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-Finance Minister Ngafuan

The top photograph shows a group of people gathered around a white table. A man in a green shirt is standing and talking to a man in a white patterned shirt. Other people are seated or standing around the table. The bottom photograph shows a group of people seated at a table. A man in a white patterned shirt is looking down at a document on the table. Other people are seated around the table, some wearing traditional attire.

Concerned Citizens and Chiefs from Impacted Communities in Mexico in support of the Repatriation of the Amaro-Mineral Development Agreement (NIMA) and Extension of Archaeological Zone Protection			
Name	Community	Position	Signature
Federico Alvarado	Gahaga, Toluca	Head ZOC	Federico Alvarado
Roberto Alvarado	San Juan, Toluca	Head ZOC	Roberto Alvarado
John Yarnall	Chichimeco, Toluca	Chief ZOC	John Yarnall
Imre Wolke	Vchippa, Toluca	Cham chief	Imre Wolke
William Z. Zula	Gahaga	Asesor PC	William Z. Zula
Tabitha N. Schumaker	Chichimeco	Chief	Tabitha N. Schumaker
Jose A. Lopez	Chichimeco	Cham chief	Jose A. Lopez
George E. Krumpholtz	Toluca, San Juan	Asesor com	George E. Krumpholtz
James G. Smith	Gahaga	MIA Liaison	James G. Smith
John Z. Leach	Gahaga	R Commissioner	John Z. Leach
Joseph J. Zammie	San Juan Cham	PC	Joseph J. Zammie
William Rodriguez	Gahaga	Cham Chief	William Rodriguez
Joe Voth	Gahaga	Yoda	Joe Voth

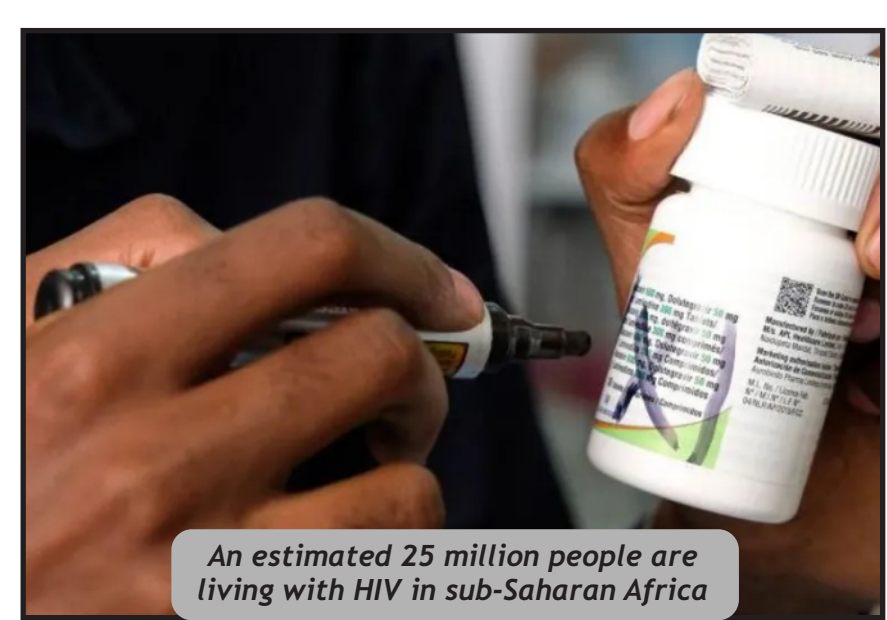
and counting...



Continental News

Nigeria and Kenya among nations running out of HIV drugs - WHO

Eight countries - six of them in Africa, including Nigeria, Kenya and Lesotho - could soon run out of HIV drugs following the US government's recent decision



An estimated 25 million people are living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa

to pause foreign aid, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) said. US President Donald Trump announced the freeze on his first day in office in January as part of a review into government spending. "Disruptions to HIV programmes could undo 20 years of progress," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned. It could also lead to more than 10 million additional cases of HIV and three million HIV-related deaths, he added, noting this was "more than triple the number of deaths

last year". Nigeria, Kenya, Lesotho, South Sudan, Burkina Faso and Mali - as well as Haiti and Ukraine - would run out of live-saving anti-retroviral (ARV) medicines in the coming months,

programme, its work has severely impacted.

Known as the US President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (Pepfar), it relies on logistical support from USAID and other organisations hit by the turmoil. It has led to the "immediate stop to services for HIV treatment, testing and prevention in more than 50 countries", Dr Tedros said. Launched in 2003, Pepfar has enabled some of the world's poorest people to access anti and has been credited with saving more than 26 million lives worldwide. During his first days in office, Trump also announced that the US would pull out of the WHO, affecting funding for the global health agency.

"The US administration has been extremely generous over many years. And of course, it's within its rights to decide what it supports and to what extent," Dr Tedros said.

"But the US also has a responsibility to ensure that if it withdraws direct funding for countries, it's done in an orderly and humane way that allows them to find alternative sources of funding.

An estimated 25 million people are living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, which is more than two-thirds of the global total 38 million people living with the disease.

In Nigeria, nearly two million people are living with HIV, with

'No-one can handle another war' - Tigrayans fear fresh Ethiopian conflict

People living in Mekelle, the main city in Ethiopia's war-scarred Tigray, have told the BBC they fear they could soon be dragged into conflict again. Growing tensions threaten the fragile peace agreement signed in late 2022, which brought an end to a brutal civil war that claimed an estimated half a million lives. Many here are preparing for the worst - either leaving for the federal capital, Addis Ababa, on sold-out flights, or stocking up on emergency supplies and withdrawing their savings from the bank. "It's all because of the anxiety," one resident said.

Tseganesh Kassa, an ex-combatant from Shire, a city in central Tigray, badly wounded her leg during the war. She now walks on crutches and requires regular medical treatment. She says war "rocked my family". "I am now a disabled person and my family has been [ruined] economically. I don't want to see that again. Displaced people living in makeshift camps haven't even

been returned to their homes. "No-one can handle another [war]." Tigray was the epicentre of the conflict. The guns were silenced when two of the main warring groups, Ethiopia's federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the leading political party in the region, signed a peace agreement. This led to the formation of an interim administration tasked with running the region until elections were held. But in recent months there has been a

growing power struggle between senior figures within TPLF and Tigray's interim administration. The administration accuses certain TPLF politicians of attempting to seize power by force. Some within the TPLF accuse the interim administration's leadership of failing to support ex-fighters or bring back people displaced by the war. Territories that were once under Tigray's administration before the fighting but are now under others' control is also a hot issue. BBC



Many hospitals and clinics damaged by the civil war are yet to be repaired

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

expulsion or the withdrawal of recognition of envoys. Before Kigali cut ties with 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



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

delusions". "Belgium has clearly taken sides in a regional conflict and 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

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 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 came a day before the Congolese government and M23 rebels were set to meet for peace talks. But the rebels announced on Monday afternoon that they would no longer participate accusing unspecified international institutions of undermining the peace efforts. 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 Bertrand Badré,
Thomas Crampton

Sustainability in an Unstable World

PARIS - As the world becomes increasingly unstable, with the security that many people took for granted called into question, climate change, once viewed as the defining challenge of our time, has been sidelined by geopolitics, which has brought issues such as rearmament and the race for AI supremacy to the fore. But rising seas, protracted heatwaves, and devastating storms are not just risks; they are realities. The threat posed by climate change is obviously growing, but many corporations and even climate innovators have gone silent.

The rise of “greenhushing” - when companies downplay environmental goals for financial or political reasons - reflects not just changing communications strategies, but rising tensions between competing priorities. Amid new geopolitical conflicts and economic pressures, some argue that sustainability has become an unaffordable luxury. But one should not assume a trade-off between sustainability and security. On the contrary, if we frame climate change, security risks, and economic needs as competing priorities, we risk losing on all fronts.

To be sure, competition over resources, territory, and technology appears to be monopolizing financial and intellectual resources at the expense of efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Yet these issues are deeply intertwined. The scramble for rare-earth minerals, the expansion of data infrastructure, and the need for energy-efficient AI all show that geopolitics and climate policy are part of the same equation.

