



#### CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA **MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES**

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
URSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025	L\$198.3672/US\$1.00	L\$200.1768/US\$1.00

and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL



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VOL. 15 NO. 040

**MARCH 21, 2025** FRIDAY,

> Land dispute eaves 2 dead

> n River Gee

Superintendent Mike T. Swengbe leads Joint Security forces to tense region

Gov't, World Ban GOTERNAVIE REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY TRANSFORMATION aunch ISS Million project

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# Continental News

# Zimbabwean Coventry elected to head Olympic movement Virsty Coventry hopes her Her first Olympics will be the election as the first Milan-Cortina Winter Games in

female and African February 2026. president of the International "It's a really powerful signal. It's a

Olympic Committee - beating signal that we're truly global and six male candidates including that we have evolved into an Britain's Lord Coe - sends a organisation that is truly open to

hold the highest office in sport and will be in post for at least the next eight years. Coventry has won seven of Zimbabwe's eight Olympic medals including gold in the 200m backstroke at both the 2004 and 2008 Games. "The young girl who first

started swimming in Zimbabwe all those years ago could never have dreamed of this moment," said Coventry."I am particularly proud to be the first female IOC president, and also the first from Africa." I hope that this vote will be an inspiration to many people. Glass ceilings have been shattered today, and I am fully aware of my responsibilities as a role model." Coventry described her

election as an "extraordinary moment" during her acceptance speech, and promised to make IOC members proud of their choice. During her election campaign Coventry pledged to modernise, promote sustainability, embrace technology and empower athletes. She placed particular emphasis on protecting female sport, backing a blanket ban of transgender women from

competing in female Olympic

sport.BBC



won just eight.

"powerful signal".The 41-year- diversity and we're going to old former swimmer, who won continue walking that road in the two Olympic gold medals, next eight years," Coventry said. secured a majority of 49 of the Runner-up Juan Antonio 97 available votes in the first Samaranch Jr won 28 votes while round of Thursday's election, France's David Lappartient and while World Athletics boss Coe Japan's Morinari Watanabe earned four votes each. Prince Zimbabwe's sports minister Feisal al Hussein of Jordan and Coventry will replace Thomas Sweden's Johan Eliasch both took Bach - who has led the IOC two.Coventry, who already sits since 2013 - on 23 June and be on the IOC executive board and the youngest president in the was said to be Bach's preferred organisation's 130-year history. candidate, is the 10th person to

## **Almost 70,000 South Africans** interested in US asylum

has said.

seeking more information.

racial discrimination".

strained since Trump from the white minority. became president in In response to the new law, Trump

lose to 70,000 South registering of interest by Africans have accident after it was inundated → expressed interest in with requests for more. moving to the US following information about resettlement, Washington's offer to Mr Diamond told broadcaster resettle people from the Newzroom Afrika.Some white country's Afrikaner South Africans say they are community, a business group discriminated against, a claim that has caught the attention of The South African Chamber right-wing groups in the US.

of Commerce in the USA Simultaneously, South Africa's (Saccusa) said its website white minority possess the vast received tens of thousands majority of privately held land of registrations from those and wealth in the country, more than 30 years since the racist In a February executive system of apartheid ended.

order, President Donald Tensions between South Africa Trump said Afrikaners - and the US spiked in January, descendants of mainly when South African President Dutch settlers who arrived Cyril Ramaphosa signed into law a in the 17th Century - could bill allowing the state to seize be admitted as refugees as land without compensation, they were "victims of unjust provided it was in the "public interest". The move followed Relations between the US years of calls for land reform, and South Africa have with activists and politicians become increasingly seeking to redistribute farmland



# Armed men abduct dozens from a bus in Ethiopia ozens of passengers on a they were attacked by the including passengers - have

been abducted by with local security forces. kidnappings, which took place this report. earlier this week.

abducted as they were unsuccessful. heading home from their Abductions of civilians - where Ali Doro is located. BBC campus last July.

Survivors and local authorities blamed those abductions on the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), a rebel group that operates in the area. The group denied involvement at the time.Referring to this week's incident, the OLA has said it had received reports of the abductions and that it was "conducting an investigation". According to one report by a local media organisation, the passengers were heading to Debre Markos, a town in the

country's Amhara region, when

were were travelling from the which at least one person died. people they hold. capital, Addis Ababa. Details The number of abductees could The OLA says it is fighting for

The government has not yet the Oromo. The incident happened in Ali said anything about the It has been classified as a Doro, which is near an area kidnappings, and the BBC's terrorist organisation by the where around 100 university attempts to get an official federal parliament and students were similarly response have been operates in various areas in

bus in Ethiopia have armed men, who exchanged fire become increasingly common in the area. Armed groups here armed men in the country's Another report said several have in the past demanded largest region, Oromia, as they buses were attacked, during ransoms for the release of the

are only just emerging of the be as high as 50, according to the self-determination of Ethiopia's largest ethnic group,

Oromia, including the district

received the list.

site, most had Afrikaner or the country. English names, the Ramaphosa responded to Trump's Neil Diamond, said.

US - said most of those who constitution".

but got involved in the

January. Saccusa said that in signed the executive order a "pivotal step", it has offering refugee status to handed the list of interested Afrikaners who were "escaping individuals to the US government-sponsored raceembassy in Pretoria. An based discrimination".

embassy official confirmed In March, Trump extended the to the BBC that it had invitation to all farmers in South Africa, which he called "a bad Out of the 67,042 people place to be right now".Last who registered on Saccusa's month, the president cut aid to

organisation's president, criticisms by saying South Africa has not seized any land and that Saccussa - a group the new bill ensures "public representing South African access to land in an equitable and businesspeople living in the just manner as guided by the

expressed interest in Regardless, the spat between the migrating were aged two countries has worsened. Last between 25 and 45 and had week the US expelled South between two and three Africa's ambassador to dependants. The US-based Washington, with Secretary of business group is not an State Marco Rubio describing him official government body, as a "race-baiting politician". BBC



# EDITORIAL

# The Sethi incident: Government should share some blames too Making Sense of the Tariff Chaos New Haven - The chaotic rollout of seek to maximize their own economic

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc., UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission. Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 / +231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

By Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

economies, the prospect of reshoring purpose is to hurt others. manufacturing seems remote. Instead, the residents.

administration's thinking ignores the remains intact. likelihood, indeed the virtual certainty, of tariff increases will diminish.

another matter to confront retaliatory cost to themselves. action from China, the European Union,

Robert W. Staiger demonstrated in a the evolving balance of power. seminal 1999 paper, "An Economic Theory that leaves everyone worse off.

decades, until it came under attack in the stakes before it is too late. mid-2010s. While the backlash against played a decisive role.

The postwar trading system was premised on the assumption that countries naturally

