut, pushing and pushing.They spotted a phone on the ground, grabbed it and left.BBC



Asma Mubarak Abdel Karim told the BBC the RSF's threat was terrifying - she heard them raping a woman in her neighbourhood amid the fighting

Rwanda severs ties with Belgium over 'neo-colonial delusions'

Rwanda has cut diplomatic ties with Belgium, saying it has been "consistently undermined" by the European nation during the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Brussels has been leading calls for European nations to sanction Rwanda over its support for the M23, a rebel group at the centre of DR Congo's crisis.

The authorities in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, have given Belgian diplomats 48 hours to leave the country.

Belgium, which is the former colonial power, has said it will respond to these measures and labelled Rwanda's decision "disproportionate".Despite assertions from the UN and US, Rwanda has denied backing the M23.

In its statement on Monday, Kigali accused Brussels of attempting to "sustain its neo-colonial delusions".

"Belgium has clearly taken sides in a regional conflict and

Brussels, Rwandan President Paul Kagame vowed that his country would "stand up" to Belgium."We would ask [Belgium]: 'Who are you by the way? Who put you in charge of us?' Rwandans believe in God, but did God really put these people in charge of Rwanda?" Kagame asked in an address on Sunday.

Since the beginning of the year, around 7,000 people have been killed in fighting between the M23 and DR Congo's armed forces in the east of the country, the Congolese authorities have said.

More than 850,000 people have been forced to flee their homes since the conflict increased in intensity in January, the UN children's agency, Unicef, said.The M23 has taken control of two key cities - Goma and Bukavu - in the past two months.On Monday, the EU sanctioned three of Rwanda's military commanders, citing connections to the M23.

The sanctions, which include the freezing of assets, were also applied to the head of Rwanda's state mining agency. The EU has accused the agency of exploiting DR Congo's conflict in order to extract valuable resources from the



Rwanda President Paul Kagame previously vowed to "stand up" to Belgium

continues to systematically mobilise against Rwanda in different forums, using lies and manipulation to secure an unjustified hostile opinion of Rwanda, in an attempt to destabilise both Rwanda and the region," the statement said.

Belgian Foreign Minister Maxime Prevot responded to Rwanda's measures on social media, saying: "This is disproportionate and shows that when we disagree with Rwanda they prefer not to engage in dialogue."Prevot said Rwandan diplomats in Belgium will be declared "persona non grata".

This declaration can lead to the removal of diplomatic status and often results in the expulsion or the withdrawal of recognition of envoys.

Before Kigali cut ties with

mineral-rich east.Britain and Germany have also taken measures against Rwanda - over the past month both countries cut some of their aid to Kigali.

And in February, the UN Security Council demanded that the M23 end hostilities and that Rwanda should pull its troops out of DR Congo.Rwanda's diplomatic spat with Belgium comes a day before the Congolese government and M23 rebels are set to meet for peace talks.

The talks, due to be held in the Angolan capital, Luanda, overturn the government's long-standing policy of not negotiating with the M23.

However, since the M23 began capturing larges swathes of territory, Congolese President Félix Tshisekedi has been under pressure to meet with the rebels, news agency Reuters reports.BBC

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.

COMMENTARY

By Carla Norrlöf

Trump, Bitcoin, and the Future of the Dollar

WASHINGTON, DC - In a March 6, 2025, executive order, US President Donald Trump established a “digital gold” Bitcoin reserve, to be capitalized with any BTC seized by federal law enforcement. With the supply of BTC capped at 21 million coins, the administration wants the United States to secure a first-mover advantage as a major holder of an emerging store of value. But since it is unlikely that seized BTC alone can achieve the desired scale, the US also may purchase it on the open market.

Nor is the US alone. Around the world, governments are increasingly considering BTC as a reserve asset. In Brazil, Congressman Eros Biondini has advanced a proposal to require the central bank to accumulate BTC until it accounts for 5% of the country's reserves. Meanwhile, Bhutan has become one of the world's largest BTC holders, with its Gelephu Mindfulness City holding the cryptocurrency as a strategic reserve. El Salvador's president, Nayib Bukele, continues to buy BTC as a strategic reserve, and legislators in Hong Kong have floated a proposal to add BTC to the city-state's official reserves. China is rumored to be building a BTC reserve in stealth. And a recent Swiss popular initiative aims to require the Swiss National Bank (SNB) to include BTC in its holdings, though SNB President Martin Schlegel rejects the idea, citing concerns about the cryptocurrency's volatility, liquidity, and security.

But the US government's decision to join the reserve-diversification party raises serious doubts about the future of its own currency's hegemony. If more countries or institutions decide to hold BTC instead of dollars, global demand for dollar reserves could decrease over the long term. Legitimizing a rival store of value may shake confidence in the greenback, eroding America's global reserve-currency status and the advantages it confers. Without strong international demand for the dollar, the US could ultimately lose its “exorbitant privilege” to print and borrow at low interest rates. Endorsing BTC while defending dollar dominance thus requires a delicate balance.

Alongside the BTC policy, the Trump administration is also fundamentally reshaping US trade policy. It has slapped 25% tariffs on Canadian and Mexican imports; increased tariffs on Chinese goods (driving the total average US tariff against that country to 39%); and threatened similar measures against European agriculture. These policies have already created market turmoil - exacerbated by repeated delays and modifications - and invited retaliation.

Because Canada and Mexico rely so heavily on trade with the US, tariffs reduce their exports and dollar inflows, weakening their currencies. By contrast, China's more diversified export base and controlled currency regime allows it to mitigate US tariff effects and support the renminbi. Moreover, since the US relies so heavily on intermediate inputs from China, the tariffs will raise US production costs, driving up consumer prices and inflation, and eroding the dollar's appeal.

In addition to reducing demand for US goods and the dollars to buy them, Trump's policies have introduced unpredictability and thus reduced confidence in US markets. His threats are already pushing the European Union to consider greater currency diversification, and to look for alternative markets. With fewer investors choosing to hold dollar-denominated assets, the dollar has begun to weaken.

Can the US really adopt BTC as a strategic reserve and pursue such trade policies without jeopardizing the dollar's global standing? Countries commonly hold multiple reserve assets - euros, yen, pound sterling, or gold - in addition to the dollar. Yet BTC's unique, decentralized structure and finite supply set it apart from these traditional holdings. By formally endorsing it, the US could inadvertently accelerate a global shift away from dollar reserves.

Trump and his team seem to be betting that other forces will kick in, owing to foreigners' outsize dependence on the US economy. The assumption is that foreign producers will accept lower prices to remain competitive, or that foreign currencies will depreciate to offset the effects of US tariffs, shifting the burden onto foreigners rather than American consumers and producers.


Such is the thinking behind the so-called “Mar-a-Lago Accord”: the Trump administration's strategy of leveraging punitive tariffs to weaken the dollar, reduce US borrowing costs, and boost manufacturing - all while preserving the dollar's global dominance. Unlike the Plaza Accord or Louvre Accord, in which major economies agreed to coordinate exchange rates, the US is coercing its major trading partners and foreign central banks into weakening their currencies relative to the dollar, ultimately favoring US economic interests. However, if these economic partners refuse to cooperate, the plan could unravel, and all of the accord's goals could be derailed.

Much of this strategy comes from a November 2024 paper by the designated chair of Trump's Council of Economic Advisers, Stephen Miran, who has proposed that the US introduce tariffs in a measured way so that it can collect revenues from import duties without sparking prohibitively high prices for consumers. The US government would levy tariffs on imports from countries that benefit significantly from the US dollar's reserve status, capturing some of the economic gains that are supposedly flowing to foreign economies. To avoid triggering a surge in domestic inflation, Miran envisions various offsetting currency movements. Through some combination of diplomatic and financial tools, foreign central banks could be persuaded to lower interest rates or use foreign-currency swaps to keep US inflation in check.


Such will be the price of maintaining access to the US market, which Trump sees as a privilege to be earned. The administration will ratchet up tariffs for uncooperative countries, effectively forcing them to shoulder part of the dollar's structural costs, or to align more closely with US security and economic objectives. The result would be a “graduated scale” of tariffs based on the selected criteria. Carefully calibrated tariffs and exchange-rate management, according to Miran, would reinforce the dollar's global role while also increasing government revenue.

It's a nice thought. But the Mar-a-Lago Accord, accompanied by an embrace of BTC, could easily backfire. After all, endorsing an alternative reserve asset opens the door to challenges to the dollar's dominance. Trump's trade wars assume that US partners will comply. But if they start decoupling from the US market, seek alternative trade or security alliances, or embrace BTC or other currencies for large-scale reserve diversification, all bets are off.

Carla Norrlöf, Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto, is a non-resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council.