Faced with limited capital and constraints on cross-border financial flows, many businesses and governments feel paralyzed. For decades, we have missed opportunities to invest in long-term resilience - even after the threat of climate change was fully known. But wallowing in regret will not help now. Instead, we should acknowledge our short-sightedness and act immediately to change course.

The era of “peace dividends” and low interest rates is behind us. The task now is to adapt to an era of capital scarcity and geopolitical fragmentation. We can no longer ask whether climate action is important, but how it can be integrated into a rapidly changing global landscape. That means abandoning outdated approaches and forging a cohesive strategy that combines security, innovation, and sustainability.

In today’s political climate, many will see greenhushing as a reasonable strategy. Like US corporate managers’ back-pedaling on DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) and other issues that have been consumed by the culture war, keeping a low profile on environmental matters might seem pragmatic. But, by creating the illusion that sustainability is less urgent or feasible than it really is, greenhushing carries significant risks.

For starters, de-emphasizing sustainability threatens to slow green innovation just when it is needed most. Greenhushing could erode consumer trust and sap momentum in industries that have already started to build a carbon-neutral future. In time, this will prove far costlier - both economically and environmentally - than any risks associated with remaining committed to mitigation and

adaptation. Worse, there could be a “lemming” effect across industries. If everyone assumes that sustainability is being abandoned, then everyone will abandon sustainability. The peer pressure that has been driving private-sector progress on this issue will vanish.

Despite these hurdles, there is still hope. The shift toward a more sustainable economy has begun, even in the United States. While the pace of progress may slow, the direction of travel need not change. In adjusting to new realities, the ultimate goal should be to stay the course.

Sustainability is a strategic imperative. Many companies - large and small, across every continent - already recognize this, and have developed business models that combine profitability and environmental responsibility. Their success shows that adapting to this new era does not mean abandoning long-term goals. Instead, it means identifying new sources of value, investing in eco-efficient infrastructure, and aligning sustainability measures with cost-savings and resilience.

But public-private cooperation is also essential. Markets alone cannot deliver when priorities are constantly and abruptly shifting (say, from sustainability to AI to defense). Governments must step in to help stabilize expectations, and they can do so through public-private initiatives that tie sustainability to national security. For example, publicly supported investments in clean energy and resilient supply chains can reduce reliance on fossil fuels, which in turn will strengthen economic resilience and diminish the importance of geopolitical competition.

While a coordinated, global approach would be ideal, regional, local, and sector-specific initiatives are probably more likely to succeed in today’s fragmented political landscape. The key is to align financial incentives with sustainability goals to ensure that climate action is not sidelined in favor of short-term gains.

The collective project that all countries embarked on ten years ago - with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris climate agreement - must remain our North Star, even if pragmatism demands strategic tacking along the way. This is no time for cynicism or despair. Any blame that should be assigned would be best directed toward those who are cynically exploiting the situation to reap short-term gains. Any company making a good-faith effort to recalibrate its strategy deserves support.

We must remain pragmatic yet resolute. We had a chance to act when times were easier, but that window has closed. Rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and biodiversity loss are not distant threats; they are here, and they are compounding geopolitical tensions. Greenhushing may feel like a convenient response to today’s challenges, but it is not a sustainable one. Silence will not save us.

We need the opposite of greenhushing: bold, united action that weaves climate priorities into our economic and geopolitical strategies. Business leaders who do not speak up now will later regret it.

OP-ED

By Olivier Blanchard,
Jean Pisani-Ferry

Maintaining Progress in a Post-American World

PARIS - “The postwar global order is not just obsolete; it is now a weapon being used against us.” So says US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, perfectly encapsulating his boss’s attitude toward global governance. President Donald Trump’s administration is completely rejecting the principles that the United States has promoted since the 1941 Atlantic Charter.

The 70-plus executive orders and memos issued since Trump returned to the White House on January 20 envision a very different global system than the one that has prevailed for the past eight decades. Gone is the balance between privileges and obligations that characterized the rules-based postwar order.

Most governments are rightly appalled by what they are seeing. They still recognize the importance of preventing pandemics, respecting trade rules, limiting a race-to-the-bottom tax competition, and fighting climate change. The question is whether they can find common ground and act in an effective way without the US.

We believe they can, especially if the European Union, which itself is governed by rules and shared commitments, takes the lead in organizing a collective response. To that end, EU countries should start reaching out to each other and non-EU countries to form “coalitions of the willing” across four key domains: global public health, climate change, international trade, and corporate taxation.

Start with public health. One of Trump’s first decisions as president was to withdraw from the World Health Organization, a move understandably met with dismay around the world. Fortunately, though, preventing future pandemics does not require US membership in the WHO. While there will certainly be budgetary consequences, the rest of the world can easily fill the gap, which amounts to some \$500 million per year. What matters most is that the WHO can continue to fulfill its mission, especially in disease-prone poorer countries.

On climate change, the EU already sets binding policy targets for member states, and is therefore well positioned to act as one, form alliances with third countries and exert significantly more global influence. It could negotiate new partnership agreements and build a coalition of the willing to maintain momentum toward net-zero emissions, despite the US withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement. Potential partners include major advanced economies and many emerging markets, the most obvious one being China. Despite being the world’s top emitter of greenhouse gases, China has a vested interest in the net-zero transition.

True, as the Nobel laureate economist William Nordhaus has pointed out, the larger a climate coalition grows, the stronger the incentive for others to free ride on the discipline it provides. But this problem can be overcome. Nordhaus’s own solution is to form climate clubs whose members would place a tariff on imports from non-participating countries. This option may not be legal under current World Trade Organization rules; but given Trump’s misbehavior, it may still be the way to go.

On the matter of international trade more broadly, the EU has powerful cards to play in response to US tariffs. Here, too, it can create a coalition of the willing with countries that want to continue to play by reasonable rules and help reform the global trade architecture.

Trade policy is a quintessential EU competence. The European Commission negotiates trade agreements on behalf of all member countries, and once an agreement has been reached, it must be approved by a qualified majority of member states in the Council of the EU and by the European Parliament. As illustrated by France’s failure to block the recent EU-Mercosur trade deal, a minority of holdouts cannot stymie the will of the majority.

This arrangement has been instrumental in making the EU a global trading power. Now, Europe should take the initiative to bring together those who want to salvage what is left of trade multilateralism and define an agenda for the future. Obvious partners include India and China. By launching a major negotiation, the EU would demonstrate that it is not blindly following the US.

That brings us to taxation. In October 2021, after a long discussion process, more than 140 jurisdictions agreed on a minimum effective tax rate on multinational corporations’ profits. If a firm does not pay 15% in one country, participating countries can collectively tax it on the difference and then prorate the distribution of the proceeds according to the share of production in each jurisdiction. The great advantage of this system is that it is self-enforcing. If a jurisdiction does not collect the 15% tax, others will, creating a powerful incentive to collect it oneself.

To come into force, this agreement must be ratified by national parliaments. So far, more than 40 countries have done so, and many others are scheduled to vote soon. The Trump administration’s abandonment of the agreement was largely symbolic, because Congress had not approved it. In any case, other countries can still bring the minimum tax to fruition, though they should expect US pushback.

In this new world, where major multilateral institutions are likely to find themselves paralyzed in the near term, coalitions of the willing will be necessary to advance global progress and cooperation. On global public health, climate change, international trade, and corporate taxation, Europe can lead by example and help to keep multilateralism alive. Now that the Trump administration is openly repudiating the postwar rules-based system that the US was instrumental in building, Europe and others can and must fill the leadership vacuum - including through partnering with China.

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OPINION

By Jaynisha Patel

The Sahel's Dangerous Downward Spiral

LONDON - Africa’s Sahel region is enduring a period of rapid change - and deepening instability. Military juntas in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger - now known as the Central Sahel - have rejected traditional partnerships with the West in favor of new patrons: China and Russia. Add to that the fragmentation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the region’s geopolitical map is being redrawn, with consequences that stretch far beyond West Africa.

Geopolitical developments are not the only source of volatility in the Sahel. Accelerating climate change - temperatures in the region are rising 1.5 times faster than the global average - is disrupting traditional lifestyles, undermining livelihoods, and threatening food security. But shifts in the regional balance of power are making matters much worse.