US import tariffs by President welfare. Yet in recent years, US trade policy Donald Trump's administration - has increasingly been driven by a different targeting both allies and adversaries - motive: to impede the economic ascent of defies easy explanation. As I argued in a competitors, especially China. This goal has previous commentary, the United States is taken precedence even over securing now pursuing multiple, often prosperity for US citizens. Seen through this contradictory objectives. Given the lens, Trump's current tariff strategy looks structural trends driving more coherent. It may not benefit the US deindustrialization in advanced economy, but that is beside the point. The

more plausible goal is fiscal. The current This shift raises a fundamental question. In US administration claims that tariffs can a world increasingly shaped by geopolitical generate revenue so that foreign countries rivalry, is the existing multilateral trade are effectively subsidizing tax cuts for US system obsolete? Perhaps surprisingly, a recent working paper suggests that it is not. Unless the US (or any other major economy) Many Americans probably find this assigns zero value to its own welfare, there rationale compelling. After all, what's remains a strong incentive to negotiate and wrong with putting national interests first? cooperate internationally. The specific outcomes of negotiations - such as tariff In fact, there are many problems with this levels - may change, but the underlying approach. For starters, the rationale for global economic coordination

retaliation. Once trade partners respond Even when countries are motivated not only in kind (which usually happens by absolute economic welfare but also by immediately), the gains from unilateral their relative standing (a mindset that often leads to policies designed to disadvantage rivals), there is still a case for True, the Trump administration is negotiations. Countries have an interest in confident that the country's economic pursuing "Pareto improvements": leverage is sufficient to preserve its outcomes that enhance their own welfare advantages despite countermeasures. Yet without necessarily worsening their a remarkable consequence of recent competitor's position. This is precisely policy decisions is that all of America's what multilateral agreements facilitate. major trading partners have united against Cooperation would make no sense only if it. Negotiating with a small economy like countries pursued Pyrrhic victories that Colombia is one thing; but it is quite inflicted harm on rivals regardless of the

and America's US-Mexico-Canada While the logic of cooperation persists, the Agreement (USMCA) partners at the same institutional framework underpinning global trade must adapt. The same working paper suggests that we are witnessing an These dynamics underscore the very "unraveling" of the liberal trade order, a problem that multilateral trade necessary reset that allows for agreements - first under the General renegotiation under new geopolitical Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and later realities. If so, today's escalating trade under the GATT's successor, the World tensions could be viewed as a painful but Trade Organization - were designed to temporary transition toward a revised address. As economists Kyle Bagwell and multilateral framework that better reflects

of GATT," trade agreements exist to solve This interpretation leaves room for a classic prisoner's dilemma: large cautious optimism. If the transition is economies have an incentive to impose managed effectively, it could lead to a new unilateral tariffs to improve their terms of politically viable global trading system. But trade, but if all countries engage in such there are also significant risks. behavior, the result is a race to the bottom Protectionism and economic nationalism will inflict long-term damage if they spiral out of control. If trade policy becomes Reciprocity and the most-favored-nation purely an instrument of geopolitical principle (nondiscrimination among one's struggle, the space for cooperation could trading partners) were institutionalized to disappear altogether. History is full of prevent this scenario. They underpinned a unintended consequences. One can only system that functioned effectively for hope that today's leaders recognize the

multilateralism had multiple sources, the Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg, a former intensifying US-China rivalry and the World Bank Group chief economist and resurgence of geopolitical considerations editor-in-chief of the American Economic Review, is Professor of Economics at Yale University.

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# Letter to God with Otherstee B. Gaststale

# Lord, Da experience we will eat?

ear Father,

My people yor wait oo. I thought yor say ley Oldman here was experienced? Ehn, almost 15 months gone na, ay look like he na even know wah him doing. Everywhere jus dry, as if ley entire village mourning. You turn so, people crying, you look so, people jus begging.

Hmm, my son your jus hold your heart, ley man geh experience something will soon happen.

Wait oo Father, da experience we will eat? You na hear ley people saying "whatin we will be eating before ley dog geh dry?" Whole day people couldn't hear in their ears here-with ley Oldman geh experience.

Father, jus 15 months, people na able to put food on ley table for their family, before I mention school fees. Unemployment paa, ay wabloh.

Da small thin my son. Da small hungry people hungry in ley village here. Bor nothin spoil, yor jus hold your heart.

Aah bor Father, how long we will be holding our heart for na? This experience here, I thought da ley one suppose to make things happen.

Look, people sitting down in ley village crying no money, bor our experience Oldman allowed those greedy Chief at ley Traditional Council to take over two million Uncle Sam money in ley name of retreat.

You mean whole Uncle Sam's money two million?

Bor Father, da benny seed popping in my mouth? Jus yesterday, ley people on Borad Street who can divide our village money gave them 1.2 million to go sit down somewhere and talk trash jus to eat our village money.

Why do you say da my son?

Bor Father, those hustlers look leh they want to learn anything? Ehn da jus to find means to chop our village money. See ehn, if those hustlers' called chiefs at our Traditional Council had meant well for our village thing would have happened by now, bor what they care for is about their stomach.

Na, na, ay lee with my one, we should geh rid of ley Traditional Council people they don't mean well for our village.

Now, you see da plenty money, da jus ley chief them from ley lower end of our Traditional Council oo. Ley orlor people from ley upper end of ley Traditional Council jus waiting as soon as their from them fini, then ley will go and collect their own.

Hmm, my son!

Yes, oo Father, da how ley people jus chopping our village money. Now they want to balme one Yellow Hair man who say him country money moh na come here again as if ley village people use to see it first-nonsense!

Father, ley people too wicked mehn. Ley only thin they know is how to steal our village money and ley poor people leh Town Criers, teachers and security people they jus sit their crying for their small, small money them.

With all dis one da going on, then somebody come preach to me about experience-experience my foot. All ley thin them they wor condemning jus yesterday-they doing it pass mark. Then ley expect orlor people to bring their village money to build our village-la la.

When they say, ley person experienced, ay mean ley person geh plenty idea about ley thing him geh experience in bor ley way, i see it Father, i think somebody wor jus counting years oo, they worn a learning on ley job at all. Da me talky! Yes mehn people jus tire with their lies and stealing.

# Sustainability in an Unstable World

ARIS - 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

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.

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# PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT FREEPORT OF MONROVIA BUSHROD ISLAND P.O. BOX 1849



NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY OF LIBERIA

GATEWAY TO LIBERIA'S ECONOMY

### PUBLIC AUCTION PROCEDURE: NPA/LRA/APMT/ SHIPPING LINES/AUCT/.02/'25

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARD ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE GOVERNING "PUBLIC AUCTION," THE NPA, IN COLLABORATION WITH LRA, APMT, AND THE SHIPPING LINES WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE FREEPORT OF MONROVIA ON **MARCH 29, 2025** AT THE HOUR OF **10:00AM**.

#### THE PROCEDURE FOR THE PUBLIC AUCTION WILL BE AS FOLLOW:

- 1. PUBLIC AUCTION BOOKLET WILL BE SOLD FOR A NONREFUNDERABLE AMOUNT OF:
  - A. VEHICLES/EQUIPMENT --- US\$50.00
  - B. UNIFORM CARGO AND ASSORTED LOOSE CARGO --- US\$40.00

NOTE: BOOKLETS SALE BEGAINGS FROM MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025 TO FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025 AT THE NPA CASHIER OFFICE, FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

- 2. BOOKLET WILL BE SOLD IN TWO CATEGORIES: **VEHICLES/EQUIPMENT, UNIFORM CARGO AND ASSORTED LOOSE CARGO**.
- 3. ALL FORM/LETTERS OF INTENT MUST BE INDIVIDUALLY ENCLOSED IN AN ENVELOP AND ADRESSED TO THE AUCTION COMMITTEE WITH LOT # (NUMBER) OF INTEREST PLACED AT AS PER THE FORMS ISSUED.
- 4. FORMS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE AUCTION COMMITTEE. GOODS/CARGOES WILL BE AUCTIONED BY LOTS "AS IS, WHERE IS".
  - 5. AUCTION WILL BE CONDUCTED ON THE BASIS OF SEALED BID; AND THE HIGHEST BIDDER ON EACH LOT SHALL BE DECLARED THE WINNER.
  - 6. WINNERS WILL BE GIVEN 5 WORKING DAYS TO MAKE 100% PAYMENT AND CLEAR CARGO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT.
  - 6A) FAIRLURE ON THE PART OF ANY WINNER TO COMPLY WITH COUNT (6) OF THE PROCEDURE WILL FORFEIT THE ITEMS WON TO THE SECOND HIGHEST BORDER.
  - 7. SUCESSFUL WINNERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY CUDTOMS DUTIES BASED ON THE **BID PRICE**. PAYMENT WILL BE MADE TO LRA, FREEPORT COLLECTORATE,

THE REMAINING SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS; NPA ACCOUNT (35%), APMT (45%) AND SHIPPING LINES (20%), ON ALL AUCTION CARGOES BEFORE TAKING DELIVERY.