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Consultancy Services Request for Expression of Interest			
Job title		Undertake a Needs Assessment for the Business Training Curriculum (National Contractual Service)	
Division/Department		Project: Enhancing the Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities in Sinoe County, Liberia (ERVCCS)	
Program/Project Number/ GEF Project ID number		10376	
Activity Result		Report on assessed business training needs and recommendations	
Assignment		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conduct a needs assessment to determine or validate priorities for business training programs	
Location	Grand Bassa, Sinoe, Maryland, and Grand Cape Mount Counties.	Duration	40 days
1.0 BACKGROUND <p>The EPA is Liberia's principal authority for environmental management. It coordinates, monitors, supervises, and consults with relevant stakeholders and sector Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions (MACs) on all activities related to protecting the environment and sustainable use of its natural resources.</p> <p>The Government of Liberia (GoL), through the EPA and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and with funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), received funding for the project “Enhancing Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities in Sinoe County of Liberia (ERVCCS).” EPA is the project's Executing Entity. It is financed by a GEF Trust Fund grant and co-financed by UNDP and the GoL.</p> <p>The project aims to build on existing projects to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities and their livelihoods to the impacts of climate change, focusing on women and youths. Specifically, project interventions include 1) Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation Planning, 2) Supporting Innovative Technologies for Climate Information and Communication Management, 3) Introducing Hybrid Adaptation Solutions, and 4) Supporting Resilient Livelihood Diversification through Training and Improved Access to Finance. The majority of the above interventions will target all coastal counties in Liberia. In contrast, hybrid adaptation interventions will be explicitly implemented in Sinoe County, one of the country’s most vulnerable coastal counties.</p>			


Consultancy Services Request for Expression of Interest	
<p>The impacts of climate change, combined with non-climatic drivers, such as sand mining, the expansion of agricultural areas, unsustainable fishing, pollution, and inadequate drainage systems, compromise the resilience of Liberian communities' ecosystems along the coastline. Consequently, local communities and ecosystems are experiencing increased coastal flooding and erosion, saltwater intrusion into groundwater supplies, waterlogging of inland areas, and sedimentation of rivers and freshwater resources due to Sea Level Rise (SLR) and higher-intensity rainfall events. The vulnerability of communities and ecosystems occurs through I) inundation and consequent damage of coastal infrastructure, II) loss of fishery and agriculture-dependent livelihoods, III) decrease in stable income generation for coastal communities, IV) increase in conflict and competition over resources within communities, V) decrease in food and nutrition security, VI) increased risk of vector- and waterborne diseases through waterlogging, and VII) increased pressure on surrounding ecosystems to compensate for the reduced provision of services from coastal, wetland and mangrove ecosystems. In addition, the vulnerability of Liberia’s coastal communities and their resilience to climate change, particularly in Sinoe County, is exacerbated by the limited capacity of GoL to provide essential services and adequate support for, among other things, water and sanitation, healthcare, utility-scale energy, and road infrastructure.</p> <p>As a result, coastal communities in Liberia are threatened by damaging floods and erosion, both of which are increasing due to sea level rise and other impacts of climate change, such as increasingly intense rainfall events and the current limited financial and technical capacity at the national and county levels to address these threats.</p> <p>Their many problems are made worse by this access to scarce financial resources, which limits their capacity for economic growth. To address this, the project's fourth component aims to customize business training programs that cater to the unique needs of these areas to empower local entrepreneurs and foster sustainable economic growth in targeted locations. Consistent with the foregoing, this consultancy seeks an individual consultant to undertake a comprehensive needs assessment that will inform the design of a training curriculum that addresses the most pressing challenges faced by Micro Small, Medium and Enterprise (MSMEs) and present strategies that participants can harness to achieve, identify, develop and manage climate-resilient business in the regions. The assessment will involve stakeholder consultations, data analysis, and an in-depth review of the current training landscape.</p>	

Consultancy Services Request for Expression of Interest	
<p>In order to conduct a needs assessment that will inform the development of a training curriculum that identifies climate-resilient business training options, the EPA's ERVCCS Project Management Unit (PMU) is seeking expressions of interest from applicants who would wish to serve as foreign consultants.</p> <p>2.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTANCY</p> <p>The primary objective of this consultancy is to conduct a needs assessment for developing a robust climate-resilient MSME business training curriculum. The consultant will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify needs to validate knowledge gaps mentioned in the project Gender Action Plan and identify additional priorities for target communities and MSMESIdentify the key business challenges faced by MSMEs in different regions.Assess the existing capacity of MSMEs, including their knowledge, skills, and training needs.Analyze the current MSME training programs available and identify gaps in content, delivery methods, and access.Recommend appropriate learning modules and topics for inclusion in the curriculum based on identified needs.	
<p>3.0 SCOPE, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>The consultant will undertake the following tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Desk Study:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Review existing literature, reports, and studies on MSME challenges in regions.Study available training programs for MSMEs, including their content, delivery methods, and effectiveness.Review national and regional policies related to MSME development and business support.Stakeholder Consultations:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Conduct interviews and focus group discussions with MSME owners, business development service providers, trainers, and other relevant stakeholders.Organize in-person surveys with MSME owners and employees to gather quantitative data on their training needs.Meet with government agencies and relevant organizations (e.g., business support associations) to understand broader challenges and opportunities for MSME capacity building.	


Consultancy Services Request for Expression of Interest	
<p>3. Data Analysis and Needs Assessment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Analyze the data from consultations and surveys to identify the main business challenges and training needs of MSMEs.Assess the gaps in existing training programs and recommend areas for improvement.Develop a clear framework of essential training modules and topics tailored to MSMEs' needs. <p>4. Provide Roadmap</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Provide roadmap for the next steps for curriculum development and implementation.	
<p>4.0 EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES</p> <p>The consultant is expected to deliver the following outputs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Needs Assessment Report (Draft):<p>A comprehensive draft report including findings from consultations, data analysis, and recommendations for the curriculum.</p>Final Needs Assessment Report:<p>A final version of the needs assessment report, incorporating feedback from the draft report presentation, with specific curriculum recommendations and an implementation roadmap.</p>	
<p>NOTE: HARD COPIES OF THESE REPORTS SHOULD BE GLUE-BINDED USING A GLOSSARY SHEET</p> <p>CONTRACT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:</p> <p>The Consultant shall report directly to the PMU through the Project Manager under the supervision of the Energy and Environment Program Coordinator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Regular updates and meetings shall be held for effective collaboration and supervision.</p> <p>The International Consultant to design and conduct Business Training shall be recruited for 40 days under a Service Contractual agreement. The EPA reserves the right to rescind the contract during that period should the performance of the Gender expert not meet its requirements.</p>	
<p>QUALIFICATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Education	

Consultancy Services Request for Expression of Interest	
<p>The national consultant should have at least a master’s degree in business administration, Development Studies, Economics, or a related field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Experience:<ol style="list-style-type: none">At least 5–7 years of experience working with MSMEs or in business development and training.Proven experience in conducting needs assessments, market research, or similar projects in the context of MSMEs.Experience designing or delivering business training programs is highly desirable.Skills and Competencies:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Strong analytical skills and experience in data collection, survey design, and qualitative research methods.Familiarity with the challenges faced by MSMEs, particularly in areas.Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.Ability to work independently and deliver high-quality results within deadlines.Proficiency in using MS Office Suite and other research tools.Tolerant, culturally sensitive, and knowledgeable in dealing with the local environment	
<p>SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION</p> <p>Interested candidates should submit both soft & hard Copy of a cover letter, CV, and financial and technical proposal to the below address or by email at maldonakarway1@gmail.com, indicating the subject area “Contractual Service–Individual to Undertake a Needs Assessment for the Business Training Curriculum”. The closing date for the submission of proposals is 4 PM, April 7, 2025. Any submission coming/received after this deadline will not be given consideration. Only submissions meeting the requirements/criteria in the RFP will be considered for evaluation.</p>	
<p>ATTENTION:</p> <p>Maldona K. Karway Procurement Officer Enhancing the Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities in Sinoe (ERVCCS) Environment Protection Agency (EPA) 302-A Bright Building, Old CID-Road, Mamba Point</p>	

Consultancy Services Request for Expression of Interest	
<p>1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia</p> <p>*Female candidates are highly encouraged to apply!</p> <p>The closing date for submission of applications is 4:00 PM on April 7, 2025. Any submission received after this deadline will not be considered. Only applicants who meet the requirements as outlined in the terms of reference will be considered for evaluation.</p> <p>NOTE: This information is also posted on https://www.emansion.gov.lr/, https://www.epa.gov.lr/, https://www.undp.org/, www.mme.gov.lr and can be found in local dailies.</p>	



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Consultancy Services
Request for Expression of Interest

Job Title		Livelihood and Value Chain Expert (National Consultant)	
Division/Department		Project: Enhancing the Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities in Sinoe County, Liberia (ERVCCS)	
Program/Project Number/ GEF Project ID number		10376	
Activity Result		Report on needs and cost assessment of equipment requirements for identified livelihoods; ii) Report on identified communities and champion households to receive equipment; and iii) Industry-level standards and codes of conduct for identified livelihoods	
Assignment		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Developing standards and codes of conduct for equipment and identified livelihoodsConduct a site-specific needs and costs assessment of equipment requirements for the identified livelihoodsIdentify priority communities and champion households to receive equipment	
Location		Grand Bassa, Sinoe, Maryland, Grand Kru, and Grand Cape Mount Counties	
Reports to	ERVCCS Project Manager under the supervision of the Energy & Environment (E&E) Coordinator	Consultancy Duration:	30 days

1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The EPA is Liberia's principal authority for environmental management. It coordinates, monitors, supervises, and consults with relevant stakeholders and sector Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions (MACs) on all activities related to protecting the environment and sustainable use of its natural resources.