As of last month, French troops have withdrawn from the Sahel altogether, following the severing of defense ties by the region’s governments, from Mali to Chad. This process, together with the collapse of United Nations peacekeeping efforts, has created a security vacuum that extremist groups have quickly moved to fill. The likes of al-Qaeda and the Islamic State (ISIS) are carrying out an alarming 35-40 attacks per week across the region - up 15% year on year.

Paralyzed by the wave of regime change across what has become known as the “coup belt,” and dealt a heavy blow by the recent departure of the Central Sahel countries, ECOWAS - once a pillar of regional stability - has struggled to mount a coordinated response to the surge in violent extremism.

Extremists have exploited the deadlock in the fractured bloc to establish themselves as de facto authorities in a growing number of Sahelian communities. While the election of new African Union leadership offers a promising opportunity to re-energize the continent’s collective response to these developments, extremist groups continue to capitalize on regional instability.

In areas where the state’s presence is weak and competition for resources is high, such groups leverage their understanding of local grievances, as well as their ties to global extremist networks, to position themselves as providers of resources and guarantors of justice. As they enhance their legitimacy by maintaining order, distributing food, and managing land disputes, they deliberately weaken state institutions and exacerbate resource shortages to deepen dependency on their parallel governance structures.

This calculated and insidious strategy has been on display in the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Complex of national parks - West Africa’s largest protected wilderness area, shared by Benin, Burkina Faso, and Niger. Once a model of cross-border cooperation, the WAP Complex has been closed since 2019, and extremist groups have exploited gaps in management to assert control over local security, taxation, and resource exploitation in some areas.

Meanwhile, external actors, such as Russia, have been leveraging political instability and weak governance to strengthen their foothold in the Sahel and secure access to strategic resources like uranium and other minerals. More broadly, the Sahel has become a key theater in an escalating global competition for geopolitical influence.

All this means the region - in particular, the Central Sahel - could become a global flash point, with extremist groups embedded in communities, and external powers waging proxy conflicts and reshaping critical-mineral supply chains to their liking. The resulting volatility would almost certainly have spillover effects beyond the region - and even beyond Africa. As escalating conflicts draw in a growing number of actors and worsen the Sahel’s humanitarian crisis, a surge in destabilizing migration flows would be all but guaranteed.

To avoid this outcome, the Sahel’s ongoing geopolitical realignment must be managed through revitalized regional cooperation. A key element of this approach, as described in a recent report from the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, is a new Sahel Compact, which incorporates governance reforms, security measures, and the strengthening of economic resilience into a single framework. Implementation will require a clear and feasible strategy to address the intertwined challenges the region is facing.

Unlike past initiatives to strengthen regional stability, which tended to focus on isolated interventions, the Sahel Compact would emphasize not only sustained coordination, but also external support. Rather than deliver prescriptive diktats, however, Western governments must foster partnerships that respect the agency of African states. New players in the Sahel, such as the Gulf states and China, must also buy into a collective vision for revitalizing regional cooperation.

By aligning resource governance with security and economic development, and building genuine partnerships with West African governments, the international community can help foster long-term resilience and stability in the Sahel. But whether this will be possible amid the unfolding global contest for geopolitical influence remains an open question. One hopes that global players recognize just how high the costs of inaction would be, and get the geopolitics right, before the Sahel’s downward spiral becomes irreversible.

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ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Liberia's Bid for the UN Security Council--A Historic Opportunity for Economic Growth and National Unity (A repeat)

The 193 member states of the United Nations are poised to head to the polls in June this year to elect ten new non-permanent members to the UN Security Council. The newly elected members will join the five permanent members, who possess veto powers, to serve rotational terms of two years each. The Security Council is the UN's primary organ tasked with maintaining international peace and security.

Liberia, a founding member of the United Nations since June 1945, is among the nations vying for one of these coveted seats. This bid marks a significant moment for the country, coming 65 years after it last shared a two-year term on the Security Council with the Republic of Ireland, with each serving one year.

This week, President Joseph N. Boakai is set to officially launch Liberia's campaign for the Security Council seat locally, aiming to garner national support amidst a politically divided populace. The launch is not only intended to rally local endorsement but also to foster unity among citizens despite political differences.

Liberia's Permanent Representative to the UN, Lewis G. Brown, has expressed optimism that Liberia's election to the Security Council will translate into significant economic opportunities and growth potential at home. He pointed to the economic booms experienced during President William VS Tubman's administration when Liberia last shared a term with the Republic of Ireland.

“When Liberia succeeds in the June elections, it will be 65 years since Liberia had the opportunity to sit on the highest platform in the world responsible for maintaining international peace and security. This time, the chance to sit on the Council will be even more historically significant and prouder for our country as it would be the first time Liberia will serve a full two-year term,” stated Ambassador Brown.

It is important to note here that Liberia's tenure as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, some 65 years ago, marked a remarkable period in its history. During this time, Liberia utilized its position to advocate for the unity and independence of African nations, promote and support UN peacekeeping missions, and mediate in various international disputes. As a symbol of black sovereignty and independence, Liberia played a pivotal role in fostering dialogue, supporting decolonization processes, and advocating for peace and stability in conflict zones.

Liberia's contributions to UN peacekeeping efforts were significant and impactful. The country actively promoted the deployment of peacekeeping forces in Africa with the aim of stabilizing regions. One notable example of Liberia's support for peacekeeping missions was its involvement in the Congo crisis.

Liberia's contributions during its time as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council remain a testament to its enduring legacy of advocacy, mediation, and support for peace and independence in Africa. Through its unwavering commitment to African unity, its promotion of UN peacekeeping missions, and its role as mediator, Liberia played a vital role in shaping the course of international relations and supporting the aspirations of African nations.

AS I SEE IT



with By Prof. Tom Kaydor, Jr.; PhD.

The AU Must Reconceptualize Regional Integration on the Continent to Achieve Peace and Sustainable Development

This opinion piece summarizes the PhD dissertation for Prof. Thomas Kaydor, Jr. from the Faculty of Government and European Studies, New University, Slovenia. The topic for the PhD research was 'reconceptualizing Africa's regional integration for peace and sustainable development'. Chapter five of the UN charter focuses on peace, and security; and Chapter VIII on regionalism. The dissertation investigated how AU utilizes its authority to mitigate conflicts on the continent. The research also evaluated whether Africa's regional integration leads to economic growth and development in Africa. You can read a full summary of the research at <https://dx.doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2024.807139>.

The research has established that unless the continent engages in deeper economic integration, regionalism will not lead to regional development. It recommends how Africa might alleviate extreme poverty and attain sustainable development in the 21st Century and beyond. Its' four specific objectives were to: a) identify the benefits and challenges of Regionalism in Africa. b) ascertain why extreme poverty is widespread in Africa and propose what should be done through regional integration to alleviate the extreme poverty in Africa. c) find out the impact of Official Development Assistance (ODA) on Africa's regional development and propose ways to strengthen the impact of aid on poverty alleviation and economic development in Africa, and d) propose what Africa should do to Achieve Sustainable Development.

This research was Qualitative. Researchers use this method to explore meanings; investigate and study social phenomenon; or unpack meanings ascribed to activities, situations, events, or artifacts; and build a depth of understanding about some dimension of social life with detailed information from a small sample. Qualitative research is appropriate when one's primary purpose is to explore, describe, and explain.

Chapter one provided the research background, explained the research topic, discussed the research problem, and stated the research questions. It also contained the research aims, purpose and objectives. Chapter one further discussed the research methods used to undertake the research and described the chapters of the dissertation. It discussed other research already done on this subject matter. The chapter also indicates the anticipated research results and contribution that the research made to scholarship in general and specifically to international relations theory. It finally indicates the application of the research results. Narrative and explanatory methods were used in writing this chapter. The second chapter provided the theoretical perspective of this dissertation. It evaluated additional research already conducted is in this chapter. This chapter discusses what other authors and scholars have written and published about regional integration in Africa and other parts of the world. It found the research gaps in these previous scholarly works reviewed. These pieces of research have gaps that the dissertation attempts to bridge. The methods used in this chapter were historical, exploratory, and evaluative.