- 8. ALL SEALED BIDS WILL BE EVALUATED BY THE AUCTION COMMITTEE AND WINNERS LIST DISPLAYED IN PUBLIC WITHIN THE PORT.
- 9. NO SHARING OF BOOKLETS WILL BE ALLOWED. ONLY ONE BIDDER PER BOOKLET. NO BIDDER IS ALLOWED TO BID MORE THAN ONCE FOR THE SAME ITEM, LOT, AV OR EQUIPMENT.
- 10. ABSOLUTELY, NO PRE AUCTION BID OR LATE BID WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- 11. **NO CONSIGNEE OR AGENT** OF THE CONDEMNED/ ABANDONED GOODS SUBJECT TO AUCTION **SHALL** BE ELIGIBLE TO BID. **ANY AGENT OR CONSIGNEE** FOUND IN VIOLATION SHALL FORFIT THEIR WINS AND BE TURNED OVER TO LSP FOR INVESTIGATION.
- 12. **NO EMPLOYEE OF NPA, LRA, APMT OR THE SHIPPING LINES** SHALL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE PART DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN THE AUCTION PROCESS.
- 13. ALL COMPLAINTS IF ANY SHALL BE ADDRESSED IN WRITING TO THE AUCTION COMMITTEE WITHIN 2 HOURS AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WINNER.
- 14. IF TWO OR MORE BIDDERS OFFER THE SAME AMOUTS, (TIE) ON A PARTICULAR ITEM, THEN THE SHALL BE BROKEN BY ALPHABETICAL ORDER, IN ORDER OF FIRST NAMES.
- 15. BIDDERS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE PRESENT AT THE BID OPENING EVENT. HOWEVER, IT SHALL BE AN EXTRA ADVANTAGE FOR THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO ATTEND
- 16. SEALED BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED INTO THE APPROPRIATE BOXES; BIDS SUBMITTED IN THE WRONG BOXES SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED.
- 17. BIDDERS WHO PURCHASE BOOKLET SHALL ASSEMBLE AT THE **ALPHA GATE** BEHIND THE GT-BANK NPA COMPOUND ON FRIDAY, 28, 2025 **AT 10:00 AM** TO ACCESS THE AUCTION AREAS FOR PUBLIC VIEWING OF THE LOTS.
- 18. THE AUCTION SHALL BE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025 AT 10 AM PROMPT. ALL BIDS SHALL BE IN SEALED ENVELELOPES, AND DROPPED BETWEEN 11:00-11:30 AM ON MARCH 29, 2025. LATE BIDDERS WILL BE REJECTED.

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

#### MFDP, CBL grilled over Health sector budgetary allotme Officials from the Central Bank of Liberia and the Ministry of the CBL has role to play in

2025

Finance came under Senate questioning here to show cause for reversal of County Health funding gaps within the Health Sector.

By Lincoln G. Peters

◆from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) and the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), faced questioning from the Senate

Education and Labor.

apitol Hill, Monrovia, Health appearance was to March 21, 2025: Officials enable them provide are available to the account explanation and justifications to owner all times. And so, the CBL the delay in disbursement of funding to hospitals across the to how long a fund should stay country.



Thursday over the lack of further clarification from MFDP funding to the health sector and CBL regarding a memo from Despite failing to quote or

face forfeiting their budgetary funds to be appropriated. allotments for the first quarter Providing clarification, CBL disbursement.

On Thursday, March 20, 2025, account of institutions. the Liberians Senate held a Joint According to him, accounts are the premise for which the CAG Public hearing, comprising the always open and available and CBL, MFDP, Ministry of Health, can be used at any time once Civil Service Agency, Ministry of funded, while debunking that

Joint Committee here on The engagement also sought the Ministry of Finance through The questions come on the the Controller General's office Law, being reference, she backdrop of a warning sent to informing County Health further indicated that with the County Health Officers that they Officers of financial reversal on law, it provides that fund

of this year, if they failed to Executive Governor Henry F. spend same before the end of Saamoi, said the bank doesn't adding that anything beyond March 21-31 despite non- have the rights within its policy that period, the money will be to reverse funding paid into the reversed to government.

money.

"The CBL doesn't have control The Ministry of Finance, CBL and over the account. Once the account is funded, the funds doesn't have any restrictions as in an account to be used. This is not the CBL policy. That is a restriction from the Ministry of Finance and so, I think they can answer," Mr. Saamoi said.

Responding to the question. Deputy MFDP Minister for Budget Madam Tenneh G Brunson neither confirmed nor denied the Memo in guestion sent to County Health Officers. However, according to her, as per her understanding of the Public Financial Management Law (PFM-Law), County Health Officers have up to three months after the end of the year to spend but after that period, they can't spend on previous budget year.

provide the section of the PFMdeposited in the account of the County Health Team should be spent between March 21-31,

" Now, my assumption is that

➤ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

### **Bong: Principal raises insecu** and infrastructure concerns

-As High School lies in ruins

By: Edwin N Khakie

Principal Steve Gonpein of the government-run Dorothy Cooper Semi High School has expressed growing concerns about the rising levels of criminal activity on the school's premises.

He attributes these issues to the absence of assigned watchmen or security personnel, which has led to a series of break-ins and burglaries by unidentified criminals.

According to Mr. Gonpein, the school is currently vulnerable to criminal activity due to the lack of adequate security measures and proper fencing.

He noted that the removal of former security personnel has caused significant embarrassment for the administration, and despite repeated appeals to the Ministry of Education in Liberia, his calls for assistance have gone unanswered.

The school's Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) has stepped in to cover the cost of security, but the guards are often poorly compensated, leading to

dissatisfaction and frequent departures.

The security situation remains a major concern for the school community.

In addition to security challenges, the school has faced school during the semester infrastructure issues, break. However, no work has particularly following a violent been undertaken thus far. rainstorm in January that caused The Dorothy Cooper Semi High building.

Despite a visit from the County Education Officer, who subsequently reported the students from elementary damage to the central office of the Ministry of Education, no action has been taken to repair

the school's facilities.

Residents of the community have voiced their frustration with the government's inaction, especially after the Ministry of Education had promised to renovate the damaged sections of the

surrounding community, providing education to through high school levels. It is the only school of its kind in

CONT'D ON PAGE 7



### **LLA launches New Land** Deeds with Security Features,

#### -Says to Combat Illegal Land Sales

The Liberia Land Authority (LLA) has launched a new land deed form with enhanced security features designed to combat the illegal sale of land across Liberia.

By: Kruah Thompson

apitol Hill, Monrovia, March 21, 2025: The announcement appointed Chairman of the Liberia Land Authority (LLA), Mr. Samuel F. Kpakio, during a regular press briefing at the Ministry of President's Digital Program. Information, Cultural Affairs, and Kpakio further revealed that LLA Tourism on Thursday March 20, date the deed was launched, Chairman Kpakio revealed that, with the support of their Swiss partners, LLA staff has undergone specialized training for the verification of land deeds, a

explained that this verification of double registration and ensure management of land resources," lawful land ownership in Liberia.

country's land governance plans to overhaul the country's

clarify property values and generate additional revenue for the government. According to him, this initiative is in line with President Joseph Boikai agenda to create jobs, particularly for young people trained through the

has requested comprehensive 2024 Without providing the actual audits from the General Auditing Commission (GAC) and the Internal Audit Agency (IAA) to evaluate existing systems and identify areas for improvement. 'These audits are crucial for increasing transparency and process that will be decentralized setting the foundation for to county offices across the targeted reforms.' he said adding that "We are actively working to Speaking on the occasion he implement a clear baseline for reform that will ensure the process would help identify cases responsible and transparent Kpakio said.