The Government of Liberia (GoL), through the EPA and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and with funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), received funding for the project “Enhancing Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities in Sinoe County of Liberia (ERVCCS).” EPA is the project's Executing Entity. It is financed by a GEF Trust Fund grant and co-financed by UNDP and the GoL.

Consultancy Services
Request for Expression of Interest

The project aims to build on existing projects to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities and their livelihoods to the impacts of climate change, focusing on women and youths. Specifically, project interventions include 1) Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation Planning, 2) Supporting Innovative Technologies for Climate Information and Communication Management, 3) Introducing Hybrid Adaptation Solutions, and 4) Supporting Resilient Livelihood Diversification through Training and Improved Access to Finance. The majority of the above interventions will target all coastal counties in Liberia. In contrast, hybrid adaptation interventions will be explicitly implemented in Sinoe County, one of the country’s most vulnerable coastal counties.

The impacts of climate change, combined with non-climatic drivers, such as sand mining, the expansion of agricultural areas, unsustainable fishing, pollution, and inadequate drainage systems, compromise the resilience of Liberian communities' ecosystems along the coastline. Consequently, local communities and ecosystems are experiencing increased coastal flooding and erosion, saltwater intrusion into groundwater supplies, waterlogging of inland areas, and sedimentation of rivers and freshwater resources due to Sea Level Rise (SLR) and higher-intensity rainfall events. The vulnerability of communities and ecosystems occurs through I) inundation and consequent damage of coastal infrastructure, II) loss of fishery and agriculture-dependent livelihoods, III) decrease in stable income generation for coastal communities, IV) increase in conflict and competition over resources within communities, V) decrease in food and nutrition security, VI) increased risk of vector- and waterborne diseases through waterlogging, and VII) increased pressure on surrounding ecosystems to compensate for the reduced provision of services from coastal, wetland and mangrove ecosystems. In addition, the vulnerability of Liberia’s coastal communities and their resilience to climate change, particularly in Sinoe County, is exacerbated by the limited capacity of GoL to provide essential services and adequate support for, among other things, water and sanitation, healthcare, utility-scale energy, and road infrastructure.

As a result, coastal communities in Liberia are threatened by damaging floods and erosion, both of which are increasing due to sea level rise and other impacts of climate change, such as increasingly intense rainfall events and the current limited financial and technical capacity at the national and county levels to address these threats.

2.0 SCOPE OF WORK

These coastal counties of Liberia are endowed with significant natural resources and opportunities for economic development, particularly in the agricultural and fisheries sectors. However, there is a need for the establishment of standards and codes of conduct to enhance the sustainability, quality, and competitiveness of these livelihoods and the equipment that will be used in training beneficiaries. These codes of conduct will also ensure that equipment is locally sourced or manufactured where possible—which will assist in supporting Liberia’s economy—and the equipment is sustainable and has minimal impacts on the environment. This ToR outlines the role of a National Livelihood and Value Chain Specialist tasked with

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developing the Code of Conduct (CoC), focusing on improved farming methods, integrated farming systems, fishing, fish preservation, and micro, small, and medium enterprises.

In this regard, the EPA, through the ERVCCS Project Management Unit (PMU), requests expressions of interest from applicants interested in serving as National Livelihood and Value Chain Specialists.

OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this engagement is to create a set of standards and codes of conduct that will guide the Sinoe PMU and stakeholders in improving practices in farming, fishing, fish preservation, Compressed Stabilized Earth Blocks (CSEBs), and Macro, Small, Medium Enterprise (MSMEs), ultimately promoting sustainable livelihoods and enhancing value chains.

Specific objectives include:

- Establishing clear, practical standards for integrated farming systems (IFS), fishing practices, fish preservation methods, CESBs, and MSMEs operations.
- Developing standards for equipment that may be locally sourced to support the identified livelihoods
- Enhancing the capacities of local communities to adopt sustainable practices that increase productivity and ensure environmental stewardship.
- Promoting compliance with the industry’s best practices to improve market access and competitiveness.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the consultant shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Assist the International Consultant (IC) in reviewing literature on the Standard Code of Conduct for the IFS, CESBs, and sustainable farming Industries**
 - Review studies, methodology, and established code of conduct of other African Countries that contain these industries
- Liaise with project stakeholders [Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), etc.] to obtain contextualized existing literature to enhance the review of new and existing livelihood options
- Assist the International Consultant (IC) in conducting situational analysis:**
 - Conduct a thorough analysis of current livelihood practices in the five coastal counties affected by these activities, identifying existing methods in agriculture, fisheries, and MSME operations
 - Assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT analysis) of current practices to inform the development process.
- Assist the International Consultant (IC) in conducting cost analysis:**
 - Conduct a site-specific needs and costs assessment of equipment requirements using

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- ISO standards for the identified livelihoods

- Lead the Stakeholder Engagement:**
 - Liaise with the MoA, UNIDO, Liberia Agency of Community Empowerment (LACE), the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NAFAA), LIFSCAA, and relevant community-based organisations (CBOs) and NGOs to gather information focussing on upskilling communities on the introduced technologies, practices, and standards for these livelihoods and their value chains
 - Facilitate consultations with key stakeholders, including local farmers, fishers, MSME operators, community leaders, and government authorities, to gather input and ensure that the standards are locally relevant and feasible.
 - Organize workshops and focus groups to discuss challenges and opportunities related to livelihoods in the coastal counties.
 - Identify priority communities and champion households to receive equipment
- Assist the International Consultant (IC) in developing Industry-level Standards and Codes of Conduct**
 - Develop clear, understandable, and practical industry-level standards and codes of conduct for each identified climate-resilient livelihood sector: integrated farming system, fishing, fish preservation, compressed stabilized earth blocks, and MSMEs.
 - Ensure that the standards consider environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic viability.
 - Consider standards and code for specific livelihoods and value-chain opportunities that target women to ensure equal gender participation
- Assist the International Consultant (IC) in establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework**
 - Establish guidelines for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the standards.
 - Provide recommendations for ongoing assessments and improvements to the codes of conduct.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

The National Livelihood and Value Chain Specialist is expected to deliver the following:

- Standards and codes of conduct for identified livelihoods
- Stakeholder engagement minutes detailing consultations and feedback gathered during the process.
- Final report summarizing the process, findings, and recommendations for future actions, including needs and cost assessment of equipment required for identified livelihoods.
- Report on identified communities and champion households to receive equipment.

NOTE: HARD COPIES OF THESE REPORTS SHOULD BE GLUE-BINDED USING GLOSS PAPERS

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CONTRACT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

The National Livelihood and Value Chain Specialist shall report directly to the PMU through the Project Manager under the direct supervision of the Energy and Environment Coordinator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Regular updates and meetings shall be held for effective collaboration and supervision.

The National Livelihood and Value Chain Specialist shall be recruited for 40 days under a Service Contractual agreement. The EPA reserves the right to rescind the contract during that period should the performance of the consultant not meet its requirements.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Education**

The National Livelihood and Value Chain Specialist should have at least a Master’s degree in Agricultural Economics, Environmental Management, International Development, or a related field.

- Experience**
 - Must have at least 3-5 years of proven experience as a Livelihood and Value Chain Specialist;
 - Must have worked on a UNDP, GEF, World Bank, or any mega-project sponsored by an international donor;
 - Extensive experience in value chain analysis, livelihood development, and community engagement, particularly in agricultural and fisheries sectors;
 - Knowledge of sustainable farming practices, fish preservation techniques, and MSMEs development;
 - Proven ability to develop and implement training programs for diverse audiences effectively.
 - Experience working in West Africa or similar coastal environments is preferred
- Competencies and skills**
 - Strong analytical and communication skills, with a demonstrated ability to engage stakeholders;
 - Ability to identify stakeholders’ needs and deliver them promptly and accurately;
 - Tolerant, culturally sensitive, and knowledgeable in dealing with the local environment;
 - Ability to work under tight timelines and minimum supervision but maximum productivity;

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Interested candidates should submit both soft & hard Copy of a **cover letter, CV, and financial and technical proposal** to the below address or by email at maldonakarway1@gmail.com, indicating the subject area “**Application for National Livelihood and Value Chain Specialist**”. The closing date for the submission of proposals is 4 PM, April 7, 2025. Any submission coming/received after this deadline will


Consultancy Services
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not be given consideration. Only submissions meeting the requirements/criteria in the RFP will be considered for evaluation.