Chapter 3 in the PhD dissertation constituted the Review of Related Literature. This chapter reviewed not less than 100 academic pieces of literature related regional integration in African and globally. Chapter Four is the presentation, analysis, and discussion of field data. Chapter four presents, analyses, and discusses data collected through key informant interviews at the AU Commission. As indicated earlier, the AU has a chairperson who heads the AU Commission and a Deputy Chairperson who assists the Chairperson. The Union also has six commissioners responsible for thematic areas. The six commissioners are elected by the AU Executive Council and appointed by the Assembly for a four-year term renewable once. These commissioners head thematic areas, including Technology, Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment; Political Affairs, Peace, and Security; Infrastructure and Energy; Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining; Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation; Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development. The heads of the departments of women, gender and youth, and civil society and diaspora were also interviewed.

AS I SEE IT, for Africa to have peace and achieve sustainable development through the continent's regional integration mechanism, the African Union (AU) needs to implement the 1991 Abuja Treaty; fully arm, equip and support the African Standby Force to make and keep peace. Africa needs a United States of Africa under one army, one border, one government, one foreign policy and one currency. The AU also needs to ensure that 80% of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) in African states goes towards infrastructural development. Africa needs to constitute an AU sovereign fund for all Africans to contribute a dollar for infrastructural development on the continent. The AU needs to manage the environment appropriately and sustainably. The AU should focus on agricultural productivity, value addition and provision of safe drinking water to address the extreme hunger, malnutrition, water issues, hunger, and poverty on the continent. Finally, the AUC needs to become a Permanent Member of the UNSC.

About the Author: Prof. Tom Kaydor, Jr. serves as an Assistant Professor at the IBB Graduate School of International Studies. He holds a PhD from the Department of Government and European Studies, the New University, Slovenia where he specialized in International Development and Diplomacy (with Security Aspects). His dissertation topic was 'Reconceptualizing Africa's Regional Integration for Peace and Sustainable Development.' He earned a Master of Public Policy (MPP) specialized in Development Policy or Development Economics with Distinction from the Crawford School of Economics and Government (now the Crawford School of Public Policy), Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. He also obtained his first master's degree as a Master of Arts (MA) in International Relations (Highest Distinction), and Bachelor of Arts (BA) Magna Cum Laude in Political Science from the University of Liberia where his Minor was History with Mass Communication as his Elective. Tom holds a Diploma in Leading Economic Growth from the Kennedy Graduate School, Harvard University, USA; and he holds other professional diplomas and certificates from Italy, UK, Pakistan, China, and Israel. Prof. Kaydor is also an Adjunct Professor of International Development Studies at the AME University Graduate School. Dr. Kaydor is an evidence-based researcher; a blogger; a columnist, and a published author. One can reach him via (kaydorth@ul.edu.lr or thkaydor@gmail.com).

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Liberia's education deficit threatens national growth and economy stability "

-Dr. Nyenswah warns

Dr. Nyenswah has warned of Liberia facing a severe educational deficit if much is not done to invest more in the sector here.

By: Kruah Thompson

Dr. Tolbert G. Nyenswah, a scientific research consultant at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and a Senior Faculty member at

He pointed out that the lack of adequate investment in the education sector is hindering the country's ability to compete in a rapidly evolving, knowledge-driven global economy.



Assoc. Professor Geebae A. Geebae, Board Chairman, Sinoe Community College and Dr. Nyenswah.

the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the United States, has warned that Liberia is facing a severe educational deficit, which threatens the country's national development, workforce preparedness, and economic stability.

Speaking as the Guest Speaker at the recent convocation ceremony of the Sinoe Community College in Greenville, Sinoe County, Dr. Nyenswah highlighted the deep gaps in literacy, technical skills, and higher education.

According to him, the country's educational crisis is not merely an issue of individual hardship but a structural challenge that is undermining the country's long-term growth prospects.

He warned that if the issues are left unaddressed, they will continue to weaken governance, health systems, and innovation, all of which he claimed are essential for sustainable national progress.

Dr. Nyenswah further narrated that this education deficit poses a significant barrier to achieving the government's ARREST

Agenda, which focuses on key areas of national development.

"For the government to achieve its ARREST Agenda, it requires a strong and capable workforce," he said. "Without addressing the current educational deficit, achieving these goals will remain a struggle."

He stressed the importance of specialized skills in key sectors of national development, including Agriculture, infrastructure projects, and a robust legal system.

Dr. Nyenswah went on to explain that Agricultural advancements will require skilled agronomists and researchers, "infrastructure projects need engineers and technicians, and a robust legal system demands well-trained lawyers and policy experts."

However, he noted that the government's inability to fill these critical roles will stall national development and perpetuate cycles of poverty and dependency.

"This graduate convocation marks a significant milestone, not only for Sinoe Community College but for the entire country, as we strive to elevate our higher education landscape to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving world," Dr. Nyenswah said. "The launch of these doctoral programs is a bold step forward, aiming to foster critical thinking, advance research capabilities, and build the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

UL President calls for collective action on social issues

The University of Liberia is calling collaborative efforts to tackle pressing social issues in the country.

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia, March 19, 2025 - The President of the University of Liberia, Dr. Layli Maparyan, has emphasized the urgent need for collaborative efforts to tackle pressing social issues in the country. During her keynote address at the World Social Workday celebration, hosted by the National Association of Social Workers of Liberia in Monrovia, she highlighted the significant challenges facing the social welfare sector here.

Dr. Maparyan urged social workers to leverage their skills and resources effectively to mitigate social problems, stressing that concerted action is crucial for making meaningful change in the lives of many Liberians.

She pointed out that the spectrum of social issues includes elderly care, educational access for children, support for impoverished communities, and healthcare funding for the sick. Speaking earlier, President of

the National Association of Social Workers of Liberia, Dr. Kerkula Foeday, called on the 55th Liberian Legislature to establish a framework that would standardize the social work profession and recognize vital contributions of social workers in Liberia.

Dr. Foeday encouraged social workers to advocate for international support and funding to help address myriad

challenges confronting their communities.

The celebration, themed "Strengthening Communities Through Social Work for Inclusive and Enduring Wellbeing in Liberia," brought together social work students from various institutions, including the University of Liberia, African Episcopal University, United Methodist University, and Stella Maries Poly Tech College, all highlighting the collaborative spirit needed to advance social welfare in the nation. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Kerkula Foeday, NASOWL



Layli Maparyan, UL

Boakai calls for inclusive examination system

President Boakai underscores the urgency and importance of creating inclusive examination policies and practices in the Liberian educational system and the subregion.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Congo Town, Liberia, March 19, 2025 - President Joseph Nyuma Boakai urges the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) to recognize the urgency and importance of creating inclusive examination policies and practices.

President Boakai gave the urge while addressing the opening of the 73rd Annual Council Meeting of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC), held at the EJS Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, Liberia, on March 18, 2025.

"It is essential that WAEC-Liberia designs testing environments that are accessible to students with disabilities, ensuring that they have equal opportunities to showcase their skills and earn the qualifications they deserve. By implementing accommodation such as additional time, alternative formats, special care and accessible testing locations, the nation can break down the

Government of Liberia, to hear the voices of those who are often unseen, and to champion the rights of all learners, as Liberia strives for a truly equitable education system not only for itself, but the region as well.

He tells his audience to remember that the strength of a nation lies in its ability to uplift and empower every citizen, ensuring that no one is left behind, saying "Let this 73rd Anniversary of WAEC ignite a renewed passion for education in our hearts."

Mr. Boakai underscores a need to work collaboratively for a brighter future where every child in West Africa has an opportunity to succeed.

Together, we have the opportunity to forge a brighter future, one that is inclusive, equitable, and filled with promises for all, says while urging for guided and shared commitment to progress and the belief that education is the key to unlocking potential.

"I urge each one of you to join



barriers that hinder students with disabilities, adding that WAEC-Liberia can foster an educational landscape where every learner is empowered and given the chance to shine; "even brighter than people expect them to shine." The President emphasizes.

President Boakai, whose mother was a handicapped, passionately says, "Imagine the profound impact that such a change would have—not just on the lives of those students and their families but on our society as a whole."