Accordingly, he emphasized that Land disputes have been a longthis initiative is an important step standing issue in Liberia, and to toward restoring trust in the address this, Kpakio announced



Montserrado County.

at curbing illegal transactions in strengthened to tackle criminal extensive damage to the School serves as a vital these areas, and all individuals conveyance and fraudulent land educational institution for the holding development grant deeds transactions. in these locations are required to Additionally, a Compliance Unit submit copies of their agreements will be formed to ensure that all to the LLA's head office for land dealings are conducted in verification by March 31, 2025.

my leadership to ensure that all ensuring that land disputes are transactions are conducted resolved fairly and efficiently," transparently," Kpakio said, Kpakio emphasized.

Software and Act Projects.

land dispute resolution system. In addition to the launch of the new 'This overhaul will include the deed forms, Kpakio announced a establishment of specialized units moratorium on public land to streamline workflows and transactions in Omega, Hotel ensure that disputes are resolved Africa community, and in a timely and fair manner. However, he added that He says, this moratorium is aimed the Legal Division will also be

accordance with legal "We are advancing reforms under standards."We are committed to

expressing confidence that the Inclosing, Kpakio reaffirmed that measures will lead to improved the LLA's reforms are not just accountability, efficiency, and about change, but about a public confidence in Liberia's land renewal of Liberia's land governance system. As part of the governance system. "This is not reform process, Kpakio disclosed just a reform; it is a renewal, and that LLA is collaborating with the we are committed to ensuring that Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) to the Liberia Land Authority develop a land valuation system becomes a model of transparency, under the Real Estate Valuation empowering Liberians to securely hold, trade, and exercise their The system, which is being piloted land rights," he concluded. in three counties, is designed to Edited By Othello B. Garblah.

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### Continuous power outage disrupts major briefing at MICAT

2025

By: Kruah Thompson Cultural Affairs, and challenges.

Piah took office, despite capacity to sustain critical ONROVIA - The Ministry efforts to address the operations. The frequent of Information, ministry's ongoing electricity outages have not only

hindered MICAT's briefings but Tourism (MICAT) on Thursday In recent months, Minister also cast doubt on whether the March 20, 2025, faced yet Piah procured a generator to ministry's efforts to resolve the Committees on Albert Chie's to unbundle the problem are yielding any Public Corporations, activities of the LPRC to enhance tangible results. Although Minister Piah is

> making every effort, including the renovation of the building, interior decoration, and replacement of deteriorated equipment at the ministry, it seems there is still much more that needs to be situation underscores the Demand for a more reliable power source to ensure the smooth functioning of government communications. Meanwhile, officials at MICAT recurring power supply issues Correct them.



Min. Jerolimick M. Piah

another major disruption due supplement power supply to a prolonged power outage, during outages from the nearly halting its scheduled Liberia Electricity Corporation press briefing.

since Minister Jerolimick M, about the generator's

(LEC).

This marks the second time However, the issue continues such an incident has occurred to persist, raising concerns

### **Senate committee outlines** strategies to unbundle LPRC

The Liberian Senate moves here to relieve the Liberia Petroleum Refining Corporation of some of its current responsibilities that are being considered as conflict of interest.

By Lincoln G. Peters

hydrocarbon and Environment, the country's energy sector. recommendation to unbundle Tuesday, January 21, 2025. responsibilities of the Liberia Senator Chie pointed out that the (LPRC).

petroleum sector.

According to the committee delivery. petroleum sector.

concern raised about legality, to the Senate. economy and benefits of the He argued that such conflicts

to the senate for action, regarding onrovia, Liberia, March the subject matter due to a 21, 2025 - Report from communication from Senator

Judiciary, Human Rights, Claims Plenary, the Senate's highest and Petitions outlines strategy decision-making body, received and meaningful the proposal during its session on

Petroleum Refining Company LPRC currently holds overlapping roles in Liberia's downstream The Joint Committee report petroleum sector, functioning as a which was read in open Session policymaker, regulator, and done. Observers say the of the 18 day sitting of the commercial operator. He Liberian Senate on March 20, described this as an "institutional 2025, acknowledged the need conflict" that undermines fair for the unbundling of the competition, private sector growth, and efficient energy

report, based upon "For example, how can the LPRC engagements with license importers of petroleum have yet to address the stakeholders, policymakers and products while being an importer relevant government itself? How can it set prices for and potential measures to institutions, it's important to petroleum products through its reform in the downstream monthly circular when it also operates as a commercial But, the committee warned that importer?" Senator Chie there is a need to address questioned in his communication

> policy to Liberians, while create an uneven playing field, requesting ample time for more hinder revenue generation for the research, analysis, legal Government of Liberia (GOL), and

> smooth transition to benefit Chie emphasized that



additional time for the government has made progress in proponent of this proposal to do unbundling roles in the power and more comprehensive research upstream petroleum sectors but and studies covering has yet to implement similar overlapping regulatory function reforms in the downstream in the sector. Also, the review of petroleum sector. their next sitting.

The committee was given the functions as both referee and responsibility to hear and report player," he argued.

both government and the international best practices people. "Finally, this committee require distinct institutions to recommends that the proposal manage policy setting, regulatory is a positive step towards oversight, and commercial national reform. However, the operations within the energy Committee recommends sector. He noted that the Liberian

the LPRC Corporate Chapter of He referenced the 2009 National 1978 and the 1989 Act granting Energy Policy (NEP), which the LPRC exclusive right over recommended amending existing petroleum importation under its laws to unbundle the roles of the 1978 Act", the report concluded. Liberia Electricity Corporation Meanwhile, following reading of (LEC), the National Oil Company the communication, the plenary of Liberia (NOCAL), and the LPRC. of the Liberian Senate in a "While reforms in the power and motion from Grand Kru County upstream petroleum sectors have Senator Albert Chie, has taken place, the downstream accepted to receive the report petroleum sector remains and debate the matter during unchanged, with the LPRC

maintaining its overlapping

#### Starts from page 6

### MFDP, CBL grilled over Health

(Comptroller and Accountant details," she concluded. up to that time to spend and than solution, as senators regulation. after that, all the money will be expressed disappointment and Furthermore, senators termed reversed. There are some dissatisfaction regarding the the response from Deputy commitments to pay and so, Ministry failure to pay County Minister Brunson as uncleared on when the money is paid, they can Health Officers fund for settle those services. I don't have operations within the health long at the Ministry to be answer to the question as to why sector. if the money is paid two days to The senators wondered how the manner and even unable to

the deadline since we have not Ministry of Finance would uphold quote sections of the PFM-LAW. paid. I don't have answer such regulations when in fact the Edited by Othello B. Garblah because I'm not sure about the Ministry has not or is yet to make

full payment for the 2024 budget General) wrote that Meanwhile, the answer provided period for which the grace communication to the County by the Deputy Minister created period ends this March in keeping structuring and policy limit availability of high-quality, Health Officers, is that they have more concerns and questions with Ministry of Finance adjustment that would ensure affordable energy services.

> grounds that she has stayed too responding to questions in such

#### Starts from Back page

from January 13, 2025 to March committee rooms. 20, 2025, is expected to resume The report detailed 14 With a grand total of 14 on the second Friday in May.

Giving statistical reports during the closing, Deputy Speaker Thomas P. Fallah, disclosed that during the quarter, there were total number of 25 sittings, including 17 regular (open) sittings, 3 executive sittings, and 5 leadership sittings. He said the total number of Bills passed were

## **House to ban Shisha and Kush**

institutions, individuals, and legislative agenda. abroad.

Presiding duties were shared expected to run from 20 March to between the Speaker and Deputy the 2nd Friday of May 2025. Speaker, with a total of 16 Editing by Jonathan Browne

of Representatives has two (2) one from the House and sessions presided over during the adjourned its regular session for one from the Senate, while 22 quarter. Fallah commended the the first Quarter of the second legislative items, including bills. legislature for its dedication and session. The first quarter of the resolutions, and petitions, emphasized the importance of House of Representatives ran remained under review in maintaining focus on governance and legislative oversight.