ATTENTION:

Maldona K. Karway
Procurement Officer
Project Management Unit
Enhancing the Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities in Sinoe County Project
Environmental Protection Agency
302-A Bright Building
Old CID Road, Mamba Point
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia

NOTE: This information is posted on <https://www.emansion.gov.lr>, <https://www.epa.gov.lr>, <https://www.undp.org> and can be found in the News Newspaper.



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)
Bright Building 302-A Old CID Road, Mamba Point
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia
P.O. Box 4024



Consultancy Services Request for Expression of Interest			
Job title		Gender Expert (National Consultant)	
Division/Department		Project: Enhancing the Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities in Sinoe County, Liberia (ERVCCS)	
Program/Project Number/ GEF Project ID number		10376	
Activity Result		ii) Gender inclusive-report on assessed business training needs and recommendations i)Provide recommendations for ensuring that the business training is gender-responsive and address gender-specific needs	
Assignment		To assist in analyzing gender-related information as part of the business needs assessment	
Location	Monrovia	Duration	20 Days
BACKGROUND The EPA is Liberia's principal authority for environmental management. It coordinates, monitors, supervises, and consults with relevant stakeholders and sector Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions (MACs) on all activities related to protecting the environment and sustainable use of its natural resources. The Government of Liberia (GoL), through the EPA and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and with funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), received funding for the project “Enhancing Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities in Sinoe County of Liberia (ERVCCS).” EPA is the project's Executing Entity. It is financed by a GEF Trust Fund grant and co-financed by UNDP and the GoL. The project aims to build on existing projects to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities and their livelihoods to the impacts of climate change, focusing on women and youths. Specifically, project interventions include 1) Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation Planning, 2) Supporting Innovative Technologies for Climate Information and Communication Management, 3) Introducing Hybrid Adaptation Solutions, and 4) Supporting Resilient Livelihood Diversification through Training and Improved Access to Finance. The			

Consultancy Services Request for Expression of Interest
majority of the above interventions will target all coastal counties in Liberia. In contrast, hybrid adaptation interventions will be explicitly implemented in Sinoe County, one of the country’s most vulnerable coastal counties. The impacts of climate change, combined with non-climatic drivers, such as sand mining, the expansion of agricultural areas, unsustainable fishing, pollution, and inadequate drainage systems, compromise the resilience of Liberian communities' ecosystems along the coastline. Consequently, local communities and ecosystems are experiencing increased coastal flooding and erosion, saltwater intrusion into groundwater supplies, waterlogging of inland areas, and sedimentation of rivers and freshwater resources due to Sea Level Rise (SLR) and higher-intensity rainfall events. The vulnerability of communities and ecosystems occurs through I) inundation and consequent damage of coastal infrastructure, II) loss of fishery and agriculture-dependent livelihoods, III) decrease in stable income generation for coastal communities, IV) increase in conflict and competition over resources within communities, V) decrease in food and nutrition security, VI) increased risk of vector- and waterborne diseases through waterlogging, and VII) increased pressure on surrounding ecosystems to compensate for the reduced provision of services from coastal, wetland and mangrove ecosystems. In addition, the vulnerability of Liberia’s coastal communities and their resilience to climate change, particularly in Sinoe County, is exacerbated by the limited capacity of GoL to provide essential services and adequate support for, among other things, water and sanitation, healthcare, utility-scale energy, and road infrastructure. As a result, coastal communities in Liberia are threatened by damaging floods and erosion, both of which are increasing due to sea level rise and other impacts of climate change, such as increasingly intense rainfall events and the current limited financial and technical capacity at the national and county levels to address these threats. The nine coastal counties of Liberia face various socio-economic challenges that affect local businesses, particularly regarding gender dynamics in economic participation. Understanding how gender influences these dynamics is crucial for developing targeted interventions that promote inclusive growth. This Term of Reference outlines the role of a National Gender Expert tasked with analyzing gender-related information relevant to the business needs assessment in these counties. In this regard, the EPA, through the ERVCCS Project Management Unit (PMU) requests expressions of interest from applicants interested in serving as National Gender Specialist to assist in analyzing gender-related information as part of the business needs assessment.
OBJECTIVE

Consultancy Services Request for Expression of Interest
-The primary objective of this engagement is to ensure that gender considerations are effectively integrated into the business needs assessment, thereby supporting the development of inclusive business strategies. Specific objectives include: - Analyzing the existing gender dynamics within the local business environment to understand the roles, challenges, and opportunities for diverse gender groups. - Providing actionable insights and recommendations to inform the business needs assessment and subsequent interventions.
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
The National Gender expert will perform the following tasks: <div>1. Review of Existing Gender Data:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Analyze existing gender-disaggregated data and relevant reports to understand current economic roles and participation rates of different gender groups in the nine coastal counties.- Identify gaps in existing data and highlight areas requiring further examination.</div> <div>2. Gender Analysis:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Conduct a thorough gender analysis to identify barriers that hinder economic participation and opportunities for different gender groups in the coastal business environment based on the data collectd- Assess the intersectionality of gender with other factors, such as age, education, and socio-economic status, to provide a nuanced understanding of local contexts.</div> <div>3. Reporting:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prepare a detailed report summarizing the findings from the gender analysis, including key recommendations for integrating gender considerations into the business needs assessment and support programs.- Contribute to the overall business needs assessment report to ensure that gender insights are reflected in the broader findings.</div>

Consultancy Services Request for Expression of Interest
EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES
The National Expert is expected to deliver the following: 1. A comprehensive analysis of gender-related data and literature concerning business needs in the coastal counties. 2. A report detailing the findings of the gender analysis, including identified barriers, opportunities, and specific recommendations for gender-responsive business support. 3. Contributions to the overall business needs assessment report to ensure integration of gender insights. NOTE: HARD COPIES OF THESE REPORTS SHOULD BE GLUE-BINDED USING GLOSSARY PAPERS CONTRACT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: The National Gender expert shall report directly to the PMU through the Project Manager under the supervision of the Energy and Environment Program Coordinator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Regular updates and meetings shall be held for effective collaboration and supervision. The National Gender Expert to assist in analyzing gender-related information as part of the business needs assessment shall be recruited for 20 days under a Service Contractual agreement. The EPA reserves the right to rescind the contract during that period should the performance of the Gender expert not meet its requirements.
QUALIFICATIONS
<div>➤ <i>Education</i> An advanced degree in Gender Studies, Social Sciences, Economics, Development Studies, or a related field. ➤ <i>Experience</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proven experience in gender analysis, particularly in economic or business contexts.• A strong understanding of gender dynamics, economic participation, and/or local business environments, preferably in Liberia or similar contexts.• Excellent qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis skills.• Strong communication and facilitation skills, with experience engaging diverse stakeholder groups effectively.Strong understanding of the economic context of Liberia, particularly in coastal regions.• Excellent facilitation, communication, and interpersonal skills, with a demonstrated ability to engage diverse audiences.</div>

Consultancy Services Request for Expression of Interest
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience working with local communities and understanding cultural sensitivities. <div>➤ Competencies and skills<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must have at least 3-5 years of proven experience as a Gender expert with knowledge in Business Development;• Must have worked on a UNDP, GEF, World Bank, or any mega-project sponsored by an international donor;• Proven ability to develop and implement training programs for diverse audiences. effectively.• Experience working in West Africa or similar coastal environments is preferred</div> <div>➤ Competencies and Skills<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong analytical and communication skills, with a demonstrated ability to engage stakeholders;• Ability to identify stakeholders’ needs and deliver them promptly and accurately;• Tolerant, culturally sensitive, and knowledgeable in dealing with the local environment;• Ability to work under tight timelines and minimum supervision but maximum productivity.</div>

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION
Interested candidates should submit a Cover letter, CV, Financial & Technical Proposal to the below address or by email at maldonakarway1@gmail.com , indicating their suitability for the post. All interested candidates are to address their applications, containing both soft & hard copy to the following address: ATTENTION: Maldona K. Karway Procurement Officer Enhancing the Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities in Sinoe (ERVCCS) Environment Protection Agency (EPA) 302-Bright Building Old CID-Road Mamba point 1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia

Consultancy Services Request for Expression of Interest
Please indicate “National Gender Expert to assist in analyzing gender-related information as part of the business needs assessment” in the subject line. *Female candidates are highly encouraged to apply! The closing date for submission of applications is 4:00 PM on April 7, 2025. Any submission received after this deadline will not be considered. Only applicants who meet the requirements as outlined in the terms of reference will be considered for evaluation. NOTE: This information is also posted on https://www.emansion.gov.lr/ , https://www.epa.gov.lr/ , https://www.undp.org/ , www.mme.gov.lr and can be found in local dailies.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ELWA Hospital empathizes with patient