An inclusive education system sends a powerful message: that the country values diversity and is committed to ensuring that every single citizen can contribute to nation's development.

Boakai stresses the importance of working together to make this vision a reality, inviting WAEC to collaborate with the

me in this vital mission, as together, we can create a more just society where every voice is heard, and every dream is nurtured."

Addressing educational engineers, minister, deputy ministers, assistant ministers, presidents and deans of universities and colleges, school superintendents, county & district education officers, school administrators; and also, parents, the President describes these breeds of professionals as backbones of Liberia's education systems, and their hard work does not go unnoticed. He lauds them for inspiring future generations to dream big, think critically, and become responsible citizens.

He also calls for commitment to addressing the challenges that remain to ensure that

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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China refutes dangling economy allegation

-Boasts of stable economic growth
China has shapely reacted to claims predominantly in the western media which negatively forecast its economy.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Monrovia, Liberia, March 19, 2025: The People's Republic of China sharply rejects accusations of its economy slowing down economy, authoritarian state and press freedom. "I know that each of you come with different impressions of China, somewhat shaped by narratives of



slowing down or facing dangling growth, while pointing to its role as the world's second-largest economy and primary trading partner of over 150 countries and regions. Responding to different impressions of China, somewhat believed to be shaped by narratives of dominant Western media, Deputy Director General of the Department of Press, Communication and Public Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jiang Xiaoyan, debunks report of

dominant Western media. Before I came here today, I asked ChatGPT to tell me three frequently asked questions about China. And the first was, is China's Economy slowing down? Most of you just covered the two sessions. Take a closer look at the government's report. The answer is self-evident. The year 2024 witnessed a GDP of 134.9 trillion yuan (about \$19 trillion) and a 5% growth rate. This is one of the highest rates among major global economies", the Chinese diplomat argues. "We lead the world in trade and rank second in imports. Chinese AI companies like DeepSeek, which

has developed open-source models at just a tenth of the training cost of Silicon Valley counterparts—and without cutting-edge chips. This is a testament to China's innovation and efficiency in the global tech landscape", she adds. The Chinese diplomat describes her country's economy as stable, while pointing that steady economic growth shows that China's gross domestic product (GDP) rose to 134.9 trillion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 5 percent. She notes that China ranks among the world's fastest-growing major economies, continuing to contribute about 30 percent to global economic growth. "Steady progress in ensuring the people's wellbeing: Per capita disposable income grew by 5.1 percent in real terms. Stable employment and prices: CPI increased by 0.2 percent. Continue to create jobs for more than 12 million people. Sustainable: over 13 million units of new-energy vehicles were manufactured, energy consumption per unit of GDP dropped by more than 3 percent, installed renewable energy capacity grew by 370 million kilowatts", she outlines. Expanding on China scenic, Director Jiang points out that China is a land blessed with breathtakingly beautiful

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Agriculture funds recipients clarify grants allegations

By Judoemue M. Kollie
amidst allegations by Spoon Talk panelists about wrong disbursement of agriculture grants to some beneficiaries under the World Bank and IFAD-funded projects at the Ministry of Agriculture intended for farmers and agribusinesses, two recipients have clarified that they were duly qualified based on criteria and standard layout. The recipients are Agriculture Minister, Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah and Gbarpolu County Senator, Amara Konneh. They both claimed they were private-sector actors, engaged in farming before applying and receiving the grant assistance. However, there has been a heated argument on the Spoon Talk show, which is Liberia's widely political talk show, regarding their claims. The funds recipients once served in administrative positions in the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf government. In the March 13 & 14 episodes, panelists asserted that high-profile individuals like Dr. Nuetah, Senator Konneh and others might have used other

means to influence the grant process to qualify. The panelists strongly argued that the assistance was mainly intended for smallholder farmers who are poverty-stricken and need help to improve their living conditions. "How does the World Bank define smallholder farmers? What impact did the grant recipients make on the smallholders? The purpose of the grant was to increase agricultural productivity and commercialization for smallholder farmers," said Dr.

Francien Richardson, one of the panelists. Minister Nuetah told this reporter that such allegations toward him on the show were unfair. "I was a private farmer when I applied for the assistance and was qualified based on the criteria set. I did not get it employing any other influence but based on what was written in my proposal that the Bank saw as attractive. It was not an easy process to get approval," he said. Minister Nuetah is the owner of

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Meni-Nina Farmers Inc., Agriculture Ministry trade allegations

-Over ERPO Funds

A Liberian farmer accuses the Ministry of Agriculture of breaking contract, but the Ministry dismisses the allegation as "false

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia, March 19, 2025 - The Founder and Executive Director of Meni-Nina Farmers Inc., Michael Pewu, has accused the Ministry of Agriculture of failing to fulfill its commitment under the Emergency Rice Production Offensive (ERPO) project. Speaking in an interview on March 17, 2025, Mr. Pewu said the ERPO is a World Bank-funded initiative launched by the Liberian government through the Ministry of Agriculture in 2023 to boost rice production in the country. He explained that in early 2024, the Ministry began releasing funds to farmers for lowland rice production across Liberia. He revealed that Meni-Nina Farmers Inc. signed an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture under which 50% of the funds were to be paid for land preparation, 30% for rice growing, and the remaining 20% for post-harvest activities. He alleged that while the Ministry

adding that after the land preparation, project monitors visited the site and expressed satisfaction with progress achieved.

However, Mr. Pewu lamented that despite expectations that the second-phase payment (30%) would have followed, no additional payments have been made to date, including the final 20% for the third phase. He revealed that he is currently harvesting rice, with some already stored in warehouse, while confirming that he received bags and tarpaulins for the harvesting process. He stated that although the agreement includes legal measures against any party failing to fulfill its commitments, he has vowed not to pursue legal action. The Liberian farmer said he has used his own resources to bring the project to its current stage but is still awaiting the remaining 50% of the agreed payment.

He said the agreement was signed on July 12, 2024, with a project duration of five months, from July 12, 2024, to November 30, 2024.

When contacted, Deputy Minister for Extension and



Executive Director Michael Pewu

disbursed the initial 50% for land preparation, it has refused to release the 30% meant for rice growing. Due to the Ministry's alleged failure to fulfill this obligation, Pewu claimed that his farming group now owes dozens of farmers, who have worked to make the project successful. He expressed frustration over delay in payment, stating that his organization had already completed the land preparation phase. However, he said that under the agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry was to make payments in three phases based on satisfactory progress at each stage. The total project covered 80 hectares of lowland rice farms, with Meni-Nina responsible for 30 hectares. According to him, the Ministry paid 50% upfront for land preparation in the first phase, which targeted clearing and preparing 21.5 hectares,

Research at the Ministry of Agriculture, Moses Gbanyan, dismissed Pewu's claims, terming it as "false and misleading."

He described Pewu as "one of the corrupt farmers in Bong County", alleging that Meni-Nina Farmers Inc. failed to meet targets set under the first phase of the project.

Mr. Gbanyan argued that while Pewu claims to be working with a group of farmers, there is no tangible impact of his farming group in Panta District, where his organization is based.

He stated that if Pewu had met the Ministry's performance requirements, he would have received the remaining funds following an assessment by the project's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team.

Additionally, Mr. Gbanyan described Pewu's accusations as politically-motivated,

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Français

“Nous ne prenons pas cela à la légère »

Le gouvernement libérien, par l'intermédiaire du ministère des Affaires étrangères, a réagi avec sérieux aux informations faisant état de potentielles restrictions strictes de

de "totale surprise". Elle a toutefois exhorté les Libériens à garder leur calme, affirmant que le gouvernement engageait actuellement des discussions avec le Département d'État américain afin d'éclaircir cette situation. "La nouvelle relayée dans la presse

Capitol Hill. "Ce rapport a également été publié dans le New York Times. Qu'il soit exact ou erroné, nous ne prenons pas cette situation à la légère", a-t-elle ajouté. Une audition au Sénat pour faire la lumière sur la situation Le Sénat libérien a convoqué, ce lundi 17 mars, une audience conjointe impliquant les responsables du ministère des Affaires étrangères. Celle-ci s'est déroulée dans l'hémicycle et a été dirigée par les commissions sénatoriales des Affaires étrangères ainsi que de la Défense, de la Sécurité et du Renseignement. L'objectif de cette audition était d'examiner plusieurs questions relatives aux relations extérieures du Liberia, au déploiement des diplomates libériens, à la situation des étudiants libériens au Maroc et ailleurs dans le monde, au programme de subventions japonaises, ainsi qu'aux préoccupations récemment soulevées par le gouvernement américain concernant d'éventuelles restrictions de visa pour les Libériens.