> appearances in both plenary and activities recorded, the report leadership sessions, alongside 65 underscores the House's communications received from commitment to addressing lawmakers, the Executive, national issues and advancing its

> > The first Quarter break is

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#### the area, offering crucial number of students, many of The lack of adequate response opportunities to less-privileged whom come from disadvantaged from the Ministry of Education children from the locality and backgrounds.

beyond.

Despite the challenges, the telephone Tuesday, Bong County and the safety and well-being of school has recently been Education Officer Boakai David its students. upgraded to semi-high status to declined to comment on the accommodate the growing matter.

**Bong: Principal raises insecurity** 

continues to raise concerns Meanwhile, when contacted via about the future of the school

## Le gouvernement libérien prévoit de mobiliser 2,36 milliards de dollars pour le développement du capital humain

e ministre des Finances Agenda. et de la Planification du **⊿**Développement, Augustine Ngafuan, a annoncé que le gouvernement libérien prévoit de mobiliser 2,36 milliards de dollars américains de ressources

Ce financement, prévu sur une période de cinq ans, s'inscrit dans le cadre du pilier « Développement du capital humain » du plan national de

internes et externes pour le

développement du capital

« Le coût total de l'AAID s'élève à 8,4 milliards de dollars, et le pilier du développement du capital humain sera le deuxième plus grand bénéficiaire des ressources mobilisées, après celui du développement des infrastructures », a déclaré le ministre Ngafuan dans son discours principal lors de la commémoration du 216e anniversaire de naissance du premier président du Liberia, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, à la First United Methodist Church de Monrovia.

développement, l'Arrest Un engagement pour l'éducation et

la formation technique

M. Ngafuan a précisé que, dans le cadre de ce programme, le gouvernement prévoit notamment:

La construction, la rénovation et l'extension d'infrastructures éducatives adaptées aux défis climatiques;

L'équipement des écoles en matériel scientifique et technologique (STEM);

Une augmentation de 10 % du taux de scolarisation des enfants en situation de handicap;

L'introduction de filières d'enseignement technique et professionnel (TVET) au niveau secondaire et la modernisation des centres de formation existants dans plusieurs régions du pays.

« Pour atteindre ces objectifs, nous nouerons des partenariats solides avec tous les acteurs, y compris le secteur privé et des organisations philanthropiques comme la Fondation J.J. Roberts », a souligné le ministre.

93 millions de dollars déjà mobilisés pour l'apprentissage fondamental

➤ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



# Les citoyens soutiennent l'extension

'accord minier en cours de négociation entre ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) et le gouvernement libérien reçoit un soutien

croissant de la part des communautés hôtes.

Les chefs, anciens et citoyens de Yarmein et Seh Zor, dans le comté de Nimba, ont exprimé leur appui ferme à la prolongation de l'investissement d'ArcelorMittal Liberia ainsi qu'à la ratification de son troisième Accord de Développement Minier (MDA).

Dans une déclaration publiée le 18 mars 2025, les habitants ont affirmé leur volonté de voir AML poursuivre et étendre ses opérations sur leur territoire à travers l'amendement et l'adoption du nouvel accord.

Un partenariat bénéfique pour les communautés locales

Les citoyens ont souligné que leur position repose sur les nombreuses contributions de l'entreprise, notamment la création d'emplois, le soutien aux infrastructures sociales, l'amélioration des secteurs de la santé et de l'éducation, ainsi que la promotion des entreprises locales et l'augmentation des recettes nationales.

« Des entreprises sont venues et reparties, mais AML est restée à nos côtés en période de crise, notamment pendant l'épidémie d'Ebola et la pandémie de COVID-19», ont-ils rappelé.

Reconnaissant les défis

rencontrés par l'entreprise, ils ont admis que certaines dispositions du MDA actuel n'avaient pas encore été pleinement mises en œuvre, tout en soulignant que toutes les obligations financières avaient été respectées.

Engagement pour une collaboration constructive

Les représentants communautaires ont assuré leur engagement à poursuivre un dialogue constructif avec AML, le gouvernement et les autorités locales afin de garantir l'application complète des engagements contractuels, présents et futurs.

Ils ont également insisté sur leur volonté d'inciter l'entreprise à améliorer ses engagements envers les communautés hôtes et se sont félicités de la reconnaissance, par AML, des défis existants et de sa volonté affichée développement socio-économique

« Nous sommes des personnes attachées à nos traditions et nous n'utilisons pas la politique pour influencer nos décisions. Il serait injuste d'ignorer les bienfaits qu'ArcelorMittal a apportés à notre pays et à nos communautés », ontils affirmé.

Avec plus de 3 000 employés libériens et 5 000 autres travaillant pour des sous-traitants d'AML, l'entreprise demeure le plus grand employeur privé du Liberia. Son soutien aux entreprises locales et ses contributions fiscales, notamment par le biais des taxes et redevances, jouent un rôle clé dans le financement des salaires des fonctionnaires et le



# Editorial

### **Comment le Bloc Majoritaire** a couvert le Liberia de honte

Par Raghuram Rajan

ans 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° 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

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.

www.thenewdawnliberia.com

# Starts from page 8 Le gouvernement libérien prévoit de mobiliser 2,36 milliarus

Mettant en avant des succès récents, M. Ngafuan a révélé que le gouvernement libérien a obtenu une subvention de 93 millions de dollars de la part du Partenariat mondial pour l'éducation (GPE) et de la Banque mondiale en 2024 pour soutenir l'apprentissage fondamental dans le cadre du programme EXCEL (Excellence in Learning Project).

Ce programme vise à renforcer l'éducation de la petite enfance et l'enseignement primaire (du CP au CM2) à travers:

La rénovation, l'extension et la construction de nouvelles écoles dans les 15 comtés du Liberia; L'amélioration des programmes scolaires et la production de nouveaux supports pédagogiques, y compris numériques;

Le renforcement du système éducatif grâce à des normes améliorées, une meilleure collecte des données et des mécanismes de suivi plus efficaces.

Un engagement gouvernemental en faveur du développement

« En tant que ministre des Finances, je suis optimiste quant à l'avenir du Liberia. Malgré les défis actuels, le gouvernement du président Joseph Boakai œuvre sans relâche pour faire du pays une économie à revenu intermédiaire d'ici cinq ans », a affirmé M. Ngafuan.

La cérémonie, placée sous le thème « Renforcer

les partenariats pour le développement et l'amélioration de la qualité de l'éducation des enfants libériens », a rassemblé de nombreuses personnalités, parmi lesquelles l'ancien gouverneur de la Banque centrale, le Dr Mills Jones, l'ex-représentante du Liberia auprès de l'Union du fleuve Mano, Mardina Wesseh, ainsi que plusieurs membres du gouvernement, des jeunes, des étudiants et des bénéficiaires de la bourse J.J. Roberts.

Joseph Jenkins Roberts : Premier président du Liberia

Joseph Jenkins Roberts, premier président du Liberia, est né le 15 mars 1809 dans l'État de Virginie, aux États-Unis. Séduit par le projet de la Société américaine de colonisation, qui visait à établir une colonie au Liberia, il décide d'y émigrer avec sa famille.

Le 9 février 1829, Roberts embarque à bord du navire Harriet en compagnie de son épouse, de son enfant, de sa mère et de ses frères et sœurs. En juillet 1847, onze délégués proclament l'indépendance du Liberia, et Joseph Jenkins Roberts est élu premier président du pays le 5 octobre 1847, avant d'être investi dans ses fonctions le 3 janvier 1848.

# es États-Unis brisent le silen

e département d'État des États-Unis a clarifié qu'aucune liste de restrictions de visa n'existe à ce jour. Toutefois, il mène une révision de plusieurs mesures en accord avec le décret exécutif du président Donald Trump visant à renforcer la sécurité aux États-Unis et à contrôler l'attribution des visas.