- Amid protestation in demand for justice

By Lincoln G. Peters

Paynesville, March 18, 2025: The Management of ELWA Hospital in Paynesville has expressed deep empathy and extended prayers to Madam Jamesetta J. Kugmeh and her family



regarding her deteriorating health condition after undergoing a C-section operation, which allegedly resulted in her kidney and urethra failure. Speaking during a press conference on Monday, March 17, 2025, following a protest by dozens of Liberians at the health facility, the hospital's Chief Administrator, Mr. James Freeman Garway, said the hospital empathizes with the patient and family during these challenging times. " We empathize with the patient and the family during these challenging times. And

we understand how she feels. We note the concerns that have been shared on social media. In this regard, we invite the family to meet with us for a conference to discuss these matters directly. We are actively conducting our own internal review. We remain

committed to further investigation from the LMDC investigation," he stated. Accordingly, he added that, out of respect for the patient's privacy and confidentiality, they are unable to share further details about the case at this time. He stated that his thoughts and prayers remain with the patient and family and that they continue to hope for her full recovery. The elaborate press conference was attended by the hospital's Chief Administrator, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Executive Office, staff, and Financer Management. On Monday, March 17, 2025, dozens of Liberians led a protest at the ELWA hospital in demand of justice

for the victim while describing the hospital's alleged action as completely wicked and evil. According to the protester, God finally decided to expose the hospital, which is why he also decided to use health professionals. " We are here because we want justice. This is the usual attitude of this hospital. Many cases of such have happened and gone free and unnoticed because those that it's done to are not health professionals to explain as this lady did. So, we want them to tell us what happened to her kidney and liver. Also, why is she not urinating when she just underwent a C-section operation" they concluded. Madam Jamesetta J. Kugmeh, a registered Nurse over the weekend accused doctors and nurses at the ELWA Hospital in Paynesville of an alleged medical operational blunder in the delivery, administering, and performance of the surgical operation of Cesarean Section (C-Section), resulting in her kidney and urethra failure. Based upon the allegation, Madam Kugmeh called 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 uncontrolled bleeding and severe pain at the John F. Kennedy Hospital since transferred.

Bong County: Residents erect roadblocks

-In demand of an MoU

Citizens of Behquelleh Clan in Jorquelleh District #3 have erected roadblocks demanding that the Gold Mining Company operating in the area sign an MoU with them.

By: Edwin N. Khakie

Bong County, March 18, 2025: Residents of Behquelleh Clan in Jorquelleh District #3 have launched a peaceful protest against Da Tang Gold Mining Company in Zota District, erecting roadblocks and demanding that the company sign an MoU with their clan. The citizens' move followed an allegation that the company had neglected their Clan despite using their road for seven years without providing any benefits. According to the aggrieved citizens, since the company began operations in Zota in 2018, it has continuously excluded them from the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for affected communities despite using a major route in their clan for transportation. As part of the protest, residents have set up a roadblock in Kpayah Town, preventing all company vehicles from using the Kpayah-Jenepleta road until an MoU is signed between them and the mining company. One of their

major concerns is the rehabilitation of their road. They criticized the company for merely using a front-end loader to fill potholes instead of properly reconstructing the road. During a town hall discussion in Kpayah Town, to which the company's authorities were invited but failed to attend, the citizens demanded that the company engage with them to sign an MoU that would

serve as a working document for all parties involved. Rep. Robert Flomo Womba, Representative of District Four, where the company operates, urged the citizens to remain peaceful. He explained that the company's Chinese operators were reluctant to meet with the people due to security concerns. He informed the citizens that he had planned to work with Hon. Josiah Marvin Cole to organize a meeting with the company's representatives in Gbarnga, but Hon. Cole insisted that the Chinese operators come to meet directly with the affected people for discussions.

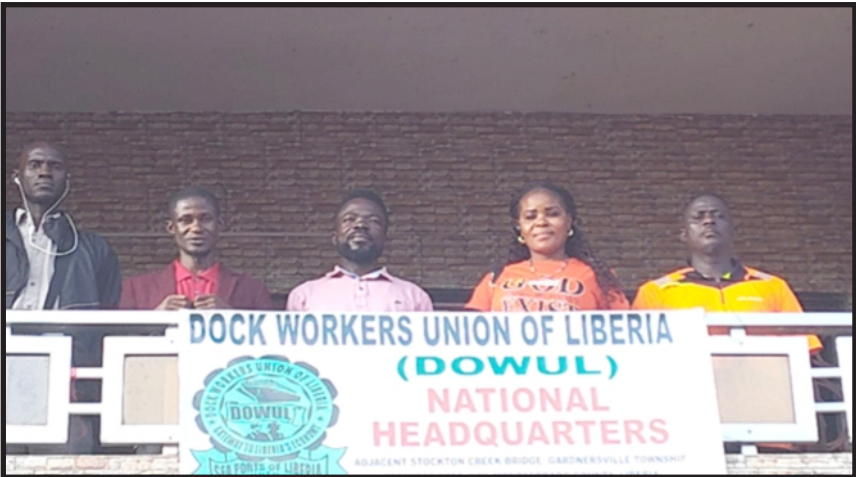


DOWUL new leadership gets legitimacy

-Despite complaint by Ex-president Jackie N.W. Doe

The Dock Workers Union of Liberia or DOWUL says it has experienced a new dawn and paradigm shift in its institutional structures and modus operandi, moving from a one-man leadership to a fully structured leadership that cut across all spectrums. DOWUL on July 6, 2024, went to the polls and elected new corps of officers. Those elected include Ballah Kpadeh, President General; Terry Kpowolo Vice President for Administration; Ciafa Sarnor, Vice President for Operation; and Abel Dada Darway, Secretary General. Others are Sonzai Kelvin Diahn, Director for Workers Education; Christopher S. Diahn, Financial Secretary; Daniel Pailey, Treasurer; Annie Tarley, Women Chair and Chris Boley, Youth Chair. But following the elections results, former president general Jackie N. W. Doe, filed a protest to the Liberia Labour Congress (LLC) and the Ministry of Labour against the elections. However, in a press release, the new leadership headed by Ballah Kpadeh as President General, says this was an attempt by the past leadership to undermine results of the elections, as the complaint was duly investigated by the Ministry of Labour and the

reissued it to our new leadership headed by Comrade Ballah Kpadeh, President General in recognition and authentication of our legitimacy." Notwithstanding, the new DOWUL leadership notes that Madam Doe through one of her surrogates in the Union, Momo A. Sambola, has been masquerading with falsehoods about the Kpadeh-led leadership to international partners and affiliates, insinuating that the new leadership is illegitimate, even though it is recognized by the Government of Liberia thru the Ministry of Labour. The release reveals that Sambola was investigated and subsequently suspended on November 12, 2024. "We strongly condemn comrade Sambola's misrepresentations of our union and his falsehoods being spread about our leadership. Comrade Sambola has escaped from justice, fear of being held liable for conniving with comrade Doe over misappropriations, bad leadership with no single financial report throughout their respective stewardship, falsely claiming to be in a sick bush." DOWUL calls on local and international partners, particularly ITF to reframe from



poll results declared valid. "It is important to state clearly that Comrade Doe's prolonged stay in power was due to her continues manipulations and refusal to go to elections since she has no history of ever being elected to the position. Thankfully, through the intervention of the Liberia Labour Congress, she finally consented at long last, we went into the democratic process in which she was overwhelmingly defeated", the release reads. It notes that since the ascendancy of the new leadership, Madam Doe, on so many attempts is allegedly bent on undermining the leadership. "We are pleased to inform you that after concluding full investigation and in consideration of Jackie N.W. Doe's illegitimacy, the Ministry of Labour officially withdrew DOWUL's Certificate of renewal on February 5, 2025 from Comrade Jackie N.W Doe and

doing business with former president Jackie N. W. Doe and Momo A. Sambola, as their actions are deemed counterproductive to the forward match of Dockers in Liberia. It notes that Trade Unions all over the world are democratic institutions hence, tenets of democracy must be adhered to at all times no matter who is involved or in office. Meanwhile, the new corps of officers were subsequently inducted in office on August 28, 2024, and has since been working assiduously with all local shops and partners, including the Ministry of Labour. The release reveals that for the first time in 12 years, the Dock Workers Union of Liberia is now out of a hand-bag into an official office space as it national headquarters located in Battery Factory Community, Japan Freeway, with a well functional Website (www.dowul.org).