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voyage imposées par les États-Unis. S'exprimant lors d'une audition conjointe au Sénat le lundi 17 mars 2025, la ministre des Affaires étrangères, Madame Sarah Beysolow Nyante, a qualifié ces restrictions potentielles

et sur les réseaux sociaux nous a pris au dépourvu. Dès sa diffusion, nous avons immédiatement contacté l'ambassade des États-Unis à Monrovia, qui nous a informés qu'elle ne disposait d'aucune information à ce sujet", a déclaré la ministre Beysolow Nyante devant les sénateurs à

ArcelorMittal annonce un investissement de 2,5 milliards de dollars au Liberia

ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML), filiale du géant mondial de l'acier Mittal Steel, renforce sa présence au Liberia avec un investissement de 2,5 milliards de dollars sur les vingt dernières années, consolidant ainsi la position du pays parmi les grands producteurs mondiaux de minerai de fer. Le jeudi 13 mars 2025, une équipe de journalistes a visité les installations de l'entreprise dans la ville portuaire de Buchanan, dans le comté de Grand Bassa. Cette visite avait pour objectif de mieux comprendre les opérations de la société, notamment son projet d'expansion de Phase 2, qui comprend l'amélioration des infrastructures ferroviaires, la modernisation du port et la préparation des prochaines phases d'exploitation. Une expansion majeure en cours Les journalistes, issus de médias audiovisuels, écrits et en ligne, ont été guidés par Marco Miranda, directeur général du département ferroviaire, et Winston Daryoue, responsable de la communication. Ces derniers ont présenté un exposé détaillé des opérations d'AML, mettant l'accent sur

la Phase 2 du projet d'expansion. Depuis son implantation au Liberia en 2005, malgré des défis majeurs comme l'épidémie d'Ebola, ArcelorMittal est resté un acteur clé de l'économie nationale et approche désormais les 20 ans de présence dans le pays. Un impact économique et social significatif Winston Daryoue souligne que l'AML, l'un des cinq plus grands producteurs mondiaux de minerai de fer avec 126 000 employés, génère au Liberia 2 100 emplois directs et 5 300 emplois indirects. L'engagement d'AML envers le Liberia comprend un investissement initial de 7 millions de dollars dans la formation professionnelle à Yekepa, dans le comté de Nimba, avec un enseignement dispensé gratuitement. La société propose

également un programme de bourses pour les élèves du secondaire et les étudiants universitaires. Trois écoles gérées par AML à Yekepa accueillent actuellement 1 000 élèves. En outre, AML recrute régulièrement de jeunes diplômés et leur propose une formation en entreprise. "Nous avons lancé un programme pour la jeunesse (YPP), où 90 % des bénéficiaires trouvent un emploi au sein de l'entreprise", explique Daryoue. En collaboration avec le gouvernement libérien, AML soutient également un programme de bourses internationales qui a déjà bénéficié à plus de 50 étudiants. Les efforts de l'entreprise en matière de

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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 "Nous ne prenons

Un projet américain de restriction de visas pour plusieurs pays

Selon plusieurs sources internationales, les autorités diplomatiques et sécuritaires américaines auraient élaboré un plan visant à imposer des restrictions strictes de voyage aux citoyens de 43 pays, dont le Liberia.

Ce plan divise les pays concernés en trois catégories, en fonction des risques sécuritaires perçus et de l'efficacité de leur gouvernance :

- Liste rouge (11 pays) : Interdiction totale d'entrée aux États-Unis.
- Liste orange (10 pays) : Restrictions de voyage sans interdiction complète.
- Liste jaune (22 pays, dont le Liberia) : Délai de 60 jours pour remédier aux failles sécuritaires sous peine d'une interdiction de voyage.

Les autres pays figurant sur la liste jaune incluent notamment 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.

Des préoccupations liées à la gouvernance et à la sécurité

Bien que le rapport ne précise pas les déficiences sécuritaires reprochées aux pays de la liste jaune, il indique que ces restrictions sont motivées par des préoccupations concernant la faiblesse ou la corruption des gouvernements ainsi que des défis

sécuritaires persistants.

Jusqu'à présent, les autorités libériennes n'ont pas encore officiellement commenté ces allégations. De son côté, The New Dawn a consulté des sources officielles du gouvernement américain, sans trouver de confirmation de cette politique.

Toutefois, selon les informations recueillies, cette initiative découlerait d'un décret signé par le président Donald Trump dès son entrée en fonction en janvier, chargeant ses services de dresser cette liste sous 60 jours.

Selon le président américain, cette mesure vise à renforcer la sécurité des États-Unis contre d'éventuelles menaces extérieures.

Une politique similaire avait déjà été mise en place lors du premier mandat de Donald Trump, avant d'être partiellement annulée par l'administration Biden en 2021. Si ces nouvelles restrictions venaient à être appliquées, elles marqueraient un retour et une extension de ces politiques antérieures.

Une décision finale toujours en attente

D'après nos informations, le Département d'État américain et les agences de sécurité évaluent actuellement cette proposition, bien qu'aucune décision finale n'ait encore été prise.

Dans l'attente d'une clarification officielle, les Libériens ainsi que les citoyens des autres pays concernés suivent de près cette situation, qui pourrait avoir des répercussions significatives sur leur liberté de déplacement vers les États-Unis.

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

responsabilité sociale incluent l'amélioration des infrastructures de santé communautaires et des initiatives en faveur de la durabilité environnementale.

Des infrastructures ferroviaires modernisées

En 2022, AML a lancé la Phase 2 de son expansion, créant ainsi 1 000 emplois permanents et plus de 2 000 emplois temporaires, principalement dans la modernisation du réseau ferroviaire.

"L'entreprise contribue environ 35 millions de dollars par an à l'économie nationale, un montant qui devrait passer à 75 millions de dollars", précise Daryoue.

Marco Miranda ajoute que "AML investit 800 000 dollars dans un réseau ferroviaire de 243 kilomètres, conçu pour transporter des matières premières en vrac au-delà des locomotives et des wagons conventionnels". Il insiste sur la nécessité de former les Libériens à la gestion efficace du système ferroviaire, en s'inspirant des modèles réussis en Australie, au Brésil et au Canada.

Un projet ferroviaire inclusif

AML soutient pleinement la volonté du gouvernement libérien d'établir

un réseau ferroviaire multi-utilisateurs le long du corridor de Buchanan.

Le modèle d'exploitation proposé dans le cadre du Troisième Amendement est reconnu comme l'un des plus efficaces pour le transport de matières premières dans plusieurs pays, y compris l'Australie, le Brésil, le Canada et la Guinée voisine.

Par ailleurs, AML a accepté les Principes d'Exploitation du Réseau Ferroviaire (RSOP) suggérés par le gouvernement libérien, garantissant une protection adéquate aux autorités et aux autres utilisateurs du réseau ferroviaire.

Ces nouveaux principes multi-utilisateurs seront mis en œuvre immédiatement.

Une Autorité Ferroviaire sera chargée d'établir les normes, de superviser et d'inspecter les différentes composantes des opérations ferroviaires.

Cette nouvelle phase de développement confirme le rôle stratégique d'AML dans l'économie et les infrastructures du Liberia, avec des perspectives de croissance durable et de développement à long terme.