Réagissant aux inquiétudes soulevées par une vidéo circulant sur les réseaux sociaux, la porte-parole du département d'État, Tammy Bruce, a réfuté l'existence d'une prétendue liste de restrictions de voyage visant le Liberia et d'autres pays.

Tout d'abord, il n'existe aucune liste. Ce que les gens voient ces derniers ours ne correspond à aucun document officiel en notre possession. Il s'agit bien d'une révision, conformément au décret du président Trump, afin d'examiner les mesures qui permettront d'assurer la sécurité des États-Unis dans le cadre de l'attribution des visas. Cependant, ce qui est présenté comme une initiative officielle du département d'État ne l'est tout simplement pas", a-t-elle déclaré.

Elle a ajouté que, tant que cette révision ne sera pas achevée, il ne sera pas possible de commenter davantage la question.

Réaction du gouvernement libérien

De son côté, le gouvernement libérien, par le biais du ministère des Affaires étrangères, a déclaré qu'il ne prend pas à la légère les informations faisant état d'éventuelles restrictions de voyage imposées par Washington. Le ministère a qualifié ces spéculations de "surprise totale".

Tout en appelant les Libériens au calme, la ministre des Affaires étrangères, Sara Beysolow Nyanti, a assuré que le gouvernement engageait des discussions diplomatiques afin d'obtenir des précisions sur la situation.



Les informations relayées par la presse et les réseaux sociaux nous ont pris de court. Dès leur publication, nous avons immédiatement contacté l'ambassade des États-Unis à Monrovia, qui nous a confirmé n'avoir aucune information à ce sujet. Ce sujet a également été évoqué dans le ournal New York Times. Nous ne prenons pas cela à la légère, qu'il 'agisse d'une information véridique ou trompeuse", a-t-elle affirmé.

Mme Nyanti a par ailleurs indiqué que depuis son entrée en fonction, elle a collaboré étroitement avec le gouvernement américain pour répondre aux exigences nécessaires en matière de visas, notamment par l'envoi de courriers officiels et la tenue de réunions à Washington.

# Starts from page 8 Les citoyens soutiennent l'extension

Un impact économique et social renforcé par le nouvel

Le nouvel accord de développement minier devrait permettre la création de plus de 5 000 emplois directs et indirects, réduisant ainsi le chômage dans les communautés hôtes.

« Nous avons demandé à la direction d'AML que nos communautés bénéficient davantage de leurs opérations. Nous avons appris que le fonds de développement social des comtés augmentera, que le gouvernement percevra 200 millions de dollars par an grâce à AML, et que de nombreux autres avantages seront apportés. Nous nous réjouissons de ces avancées », ont-ils déclaré.

Ils ont également exprimé leur gratitude envers AML pour les travaux de modernisation des routes communautaires, notamment la réhabilitation et le pavage de la route reliant Ganta à Sanniquellie, et ont plaidé pour l'extension de ces efforts jusqu'à Yekepa. Recommandations pour une négociation équilibrée

Tout en soutenant l'extension du contrat, les citoyens ont soumis plusieurs recommandations au gouvernement libérien afin qu'elles soient prises en compte lors des négociations avec AML:

Augmenter le fonds de développement social en fonction de l'accroissement de l'exploitation minière. Créer un compte spécifique pour les fonds destinés au développement local.

Garantir un usage préférentiel du chemin de fer pour ArcelorMittal Liberia.

Mettre en service la clinique de Gbapa et déployer des cliniques mobiles dans les communautés impactées.

Encourager les projets agricoles et le soutien à l'entrepreneuriat.

Étendre les formations professionnelles et techniques pour les résidents. Assurer un suivi rigoureux du respect du MDA avec la

participation des représentants communautaires. Mettre en place des mesures de protection de

l'environnement. Garantir des pratiques d'emploi équitables avec une

Soutenir les programmes de santé et d'éducation, notamment l'appui aux enseignants, aux agents de

santé et aux étudiants. Améliorer les infrastructures locales, y compris les

systèmes d'approvisionnement en eau, la réhabilitation des écoles publiques et le développement urbain. L'appel à l'extension de l'investissement

d'ArcelorMittal Liberia et à la ratification du nouvel accord traduit une approche collaborative entre les communautés locales, l'entreprise et le gouvernement, visant à garantir un développement durable et mutuellement bénéfique à long terme.

# BOAKAI APPEILE À UN SYSTÈME D'EXAMEN INCLUSIF contribuer au développement national. particulier pour les enfants issus de milieux défavorisés

e Président Joseph Nyuma S'exprimant lors de la 73e adaptés", a déclaré Boakai. (WAEC) à adopter des politiques ministériel EJS de Congo handicapés la possibilité de réussir et de d'examen inclusives afin de garantir des Town, le président Boakai contribuer pleinement à la société. opportunités égales à tous les élèves, a souligné l'urgence "Chaque apprenant doit avoir la chance notamment ceux en situation de d'a m é n a g e r d e s de briller, parfois même au-delà des handicap.



environnements d'examen attentes", a-t-il ajouté. des élèves handicapés. l'Education

des centres d'examen

Boakai a appelé le Conseil des réunion annuelle du Il a insisté sur le fait que l'élimination de à travailler en étroite collaboration avec Boakai a mis l'accent sur la nécessité Examens de l'Afrique de l'Ouest WAEC au complexe ces obstacles donnerait aux élèves

> qui répondent aux besoins Partageant son expérience personnelle, le président a rappelé que sa propre Briser les Barrières dans mère était en situation de handicap et a mis en avant l'impact positif de "Il est essentiel que le l'inclusivité dans l'éducation, personne ne soit laissé pour compte", a- les élèves d'outils d'apprentissage WAEC-Libéria mette en "Imaginez le changement profond place des conditions qu'une telle réforme pourrait apporter, d'examen accessibles à non seulement pour ces élèves et leurs pour l'éducation." des aménagements tels son ensemble", a-t-il affirmé.

supplémentaire, des enverrait un message fort : le Libéria formats alternatifs, un valorise la diversité et s'engage à offrir à résoudre les problèmes entravant plein potentiel académique. encadrement spécifique et chaque citoyen la possibilité de l'accès à une éducation de qualité, en

Le Président Boakai a exhorté le WAEC Prioriser l'Éducation pour l'Avenir africaine.

capacité à élever et à autonomiser établissements scolaires à s'adapter aux chaque citoyen, en veillant à ce que avancées technologiques et à équiper t-il déclaré. "Que ce 73e anniversaire du modernes. WAEC ravive notre passion commune "Chaque enfant, quels que soient ses

le gouvernement libérien afin d'assurer d'augmenter les investissements dans que les besoins des élèves marginalisés l'éducation, notamment en renforçant la soient pris en compte. Il a plaidé pour formation des enseignants, en un système éducatif véritablement améliorant les infrastructures scolaires équitable, non seulement pour le et en certifiant les éducateurs pour Libéria, mais pour toute la région ouest- optimiser les résultats d'apprentissage.

Il a aussi insisté sur l'importance de la "La force d'une nation repose sur sa littératie numérique, appelant les

antécédents, doit avoir accès aux tous les apprenants, avec familles, mais aussi pour la société dans Îl a appelé les acteurs du secteur ressources nécessaires pour réussir", aé du catif - responsables t-il affirmé, tout en notant que les élèves q u ' u n t e m p s Un système éducatif inclusif, selon lui, gouvernementaux, administrateurs handicapés sont encore confrontés à scolaires et parents – à s'engager à d'importants obstacles limitant leur

# EATURE

# Stop Following Those Headless Snakes: Political Self-Proclaimed Leaders Without Direction or Willpower:

By:Austin S Fallah-

A True Son of the Planet Earth Soil:

n a dimly lit room, faded posters of political leaders line the walls, remnants of a time when hope flickered brightly in the hearts of the young. Colorful images of protests, chants for freedom, and passionate speeches resonate with an echo of nostalgia.