Français

États-Unis : Donald Trump donne 60 jours au président Boakai pour corriger les lacunes sécuritaires au Liberia

Des diplomates et responsables de la sécurité des États-Unis ont élaboré un plan visant à imposer des restrictions strictes de voyage aux citoyens de 43

Selon la politique envisagée, 11 pays figurent sur une liste "rouge", ce qui signifierait une interdiction totale d'entrée aux États-Unis pour leurs citoyens. Dix autres pays sont placés sur une liste "orange", entraînant

pourraient être soumis à une interdiction de voyage. Bien que les défaillances sécuritaires spécifiques n'aient pas été détaillées dans le rapport, d'autres pays concernés par la liste "jaune" incluent l'Angola, Antigua-et-Barbuda, le Bénin, le Burkina Faso, le Cambodge, le Cameroun, le Cap-Vert, le Tchad, la République du Congo, la République démocratique du Congo, la Dominique, la Guinée équatoriale, la Gambie, le Malawi, le Mali, la Mauritanie, Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis, Sainte-Lucie, Sao Tomé-et-Principe, le Vanuatu et le Zimbabwe. Selon le rapport, ces restrictions proposées sont motivées par des préoccupations liées à la faiblesse ou à la corruption des gouvernements et aux défis sécuritaires dans les pays concernés. Jusqu'à présent, le gouvernement libérien n'a pas réagi officiellement à

des restrictions de voyage sans interdiction totale. Par ailleurs, 22 pays, dont le Liberia, figurent sur une liste "jaune" et disposent de 60 jours pour remédier aux lacunes sécuritaires identifiées, faute de quoi leurs citoyens



pays, dont le Liberia, selon des rapports internationaux. Ce plan classe ces pays en trois catégories en fonction des risques sécuritaires perçus et de l'efficacité de leur gouvernance.

ArcelorMittal Liberia célèbre 20 ans d'opérations et de contributions économiques

Le géant mondial de l'acier, ArcelorMittal, a célébré un jalon important le samedi 15 mars, marquant 20 ans d'opérations au Liberia. L'événement, qui s'est tenu au Invincible Eleven (IE) Sports Park près du marché aux poissons de Sinkor, a réuni plusieurs invités de marque, dont l'ambassadeur d'Afrique du Sud, Iqbal Jhazbhay, ainsi que de hauts responsables gouvernementaux. Cette célébration a été l'occasion de revenir sur deux décennies d'investissement, de croissance et de contributions significatives à l'économie nationale et au secteur minier libérien. Un acteur clé du redressement économique du Liberia ArcelorMittal a démarré ses activités au Liberia en 2005, jouant un rôle déterminant dans la relance de l'industrie du minerai de fer après plus de deux décennies de guerre civile. L'entreprise a non seulement créé de nombreux emplois directs et indirects, mais a également contribué au développement des

infrastructures du pays. S'exprimant lors de l'événement, le directeur général d'ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML), Michiel Vandermerwe, a souligné l'engagement de l'entreprise en faveur d'une exploitation minière durable et d'un impact positif sur l'économie locale. « Mesdames et messieurs, nous avons franchi une étape importante cette année avec la finalisation de nos deux premiers grands projets. Le premier représente l'une des plus importantes expansions minières en Afrique de l'Ouest, voire sur tout le continent », a déclaré M. Vandermerwe. « Chez ArcelorMittal, nous restons résolument engagés en

faveur du développement durable, de la protection de l'environnement et du progrès communautaire, afin que les bénéfices de nos opérations profitent à l'ensemble des Libériens », a-t-il ajouté. Il a également exprimé sa profonde gratitude envers les employés de la société pour leur dévouement à assurer l'extraction du minerai de fer et a transmis un message spécial du vice-président exécutif et PDG d'ArcelorMittal Mining, M. Aditya Mittal. Selon lui, 2025 a été déclarée "l'Année du Liberia" par M. Mittal, soulignant que les deux premières phases



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 **États-Unis : Donald Trump donne 60 jours au président**

ces informations. The New Dawn a consulté des sources officielles américaines, mais n’a trouvé aucune confirmation de cette politique.

Toutefois, nos recherches indiquent que cette initiative s’inscrit dans le cadre d’un décret signé par le président Donald Trump dès son entrée en fonction en janvier. Cette directive aurait ordonné aux responsables américains d’établir dans un délai de 60 jours une liste des pays susceptibles d’être soumis à des interdictions de voyage.

M. Trump a justifié cette mesure comme étant essentielle pour protéger les États-Unis contre d’éventuelles menaces sécuritaires.

Des interdictions de voyage avaient été mises en place lors de son premier mandat, avant d’être partiellement annulées par l’administration Biden en 2021. Si elles étaient appliquées, ces nouvelles restrictions marqueraient un retour et un élargissement de ces précédentes mesures.

Le Département d’État américain et les agences de sécurité examinent actuellement la proposition, bien qu’aucune décision finale n’ait encore été prise.

Dans l’attente d’une clarification officielle, les Libériens et les citoyens des autres pays concernés suivent de près l’évolution de la situation.

Starts from page 8 **ArcelorMittal Liberia célèbre 20 ans d'opérations**

d’expansion ont entraîné une augmentation considérable de la production minière, avec une extension des opérations vers trois sites miniers situés dans le comté de Nimba.

Un Liberia au cœur du secteur minier africain

ArcelorMittal prévoit de faire du Liberia un pôle central de l’exploitation minière à grande échelle en Afrique.

Le ministre des Transports, Sirleaf Ralph Tyler, a salué l’engagement d’AML en matière de sécurité et de durabilité environnementale, en particulier dans le transport ferroviaire. Il a réaffirmé le soutien du gouvernement tout en soulignant l’importance du respect des nouvelles réglementations ferroviaires.

De son côté, le député du comté de Nimba, Martins K. Tangba, a critiqué la décision du gouvernement de transférer le contrôle du chemin de fer à une entité qui, selon lui, n’a pas encore démontré une contribution significative au bien-être des Libériens. Il a estimé que cette décision met en péril les investissements d’ArcelorMittal dans le pays et a exhorté la société à poursuivre son soutien aux communautés locales, en particulier celles de Nimba, malgré les pressions

gouvernementales.

Le superintendant des trois comtés hôtes a également encouragé ArcelorMittal à renforcer son engagement envers les communautés locales, en intensifiant le dialogue et les initiatives de développement.

Un impact économique majeur L’événement a permis de mettre en avant les réalisations d’ArcelorMittal au Liberia, notamment :

- La création de milliers d’emplois ;
- Des investissements considérables dans les infrastructures locales, dont le chemin de fer Yekepa-Buchanan ;
- Des initiatives en faveur du développement durable et de la protection de l’environnement.

Depuis 2005, ArcelorMittal a investi plus de 3,5 milliards de dollars américains au Liberia, une grande partie de ces fonds ayant été consacrée à la reconstruction du réseau ferroviaire, à la modernisation du port et à la réhabilitation des infrastructures minières, notamment la construction du concentrateur.

Avec ces nouvelles expansions, ArcelorMittal Liberia continue de consolider son rôle en tant que moteur clé du développement économique du pays.

Commentaire

Trump, le Bitcoin et l’avenir du dollar

Par Carla Norrlöf

WASHINGTON, DC - En vertu d’un décret du 6 mars 2025, le président américain Donald Trump a créé une réserve d’« or numérique » en Bitcoin, qui sera capitalisé au moyen de tous les BTC saisis par la justice fédérale. L’offre de BTC étant plafonnée à 21 millions d’unités, cette administration entend conférer aux États-Unis un avantage de premier entrant, en tant que détenteur majeur d’une réserve nouvelle de valeur. Il est toutefois peu probable que les BTC saisis permettent à eux seuls d’atteindre l’échelle souhaitée, et les États-Unis pourraient par conséquent en acquérir sur le marché ouvert.

Les États-Unis ne sont pas les seuls à miser sur le BTC. À travers le monde, les gouvernements sont de plus en plus nombreux à considérer le BTC comme un actif de réserve. Au Brésil, le député Eros Biondini a formulé une proposition consistant pour la banque centrale nationale à accumuler du BTC jusqu’à ce que cet actif représente 5 % des réserves du pays. De même, le Bhoutan est devenu l’un des principaux détenteurs de BTC au monde, son projet de « Gelephu Mindfulness City » comptant sur les cryptomonnaies en tant que réserve stratégique. Le président du Salvador, Nayib Bukele, continue d’acheter du BTC dans ce même objectif, et les parlementaires de Hong Kong proposent d’ajouter le BTC aux réserves publiques de la cité-État. Des rumeurs courent également selon lesquelles la Chine constituerait en secret une réserve de BTC. Enfin, une récente initiative populaire en Suisse entend imposer à la Banque nationale (BNS) d’inclure le BTC dans ses actifs, une idée toutefois rejetée par le président de la BNS, Martin Schlegel, qui fait valoir les risques liés à la volatilité, à la liquidité ainsi qu’à la sécurité de cette cryptomonnaie.