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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Agriculture funds recipients

Trinity Farm in Margibi County. According to him, under the grant arrangement, his farm was provided US\$ 46,000 dollars in equipment to improve his farm enterprise and create processing opportunities for people of the communities. "The people now have processing opportunities, and they are happy about it. You visited my farm the other time and you saw the level of work done," he explained. Senator Amara Konneh, in a social media post said, "Yes, Majuma farm proudly applied for the grant in 2022, managed by the Ministry of Agriculture under Pres. Weah where after my tenure in Ellen Govt. At the time of my application, I was neither a public servant in Liberia nor an international civil servant with the World Bank. I have just returned to Liberia after seven years of absence. After learning about the grant from my farm manager, who recognized that I met all the necessary criteria, we decided to move forward with our application." The Gbarpolu Senator said Majuma farm is a duly registered and tax-compliant agribusiness, employing more than 100 Liberians. He said since 2016, his farm has been seeking for a 500, 000

grant to invest in a new palm oil processing plant. "We were vetted and subsequently approved for 250,000 at the 12th sitting of the Fund Advisory Committee. Majuma farm applied for 500K in late 2022 and got approved for 250K in August 2023. According to him, the first disbursement was made in April 2024, long after the campaign, contrary to lies that he used the money for political campaigns. The perceived allegation of the World Bank fund comes following Margibi County Senator Nathaniel McGill's call for transparency and accountability in the agricultural sector. The Senator has asked his colleagues to launch an investigation on monies given out as grants to the beneficiaries since it was introduced. In his request to his fellow Senators, McGill mentioned specific areas of concern regarding how monies were allocated and spent under the programs. The World Bank is currently funding two main projects the Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP) and the Smallholder Transformation Agribusiness Revitalization (STAR-P) under Liberia Agriculture Commercialization Fund (LACF), a component of the projects, which was launched by former President Weah to create access to finance for agriculture. Since its introduction and

challenges in some areas, the LACF has created access to finance to several smaller farmers and agribusinesses in the country. However, there has been some level of disenchantment experienced by several other smallholder farmers when it comes to them not being approved for the grant after conducting due diligence. A female farmer preferring anonymity, who applied for the grant before, told this reporter that they are ready to carry out a protest if nothing is done to assist them. "I applied for the grant in 2021 and later in 2023, the LACF carried out its due diligence. Several smallholder farmers who have applied are still waiting on the LACF, hoping to benefit from the funds, the source said. Following his ascendancy to the Agriculture Ministry, Dr. Nuetah in collaboration with the World Bank has conducted a revision of the grant process. However, Minister Nuetah is yet to come with a position as to whether his administration aims to continue the LACF program. The grant program is described as unique to many actors of the sector and are wishing for transparency and accountability in its implementation, if it is to continue. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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No list, but we are reviewing

government of Liberia, urging it to ensure that these issues are incorporated into the negotiation with ArcelorMittal. These concerns included increasing the social development fund in proportion to the increase in ore mining, designating a separate account for local development funds, and ensuring preferential use of the railway for ArcelorMittal. Operationalizing the Gbapa clinic, providing mobile clinics in impacted communities, and establishing agricultural projects and entrepreneurship support in the communities. Expanding vocational and

technical training opportunities for residents and monitoring compliance with the MDA with community representatives involved. Addressing environmental concerns and ensuring proper measures are in place to safeguard the environment. The recommendations also included ensuring fair employment practices with a significant portion of jobs allocated to host communities. Supporting health and education programs, including support for local teachers, health workers, and students. The citizens also requested that

ArcelorMittal provide further infrastructure improvements, including the construction of water supply systems, reconditioning public schools, and supporting the development of housing and streets in local towns. This call for the extension of ArcelorMittal's investment and the ratification of the new MDA reflects a collaborative approach by local communities, the company, and the government to ensure sustainable development that benefits all stakeholders in the long run. - Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

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Boakai calls for inclusive examination system

every child, regardless of socio-economic background, has access to quality education. "That we continue to prioritize educational funding, infrastructure, and teacher training programs and the certification and licensing of teachers to enhance learning outcomes", the President

notes, while reminding that "As we live in a digital age, let us adapt our educational methods to integrate technology, fostering digital literacy among our students." Every child, regardless of his or her circumstances, should have access to the tools needed to

succeed. Yet, it is observed that students and individuals with disabilities often face significant barriers that hinder their ability to learn and demonstrate their knowledge effectively as compared to others. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Liberia's education deficit threatens

necessary human capital to address the most pressing health and educational challenges in the country." He called for urgent investment in the educational sector to foster sustainable national development. Tackling this deficit must be a top priority," he said. It requires government action, private sector collaboration, and international support." Dr. Nyenswah further emphasized the need for strategic investments in teacher training, curriculum modernization, and access to quality education, particularly in rural areas. "It is necessary to build a workforce that can drive the ARREST agenda forward," he stated. "The future of Liberia depends on today's students, and closing the educational gap is the most critical step toward national resilience and progress." Reflecting on Liberia's past challenges, Dr. Nyenswah drew attention to the tragic Ebola epidemic of 2014-2016, which he says underscored the need for robust research and education to build national resilience. "The lessons learned from those harrowing days led to a paradigm shift in how we approach public health," he said. "The establishment of the Department of Public Health Emergencies within the Ministry of Health and the creation of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) in 2017 were pivotal in building a

resilient system. Today, NPHIL continues strengthening our country's health security through capacity building, disease surveillance, and emergency response." Dr. Nyenswah also highlighted the role of higher education in national development, drawing on his educational journey. "If a guy from Panama, Sinoe County, and a tiny village who was once a refugee can aspire to greatness, you too can do so with your fresh AA degrees today," he said. "My own experience of earning an MPH and DrPH from Johns Hopkins University in the United States underscores the transformative power of a strong academic foundation." He further encouraged the graduates, citing Liberia's successes in research partnerships during the Ebola outbreak, which led to the development of the first licensed Ebola vaccines. "Research is the cornerstone of innovation, and higher education institutions play a crucial role in generating new knowledge that can drive development," Dr. Nyenswah said. The Sinoe Community College was established in 2015, and July academy work began in 2017 August with Assoc. Professor Geebae A. Geebae, as Chairman of the Board. The convocation ceremony marked the 2nd, graduating over 32 students. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

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China refutes dangling economy allegation

scenery, adding that from the majestic peaks of the Himalayas, where snow-capped mountains touch the sky, to the serene and meandering Li River in Guilin, to vast and grassy prairies of Inner Mongolia, to colorful landscape in the Yellow Mountains, to vibrant tropical rainforests of Xishuangbanna, Yunnan. China's natural beauty is so diverse. "Sedulous: We the Chinese

people have long been renowned for extraordinary diligence. Thanks to the industrious spirit, a quality deeply ingrained in the nation's DNA. This unrelenting dedication to work is not just a means of survival but a testament to the love for our family, the pursuit of a better future for our kids and the whole nation", she underscores. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Meni-Nina Farmers Inc.,

noting that the farmer campaigned against the Unity Party during the 2023 elections. He also stated that if Pewu has chosen to make the issue political, the Ministry will treat him as a "political farmer." The Deputy Minister continued that aside from the ERPO project, Meni-Nina Farmers Inc. has received multiple grants through the Ministry of Agriculture but operates more as a one man's business rather than a genuine farmer cooperative. He said Pewu allegedly uses the names of local farmers to gain financial benefits for himself.

According to Pewu, Meni-Nina Farmers Inc. is a Liberian-owned business established in October 2015. The business is located in Bellemue Town, Panta District, Bong County. He stated that the organization operates through a network of over 1,500 individual farmers and farmer associations in Bong County, particularly in Panta, Zota, and Kpai Districts, and other communities. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Gov't to secure US\$ 2.36 Billion

The Liberian Government plans to secure over US\$2 billion for human capitol development.

By Lewis S. Teh
Finance and Development Planning Minister Augustine Ngafuan says the Liberian Government plans to secure a whopping sum of US\$ 2.36 billion in domestic and external resources.