The air is thick with memories of revolution, of those who have fought for political identity, rights, and freedom from oppression for all Liberians.

Yet, today, the vibrant spirit of the Liberian youth/young people appears dulled, overshadowed by the apathy that comes from years of manipulation and disenchantment.

Liberia's urban centers throng with young people. They gather in groups, their chatter rising above the honking vehicles, the sizzle of street food, and the rhythmic beats of music from neighboring shops.

Some wear caps emblazoned with political party logos, while others sport t-shirts featuring portraits of leaders.

Yet, as one glance closer, it becomes apparent that many of these young people are merely puppets, strings pulled by figures who promise change but deliver only deception.

These so-called leaders, resembling headless snakes, slither through the political landscape, evacuating their followers of hope and direction, leaving them without a clear path toward genuine progress.

Liberia's youth/young people seem trapped in a cycle of naive loyalty, attending rallies, waving flags, and chanting slogans without understanding the true essence of political engagement.

It starkly contrasts with the fervor observed in the 1970s and 1980s, when young Liberians were at the forefront of political activism, their minds aflame with ideas of nationalism, democracy, and social and economic justice.

Members of that generation marched for the right to speak freely, advocated for the poor,

and sought a nation where every citizen, not just the political elites, could thrive.

Fast forward to recent gatherings of today's youth/young people, where excitement and enthusiasm wane.

The once-electric air of potential activism has been siphoned off by the repetitive cycle of disillusionment.

After discussing the upcoming 2029 presidential and general elections at the Handz-On-Barbershop in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, a young man told me, There are too many empty promises." Another young man echoed his peers' sentiments, "Why should we believe anything will change?"

This resignation is a summation of the repeated betrayals experienced over decades as young people witness leaders turn their backs on the principles they once championed.

For many young Liberians today, this reality is a stark reminder of the downfalls of leadership devoid of integrity and vision.

Present-day leaders, often self-proclaimed champions, navigate a political landscape rife with corruption and mismanagement.

They rise to power through populist rhetoric and promises of change, yet their intentions, shrouded in secrecy, become painfully apparent when they achieve their coveted positions.

Chicken-feed (politics) politicians treat the electorate as mere fodder for personal gain, with no thought for the future they are meant to guide.

The ghost town feels the emotional exhaustion trailing behind these promises.

The papers might be alive with bold headlines proclaiming that the latest political party has launched its campaign, but there's an evident disconnect at the grassroots level.

Young people listlessly clap and shout but lack the spark of genuine belief.

They know well that these rallies have little weight in changing their reality, almost as if they have become spectators in a play devoid of substance.

Alternatives emerge in the following discussions.

Voices call for a different way forward.

Some propose, "What if we could create real change ourselves?"

Ideas flow about returning to grassroots movements, connecting with communities, and focusing on selfempowerment.

It is a craving for a way out, a longing to reclaim the autonomy that generations before them fought for so



The question arises: how did the change happen?

When did young people transition from active agents of political change to followers of ineffective leaders?

It is a question rooted in Liberia's historical context, which has marked civil wars, economic turmoil, and a deterioration of trust in political institutions.

The catastrophic events shaped a generation haunted by trauma, robbing them of the energy required to stand and fight as their predecessors once did.

Instead, this new generation has inherited a political environment exhausted by corruption, where the concept of a principled leader feels like a distant fantasy.

Delving further into the past, one realizes that the youth movements of the late 20th century were not just movements. They were a clarion call for visionaries who could lead them with clear principles and moral clarity.

The students of the University of Liberia organized protests demanding freedom, social justice, and an equitable distribution of resources. They were fearless advocates who stood firm against prevailing narratives and were never willing to be silenced.

As a youth at that time, now a young man (Austin S.Fallah), I was allowed to serve as a guest speaker at an occasion held by Liberian Women United For Business at the Monrovia City Hall, spoke on the topic " The Importance of the Liberian Woman in the Family." In my discourse, I said, "We must rise and ensure this madness of abuse of women must stop and stop now!" A young woman in the crowd of over 500 jam-packed Monrovia City Hall shouted amidst her peers, "I agree with you," her voice a balm for those seeking direction.

Her voice echoed the power of the youth and the importance of thought leadership, which is essential in creating alternative political landscapes.

I am calling on all of us to educate ourselves. What change do we want, and how can we achieve it without following those headless snakes?

My impassioned plea in this write-up/article must ignite a spark within all of us for a better tomorrow.

Instead of blind allegiance, we, the young people and the youth of our motherland, should be active participants responsible, and accountable. The shift is palpable.

Young women and men must engage in vigorous discussions, exploring ways to leverage social media to build awareness about issues affecting our motherland start local initiatives, and influence policy through civid engagement and demonstration that holds no iota of water for the nation.

The poetry of the young people's words frames a vision grounded in creating inclusive spaces, empowering every young person, and amplifying underrepresented voices.

> Reflecting on this, one understands that the headless snakes symbolize a more significant threat than politica incompetence.

> They represent a cycle of dependency that keeps generations shackled withou guidance.

> These figures bewitch the political landscape. A siren's call lures the young into a perpetual loop of futility.

> Liberian youths/young people must understand that they have the agency to break these chains.

> They must learn that power lies not in naive loyalty but in discerning leadership evaluation.

> As discussions should ripple through the crowd, that change is undeniable.

> Some voices will begin to talk about holding leaders accountable, while others will focus on the importance of voter education.

The aim is not to unquestioningly endorse new leaders but to demand a set of principles and policies and the culture of malaise that has become the status quo.

An awakening begins when they seek to restore integrity

and purpose in their political landscape. The conclusion becomes clear: youth must avoid following the headless snakes of unschooled and ill-

sages, ancestors, and each other for direction. Authentic leadership can emerge within the nuances of logic, reason, and shared experiences.

fitted political leadership but instead look towards their

By harnessing their potential, driven by the historical fervor and spirit of activism, they can transcend the repetitious failures of the past.

As the sun rises over Liberia's landscape, illuminating the young people/youth's faces filled with renewed hope, it signals a new beginning. Liberia's landscape illuminates the youth's faces.

The vibrant colors of awakening promise a genuine place where the leaders are not merely self-proclaimed but are genuinely committed to the cause of unity empowerment, and progress.

The Liberian young people/youth stand poised, ready to reclaim their narrative, not as blind followers but as a collective force for change, armed with the history they must honor and a future they are determined to build.

No longer will they follow the "headless snakes."

They will forge the political paths that lead to true prosperity.

The time has come for young/youthful Liberians to step forward, dispelling shadows of the past, seizing control of their destiny, and illuminating the way for generations to come.

# Gov't, World Bank launch US\$30 Million project

The Government of Liberia in partnership with the World Bank launches Great Project to institute reforms in governance.

By Lewis S. Teh Government of Liberia he reiterates. with support from the World According to him, one area that and efficiency in public

expand what we call the real onrovia, Liberia, March property tax rule. You know, we 21, 2025 - The are facing a lot of challenges",

Bank launches the governance needs to be tapped and reform and accountability leveraged is property taxes, transformation project, explaining "This project is going otherwise known as the GREAT to help us in that direction. It's



investment in the next six years. The program is a revenues, and strengthening project will fund." across the country.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, Augustine K. Ngafuan. Making that emanate from the GSE. all government data servers."

He says under the project, the ministry of internal affairs.

The Minister acknowledges the "Once you improve transparency institutions." presence of the head of the in procurement, you are The launch national identification registry, technically ensuring value for which was Andrew Peters, at the launch, money. You will ensure that graced by noting Mr. Peters came smiling at government money does not leak scores of the occasion.