La décision du gouvernement américain de prendre le parti de la diversification des actifs de réserve soulève néanmoins de sérieuses interrogations quant à l’hégémonie de sa propre monnaie à l’avenir. Si davantage d’États ou d’institutions décidaient de détenir du BTC plutôt que des dollars, la demande mondiale relative aux réserves en dollars pourrait diminuer à long terme. Le fait de légitimer une réserve de valeur rivale pourrait ébranler la confiance dans le billet vert, érodant le statut de cette monnaie de réserve mondiale et les avantages qui en résultent pour l’Amérique. Sans une forte demande internationale relative au dollar, les États-Unis pourraient finalement perdre leur « privilège exorbitant », celui de pouvoir imprimer de la monnaie et d’emprunter à faibles taux d’intérêt. Miser sur le BTC tout en préservant la domination du dollar constitue par conséquent un exercice délicat.

Parallèlement à sa politique relative au BTC, l’administration Trump refaçonne aujourd’hui la politique commerciale des États-Unis de manière fondamentale. L’Amérique impose ainsi des droits de douane de 25 % sur les importations en provenance du Canada et du Mexique, augmente ces droits sur les marchandises chinoises (ce qui porte à 39 % la moyenne des droits de douane américains vis-à-vis de la Chine), et menace de prendre des mesures similaires à l’encontre de l’agriculture européenne. Ces politiques créent d’ores et déjà des turbulences sur les marchés - accentuées par des modifications et reports répétés - et suscitent des représailles.

Le Canada et le Mexique dépendant considérablement de leurs échanges commerciaux avec les États-Unis, les droits de douane réduisent leurs exportations et flux entrants de dollars, ce qui affaiblit leur monnaie. En revanche, la base d’exportation plus diversifiée de la Chine ainsi que son système de contrôle monétaire permettent au régime d’atténuer les effets des droits de douane américains, et de soutenir le renminbi. Par ailleurs, les États-Unis dépendant quant à eux fortement d’intrants intermédiaires en provenance de Chine, les droits de douane feront nécessairement augmenter les coûts de production américains, avec pour conséquences une hausse des prix à la consommation ainsi que de l’inflation, et une érosion de l’attrait du dollar.

En plus de réduire la demande relative aux produits américains et aux dollars qui permettent de les acheter, les politiques de Trump créent de l’imprévisibilité, ce qui impacte la confiance sur les marchés américains. Les menaces formulées par le président des États-Unis conduisent d’ores et déjà l’Union européenne à envisager une plus grande diversification monétaire, ainsi qu’à se tourner vers des marchés alternatifs. Le nombre d’investisseurs qui choisissent de détenir des actifs libellés en dollars diminuant actuellement, le billet vert commence à montrer des signes de dépréciation.

Les États-Unis peuvent-ils réellement adopter le BTC comme réserve stratégique et mener les politiques commerciales actuelles sans mettre en péril la stature mondiale du dollar ? Les pays détiennent généralement différents actifs de réserve - euros, yens, livres sterling, ou or - en plus du dollar. Or, la structure singulière du BTC, un actif décentralisé à l’offre limitée, le distingue de ces actifs traditionnels. En faisant le choix du BTC, les États-Unis pourraient sans le vouloir accélérer une prise de distance mondiale par rapport aux réserves en dollars.

Trump et son équipe semblent parier sur le fait que d’autres dynamiques interviendront, compte tenu de la dépendance démesurée des pays étrangers vis-à-vis de l’économie américaine. L’administration mise sur l’hypothèse selon laquelle les producteurs étrangers accepteront des prix plus bas pour demeurer compétitifs, ou selon laquelle les monnaies étrangères se déprécieront pour compenser les effets des droits de douane américains, ce qui reportera la charge sur les étrangers plutôt que sur les consommateurs et producteurs américains.



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LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: The Dismissal of Madam Emma Glassco

By Naneka Hoffman

Following her recent suspension by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, the President has dismissed the Director General of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), Emma Glassco for alleged managerial and financial inefficiencies. But public reactions to the President's decision are mixed, as you may read below.

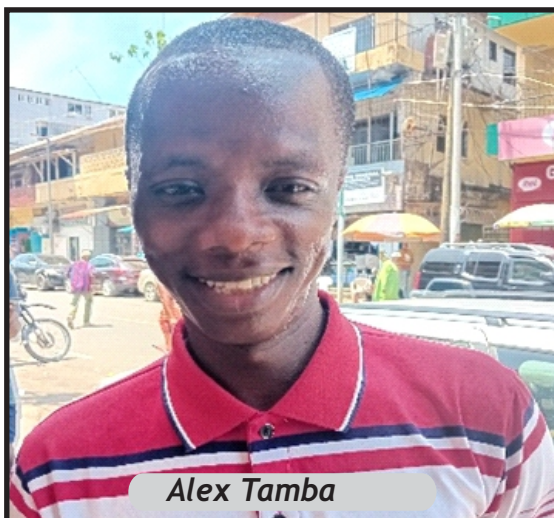


Leroy Archie Ponpon

"We want to appreciate the level of governance provided by the Joseph Boakai administration. We believe that it proceeded as though it was witch-hunting, but I don't want to agree about witch-hunting, because investigation concluded said managerial and financial inefficiencies in terms LACC and audit of donor funding. Administratively, the President has the right to suspend people based on cause. And the cause having been established by institutional

framework setup in terms of the LACC that saw managerial and financial inefficiencies and recommended audit. I believe that the President is acting from recommendation, so let's remove political witch-hunt, which I don't want to agree that it's political witch-hunt. Madam Emma Glassco must continue to use the rule of law and if she can do that, we believe that we will have the best of all governing system that we want. People must test the system; people must believe in the system; people must be able to say my right is taken from me or if it was a political witch-hunt, let use the proper channel. Her replacement doesn't cost for her not to do the right thing under the rule of law. If she was wrongly dismissed, she can equally be compensated for wrongful dismissal under the law. I think President Boakai is a President of rule of law, and I believe he trusts what he's doing."

"You see, when we were running campaign, the President told us that it will not be business as usual, and I believe there are things that Madam Glassco used to do in the past regime, and she thought it was good and at that time. There was nobody to fight for the right thing. So, they believe that they will continue to do the same. If you were doing something wrong before that you felt it was good, under this government it will not be repeated. So I think she was



Alex Tamba

replaced based on the bad attitude she was doing before."



Junior Gbehkugbeeh

"Replacing Madam Glassco with Mr. J. Cyrus Saygbe, Sr., as

Acting Director General of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) started ever since. They wanted to do it but, they were embarrassed. They couldn't do it broadly. They were wrong for replacing her. Madam Glassco raised a lot revenue for the government more than any other entity. The regime took her from there because she is a member of CDC. Boakai told us that he was going to divide the country ever since, and he did it, so it isn't strange to us."



Teddy Sariah

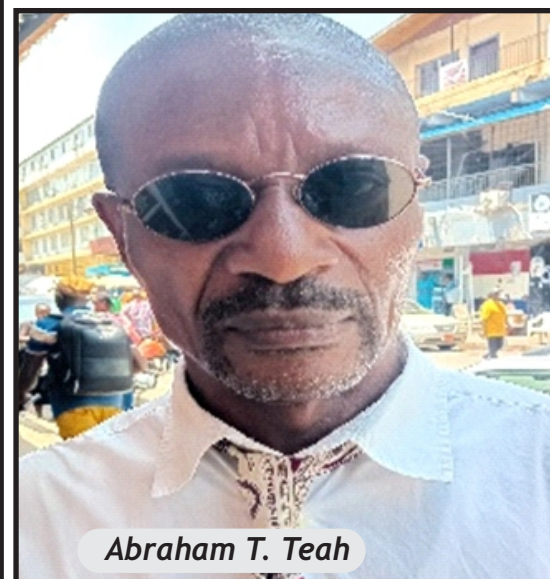
"Firstly, the government is putting us into situation that we cannot understand as citizens. How can you suspend somebody without a due process and replaced the person without

telling us the citizens the reason you suspended Madam Glassco. Managerial and financial inefficiencies they have not gone into detail, managerial and financial inefficiencies is just a general word they used. Where did she corrupt from? By what process did she corrupt from? And they say insulting behavior. How did it happen? They should be telling us. We will tell this government, not because we the citizens are tolerant, it means that we are stupid. Joseph Boakai said George Weah danced Buka for six years, and he that is serious to govern, is giving us hard time."

"You know this government always do things as usual. This government is in a constant behavior of disrespecting the rule of law. This government isn't sincere, for the fact that Madam Glassco was transforming that area. You know this government, anything that represents CDC, the government doesn't want to see it. Madam Glassco is a professional woman, who has transformed that sector. Boakai came to destroy the country. I see her replacement as an injustice."