He said the amount which is being projected over the period of five years is under the government's Human Capitol Development pillar of t's national development plan-the Arrest Agenda. "The total cost of the AAID is US8.4 billion dollars and the Human Capital Development Pillar will be the second highest beneficiary, next to Infrastructure Development, of the domestic and external resources we are mobilizing to fund the AAID," Minister Ngafaun said while delivering the keynote address at an event commemorating the 216th birth anniversary of Liberia's first president, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, held at the First United Methodist Church in Monrovia. According to him, to improve human capital during the next five years, the government intends to, among other things, build, renovate, or expand several climate-resilient educational infrastructures across the country; equip school facilities with Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM); improve the rate of enrolment of children with disabilities by 10%, establish TVET streams at secondary level and build or upgrade TVET in some parts of the country. "To achieve our human capital development goals, the

government will forge strong partnerships with all stakeholders including private sector and philanthropic organizations like the JJ Roberts Foundation," he continued. Ngafuan emphasized that the

most effective way for government to lift its people out of poverty and reduce dependency on external aid is by expanding educational opportunities. Mr. Ngafuan: "The Chinese philosopher, Confucius, was right when he said, 'If your plan is for one year, plant rice; if your plan is for ten years, plant trees; if your plan is for one hundred years, educate children.' In short, Confucius suggests that the most enduring dividends a country can reap come from investing in the education of its people—more broadly, in human capital development." Ngafuan emphasized that achieving these goals will require strong partnerships with stakeholders, including the private sector and philanthropic organizations such as the J.J. Roberts Foundation. He noted that the Ministry of Education, with strong backing from the Ministry of Finance and Development Partners, is leading efforts under the Human Capital Development pillar. US\$93 Million Secure for Foundational Learning Highlighting recent successes, Ngafuan revealed that the Liberian government secured a combined US\$93 million grant in late 2024 from the Global Partnership for Education

(GPE) and the World Bank to support foundational learning under the Excellence in Learning Project (EXCEL). The EXCEL program will focus on Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Basic Education (Grades 1-6) by Renovating, Extending and Constructing new schools in all 15 counties. Enhancing curricula and producing new Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM), including digital resources. strengthening education systems through improved standards, data collection, and monitoring mechanisms. "From my vantage point as Minister of Finance, I am optimistic about Liberia's future. Despite today's challenges, the government, under President Joseph Boakai, is working diligently to transform our nation into a lower-middle-income country within five years," Ngafuan stated. The program held under the theme: "fostering greater partnership for the development and enhancement of quality education for Liberian children" was grace by scores of prominent individuals including Ex Central Bank Governor Dr. Mills Jones, former Liberia representative to the MRU Mardina Wesseh, government officials, youths and students grouping, JJ Roberts scholarship beneficiaries among others. Joseph Jenkins Roberts, Liberia's first President was born on March 15, 1898, in the state of Virginia, United States of America. Upon learning about the American Colonization Society's efforts in creating the colony in Liberia, Roberts decided to join a group of fellow Virginians who were preparing to leave for Monrovia, the capital of a young colony. On February 9, 1829 Roberts along with his wife, infant child, mother and siblings sailed for Africa on the ship Harriet, on July 1847 a group of eleven delegates declare Liberia independent, and JJ Roberts won the first presidential election on October 5, 1847, and sworn into office on January 3, 1848. - Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

Citizens rally support for AML's MDA extension

The pending Arcelor Mittal Liberia's Mineral Development Agreement before the Liberian Government is gaining support from host communities.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah
Nimba County, March 19, 2025: The Chiefs, Elders, and citizens of Yarmein, Seh Zor in Nimba County, have expressed strong support for the extension of ArcelorMittal Liberia's investment and ratification of its 3rd Mineral Development Agreement (MDA)
In a statement of support released on March 18, 2025, the citizens emphasized that they have come together to call for ArcelorMittal-Liberia's (AML) continual presence in their communities and the expansion of AML's operations through the ratification of the company's amended MDA.
They said, "Our decision to make this call today is based on the contributions and rapidly growing partnership between the company and our communities, which are translating into jobs, support for social infrastructure development, support for the health and education sectors, promotion of local businesses, and contributing to our rising national revenue, etc."
According to these host communities, many companies have come and gone, but AML has been with them and stood with them in good and bad times—during Ebola, COVID-19, and other challenging times.
The statement pointed out that

work with them to address these concerns and take concrete steps to prevent future reoccurrence.
The statement also highlighted that they are traditional people and do not do politics with things, stressing that they will continue to say the truth as it is.
They argued that it would be unfair on their part as a community and people to ignore some of the good things ArcelorMittal has done for their country, county, and communities over the years.
They said, "ArcelorMittal is the largest employer in the private sector of Liberia, with over 3,000 Liberians directly working with the company and over 5,000 Liberians working with ArcelorMittal subcontracting companies.
AML's patronage of local businesses continues to create additional opportunities and contribute to their communities' economic viability. The company is also the single major contributor to the country's revenue through taxes, royalties, and other financial obligations, thus contributing to the payment of civil and public servant salaries and other socio-economic development drives of our country.
"The new MDA will create over 5,000 direct and indirect new jobs, which will reduce unemployment in our host communities and our county. We have urged the



ArcelorMittal Liberia has proven to be a reliable partner. Like any human institution or partnership, ArcelorMittal-Liberia has its own challenges, which are acknowledged by all parties, including the company itself. For instance, some provisions of the current MDA have not been fully met; however, all financial requirements have been met fully.
They further pledged to continue constructively engaging with the company, the government, and local government authorities to address these challenges and ensure mechanisms are in place for fully meeting the provisions of the current and subsequent MDA.
Additionally, they will continue to push the company to do what it is supposed to do for their communities, stating that they are happy that the company has recognized these pitfalls and has expressed strong willingness to
company's leadership that we need to benefit more from their operations, as we cannot be cooking and be hungry. We also heard in the new MDA that the County Social Development Fund will increase; the government of Liberia will collect \$200 million every year from the company, and many other things to benefit. We are happy for all of this good news from ArcelorMittal Liberia", the statement said further.
They also acknowledged that the company has been fixing community roads and are grateful for the construction of the Ganta to Sanniquellie road, which the company has paved. They suggested that such a project be finally extended to Yekepa.
Despite the support, the citizens also presented several recommendations to the

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over as Minister, she has worked with the U.S Government to address some of the requirements outlined within the potential visa band, through formal letters and meeting in Washington, DC.
"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 relations to this report. This was also reported in the New York Times newspaper. We are not taking this likely whether it's true or misleading", she maintains. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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No list, but we are reviewing

Monrovia, Liberia, March 19, 2025 - The United States Department of State says there is no list of potential visa restriction but it is reviewing several measures in line with President Donald Trump's Executive Order to keep America safer,

purported video circulating on Social Media, U.S State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce broke silent over the purported list containing a potential strict travel visa restriction on Liberia and several other countries. According to her, what people are looking at over these last several days is not a list that

review; as we know, through President Donald Trump's Executive Order, for us to look at the nature of what's going to help keep America safer in dealing with the issue of visas and who's allowed into the country. But what has been touted as something that is an item through the State Department just simply isn't the case", U.S State Department Spokesperson debunks. She indicates that based upon that, certainly she can't talk about or anything regarding something that doesn't exist.

"But, certainly when that review is done, we'll have something that we can discuss." Similarly, the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here says it doesn't take the United States Diplomat and Security official potential strict travel restriction on Liberia likely, while terming the potential visa ban as a complete surprise. The Ministry has urged Liberians to remain calm, as the Government of Liberia pursues diplomatic engagement and discussion to ascertain facts surrounding the matter. Foreign Minister Sara Beysolow Nyanti said that since taking

monitoring who is given Visa
and allowed to enter
America.
Responding to concern from
White House Journalist on
Monday, March 17, 2025 in a

exists in the United States. "Well, first of all, there is no list. What people are looking at over these last several days is not a list that exists here that is being acted on. There is a

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The poster features a vibrant yellow background with colorful streamers. In the foreground, a smiling woman in a blue shirt holds a smartphone. Behind her, a man in a tan shirt also holds a phone, with two yellow motorcycles and two large white bags of rice (labeled '25KG') positioned between them. A television set in the lower left shows a tropical beach scene. At the bottom, logos for MoMo, Lonestar Cell, and MTN are displayed.

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WE DO PHOTOCOPY

A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline 'New Dawn', a calendar titled 'New Dawn CALENDAR', a brochure titled 'New Dawn BROCHURE', and a magazine titled 'New Dawn' with a headline 'J\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections'. The publications are arranged in a fan-like pattern, showing different layouts and designs.