"In spite of all the challenges, I Ngafuan notes, and explains that [ j just saw him smiling. We are money saved therefrom can be going to fund the mass used for government's priorities, agencies and registration and issuance of such as more schools, roads, commissions, digital IDs for two million support to children and gender. Liberians. On this project, we're In response, Acting World Bank development talking about digital Country Manager to Liberia and identification documents for two the entire West Africa, Oyewole

discloses. He continues that in line with the Project. project, support will also go to He acknowledges the sustained the Liberia Revenue Authority to efforts, strong ownership and Editing by integrate the NRA systems with collaboration from the Jonathan other government platforms, government which he believes Browne while scaling up property tax facilitated the preparation of

Project, a US\$20 Million also going to help us in the migration from what we call the goods and services tax, GST, to transformational initiative the value added tax. There are aimed at improving public some systems improvement services, increasing tax training activities that the

transparency and accountability. He says the Ministry or the project will assist the public accounts committee of the 55th distinguished partners, the Legislature, including both the launch of this Great Project is a Senate and the House of step towards a stronger, more Representatives, noting that transparent and efficient they have a joint committee that rding to Liberia", says finance and is responsible for reviewing audit officials of development planning Minister reports and recommendations

remarks during the launch on The Government of Liberia is Thursday, March 20, 2025, at the going to assist in improving data enhance EJS ministerial complex in system to track and follow up on Oldest Congo, Minister Ngafuan audit recommendations. He says digitally said, "I see that through this a digital audit recommendation project, we are going to revamp follow-up tracking system will be the national data center, hosting established at the PAC or Public service, Account Committee to assist them in their work.

there's going to be shared data. He further mentions that the through interoperability among the general auditing commission is improve platforms and systems used going to be a beneficiary thru across government, nothing that digital tools to track other through this project, "we are recommendations and make going to strengthen the counter follow up as well with a modern transparency service centers that are under audit management system that i will have follow-up modules.

in inflated procurement costs", million Liberians", Ngafuan Afuye, thanks the government the for the launch of the Great the EU,

initiatives. "We are going to the project and getting it off to a

strong start.

Mr. Afuve says the six-year project will support the government's Arrest Agenda for Inclusive Development of achieving greater transparency, accountability institutions.

This, he notes, will accelerate efforts to rebuild and transform key institutions, while delivering tangible results for the people of Liberia, including those in hard-to-reach areas.

He says insufficient revenue undermines the ability of the state to provide services, while taxes are particularly difficult to mobilize in an environment of low accountability.

Meanwhile speaking on behalf of all beneficiary institutions of government, Posts and Telecommunications Minister, Sekou Kromah, says when fully implemented, the project will definitely cut down sufficiently waste in public sector processes. Minister Kromah is optimistic that the project will ensure there is full accountability in government, as it will lead to revamping data center at the airport with capacity upgrade to host all ministries and agencies that

are benefiting from the exercise.Acco the MFDP, the project is designed to access to provided public increase tax revenues collection system, and to strengthen

government

officials from ministries, including partners from the World Bank, UN and a m o n g others.

#### www.thenewdawnliberia.com Land dispute leaves River

Two persons have reportedly died in a land dispute in River Gee County, southeast Liberia.

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

🗻 iver Gee County, Liberia, March 21, 2025 - Amidst ongoing tension in a town in River Gee County over land dispute, County Superintendent Mike T. Swengbe, leads Joint Security forces, including soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia to Kiteabo and Glarro to restore peace.

The move of the superintendent comes in the wake of escalating tensions over a disputed land that has already resulted two deaths.

The situation started on March 18, 2025, following a conflict between the people of Glorra and Kiteabo.

The violent turned critical with Eric Nyenpan of Kiteabo and Sebastian Saylee from Glorra killed.

severe unrest to Electoral District #3, River Gee County.

In response to the violence, the Liberia National Police, Armed Forces of Liberia, Police Support Unit, and the Liberia Immigration Service have all been mobilized to the region in a bid to de-escalate the conflict and ensure safety of all citizens.

During their visit to the disputed area, Superintendent Swengbe urged residents of the affected communities to remain calm.

He emphasized that the Government of Liberia is fully committed to addressing the issue on hand and all other land disputes across the county.

He assured victims' families that justice will be served and those responsible for the violence would be held accountable.

Civil society groups and concerned citizens in the county strongly condemn the violence and call for swift and thorough investigation into the incident.

Meanwhile, the Joint Security presence in the disputed area has restored some level of calm, while residents are The situation has brought calling for proper investigation and dialogue between the communities involved. Editing by Jonathan Browne







#### Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission

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#### **Wanted for Theft**

Full Name: David Gonda Wheaton

Gender: Male

Date of Birth: December 26, 1984

Age: 40

Place of Birth: Monrovia Nationality: Liberian

Occupation: Driver

Place of Work: Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC)

Passport Number: PP0335197

Last Known Address: Coca Cola Factory Community,

Paynesville

Father's Name: Jonathan G. Wheaton Mother's Name: Mercy K. Wheaton

Fiancée: Grace S. Weah

Any person having useful information on this individual can contact the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) on the following numbers 0777595695/ 0886595695 or 0886667439 for a handsome reward.

"Building Integrity for Development"



VOL. 15 NO. 040 FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025

# House to ban Shisha and Kush

The House of Representatives is reviewing a petition to halt importation, sale and consumption of Shisha and Kush in Liberia.

By Bridgett Milton

House o f instructed its Committees on # 8.According to the

regular session. The petition onrovia, Liberia, was presented by the March 21, 2025 - The Chairperson on Claims and Petitions, Rep. Prince A. Toles Representatives has of Montserrado County District



Foundation International, calling for a ban on importation, sale, and consumption of shisha and a substance known as kush across Liberia. The House of Representatives took the decision here Thursday, March 20, 2025, during its

Youth and Sports and Health petitioners, they highlighted to review a petition severe health effects of hookah submitted by Restoring Hope smoking, particularly its impact on general health and the cardiovascular system.

> The group notes that while shisha is often wrongly perceived as less harmful than cigarettes, it exposes users to many of the same toxic compounds and by-products at

significantly higher levels, posing risks of infections, cancers, lung diseases, and other medical conditions.

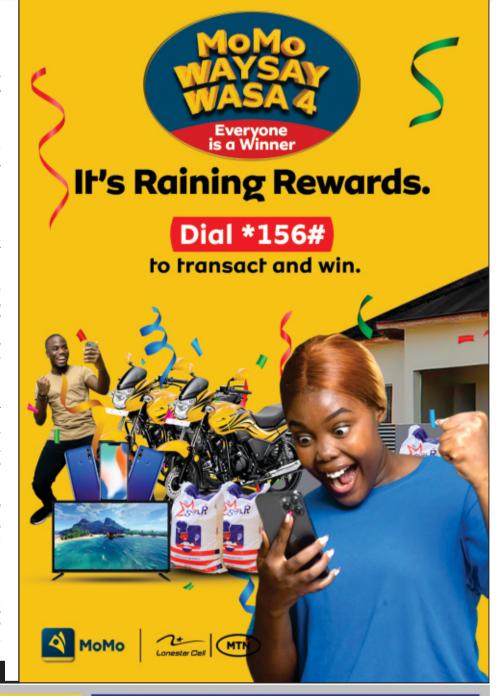
It reveals that shisha smoke contains nicotine, a highly addictive substance, and cancer-causing chemicals, with studies indicating shisha smokers may face double risk of lung cancer and increased risks for mouth and stomach cancers.

According to the group, social acceptance, availability of flavored tobacco, and misconceptions about its safety have contributed to the widespread use of hookahs, particularly among youths and urban populations in Liberia.

The petition also addressed the alarming emergence of kush, calling it a serious public health threat that demands urgent legislative attention.

Lawmakers also acknowledged the growing concerns about the public health risks associated with the rising use of hookah (commonly known as shisha) and kush, a dangerous drug gaining notoriety across the region. Meanwhile, the House

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PUBLISHED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS INC., UN Drive, P. O. Box 1266 **Opposite the National Investment Commission** 

Monrovia - Liberia. Tel: 0886484201 / 0777007529

Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com 0886978282 / 0775407211