Robert Political Zlatan Ibrahimovic



Abraham T. Teah

"The suspension and replacement of Madam Glassco

is not timely. You can't suspend and then you can't investigate why you suspended the person for, and later on you dismissed the person and have her replace. It is very illegal. It is not timey, because Madam Glassco work for long and she improved that sector. If Madam Glassco is found in managerial and financial inefficiencies, then that person should be brought to justice. So what is the stick they are using now to dismiss her? So it is illegal."

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"We're not taking this lightly"

The Liberian Government has taken seriously the report of potential US visa restrictions on Liberia.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Capitol Hill, March 18, 2025: The Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, says it does not take lightly the potential strict travel restrictions on Liberia by



United States diplomats and security officials. Responding to the potential visa and travel restrictions to be placed on Liberia, on Monday, March 17, 2025, during a Joint Senate hearing, Foreign Affairs Minister Madam Sarah Beysolow Nyante termed the potential visa ban a complete surprise while urging Liberians to remain calm as the government engages the US State Department to ascertain the facts surrounding the matter. She argued that since taking office as Minister of Foreign Affairs, she has worked with the U.S. government to address some of the requirements outlined in the potential visa ban through formal letters and meetings in Washington, D.C. "The information received in the news and social media was a surprise. When the information came out, we contacted the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, and they said that they had no information in relation to this report," Minister Beysolow-Nyante told Senators on Capitol Hill Monday. "This was also reported in the New York Times newspaper. We are not taking this lightly whether it's true or

misleading," she stated. The Liberian Senate held a Joint Committee hearing for officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday, March 17, 2025. The hearing, which was conducted within the Senate Chamber, was held jointly by the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Senate Committee on Defense, Security, and Intelligence. The hearing sought to address some concerning issues relative to Liberia's foreign relations, deployment of foreign service officials, the well-being of Liberian Students in Morocco and other parts of the world, the Japanese Grant, and the latest concerns being raised by the US Government regarding "Visa Restriction" for Liberia. According to international reports, U.S. diplomats and security officials have developed a plan to impose strict travel restrictions on citizens from 43 countries, including Liberia. 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

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, 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. However, the report further indicated that the proposed restrictions stem from concerns over weak or corrupt governance and security challenges in the affected nations. While Liberian government officials have yet to comment on this development, The New Dawn searched official U.S. government sources but found no confirmation of the policy. However, the paper gathered that the move reportedly originated from an executive order signed by President Donald Trump upon taking office in January, instructing officials to compile the lists within 60 days. The US president described the list as necessary to protect the US from potential security threats. Similar to this, the paper learned that travel bans were enacted during President Donald Trump's first term but were partially reversed by the Biden administration in 2021. If implemented, the new restrictions would mark a return and expansion of those earlier policies. Meanwhile, I'm told that the U.S. State Department and security agencies are currently reviewing the proposal, though a final decision has not been made. As the situation develops, Liberians and citizens of the other listed nations will be watching closely to see whether the U.S. government moves forward with these travel restrictions. - Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

Unfounded criticism

adds. According to him, when he took office, this amount was pushed and renewed for a year, because the previous government didn't put in necessary framework to get another five years done. "Both parties could not agree. They pushed it for one year. We inherited that." Dukuly says in five to six months, they were able to successfully negotiate that with folks at Avian Terminals. "So we reviewed that agreement and renewed it for another five years. Now, the biggest takeaway to that is royalty from

that concession increased from 15% to 20%, not only that, we Liberianized the provider." He reveals that for the first time, Avian Terminals and all partners were informed that after five years, the national proletariat would take over the Marine Services Program. To be able to do that, we need to train our Marine pilots, our seafarers, and so forth. So there are currently librarians that we met in our program, and we are in the process of adding additional four to five Liberians.

ArcelorMittal boasts of \$2.5b investment in Liberia

ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML), a subsidiary of global steel giant, Mittal Steel, is bolstering a US\$2.5 Billion investment in Liberia.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah
Buchanan, Liberia, March 18, 2025—ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) reveals a significant investment boost of US\$2.5 billion over the last twenty years, further solidifying Liberia's position as a major global iron ore producer.

On Thursday, March 13, 2025, a team of journalists toured facilities in the port city of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, to gain firsthand insights into the company's operations, especially its Phase 2 expansion project. This project focuses on improving rail infrastructure, upgrading the port, and preparing for the next phase of operation. Marco Miranda, General Manager of Rail, and Winston Daryoue, Communication Manager, guided journalists through the facility and presented detailed PowerPoint on AML's operations, with a particular emphasis on Phase 2.

Journalists from broadcast, print, and online media outlets toured the company's operations.

Since its arrival in Liberia in 2005, despite challenges like the Ebola virus pandemic, ArcelorMittal has remained a key player in the country's economy and is now approaching 20 years of presence in Liberia. Communication Manager Winston Daryoue emphasizes that as one of the top five iron ore producers globally, with 126,000

efforts extend to improving community health and environmental sustainability.

He shares that AML operates two hospitals—one in Buchanan and the other in Yekepa—that are currently undergoing improvements. The company has also partnered with local communities to initiate drug awareness programs, among other things.

In 2022, AML began its Phase 2 expansion project, which has created 1,000 new permanent jobs and over 2,000 short-term jobs, particularly those working on the rail system. "The company contributes approximately US\$35 million annually, which is expected to increase to about US\$75 million", Daryoue says

Marco Miranda, General Manager of Rail, further details, "AML is investing \$800,000 into a 243-kilometer rail system designed to handle bulk commodities beyond just locomotives and wagons."

He emphasizes the importance of training Liberians to manage the rail system effectively, using the same models successfully implemented in countries like Australia, Brazil, and Canada.

AML is fully aligned with the Liberian government's desire to establish a fully functioning multi-user rail system along the Buchanan Corridor. The User-Operator structure proposed in the Third



employees, AML's operations in Liberia account for 2,100 direct jobs and 5,300 related indirect jobs.

AML's commitment to Liberia includes a \$7 million initial investment in vocational training in Yekepa, Nimba County, which is provided tuition-free. The company also runs a community scholarship program for high school and university students, with three AML-operated schools in Yekepa that have a combined enrollment of 1,000 students. According to Daryoue, in addition to recruiting recent college graduates and offering them on-the-job training, "AML has launched a Youth Program (YPP), with 90% of beneficiaries finding employment at the company." AML is also collaborating with the Liberian government on an international scholarship program that benefits over 50 students. The company's social responsibility

Amendment is recognized globally as the most successful model for bulk commodity transportation in countries such as Australia, Brazil, Canada, and neighboring Guinea.

Additionally, AML has agreed to a Rail System Operating Principles (RSOP) suggested by the Government of Liberia, ensuring more than adequate protection for the government and other users of the rail system. These new Multi-user Principles will be implemented immediately. A rail Authority will be responsible for setting standards and monitoring and inspecting various aspects of rail operations.

This new phase of development further cements AML's role as a key player in Liberia's economy and infrastructure development, with hopes of fostering long-term growth and sustainable practices in the region. Editing by Jonathan Browne.

Unfounded criticism

-NPA boss responds to critics

The Managing Director of the National Port Authority, Sekou Dukuly, describes criticisms against his performance as unfounded and mere propaganda. “Those claims you hear about the Port are unfounded and we are not deterred because we are following President Boakai’s message of ‘no business as usual’ and that the NPA under our leadership will never be the same,” he maintains.

By Lewis S. Teh

Speaking in an interview on Monday, March 17, 2025 at the NPA in Monrovia, Mr. Dukuly said that he is more focus on President Joseph N. Boakai’s agenda; stating that the NPA under his leadership will never be the same. According to him, since

months have not been easy, but rewarding. Director Dukuly explains that when the government took over, not only the NPA, but every institution was challenged, from infrastructure to legacy, hiring and unpaid bills. He narrates that for the Port to get back on the right track, the



NPA Managing Director Sekou Dukuly

his appointment as Managing Director, the Port contributed US\$3 million to the national budget in the first one year. Outlining his achievements, he notes that the last 14

right people need to be hired and placed in the right position. Speaking of international partnership, he discloses that the Chinese Embassy near Monrovia trained 25 employees

of the entity in China, adding that all of the trained employees are contributing to the Port. While in China, he discloses that the beneficiaries went to Nimbo Polytechnic University, saying the training was meant to strengthen their technical skills in global port management. Talking about major agreements that he met on the ground prior to his appointment by the President, he names the Marine Service Agreement as number one, saying, “We were able to review that agreement. It should have been reviewed, I believe, in August of 2023.” Asked about his plans for 2025, Director Dukuly says his leadership will focus on abiding by the Public Finance Management (PFM) law, which states that NPA should contribute from the dividend. “So, we are going to wait for that dividend to be declared and we will make that portion of that dividend payment when it’s declared to the central government. But again, don’t forget about also taxes that have been withheld from concessions,” he reminds. Director Dukuly: “When people look at contribution to the national budget, they look at the port as a gateway. When I appeared before the Senate to

▶ CONT’D ON PAGE 11



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