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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025	L\$198.6964/US\$1.00	L\$200.5528/US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia. Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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Teargas disrupts students' petition

-As Lawmakers flee for safety

SRC's Revival Brings Hope, Dignity to Workers



Left to right: Construction work is ongoing for a modest two-bedroom concrete home for SRC workers. Renovated and newly constructed homes under Jeety's management are visible in the background, in stark contrast to the decrepit housing units once used under Socfin's management.

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Continental News

Sudan army accused of killing hundreds in airstrike on Darfur market

A Sudanese war monitor has accused the military of killing hundreds of people in an air strike on a market in the country's western Darfur region. The Emergency Lawyers

showed the smoking ruins of market stalls and bodies charred beyond recognition. A military spokesperson denied targeting civilians, saying it only attacked legitimate hostile targets. Both the Sudanese armed forces and

A Darfur activist group - the Darfur Initiative for Justice and Peace - said it happened on Monday and called it the "deadliest single bombing since the beginning of the war". Civilian deaths in bombing and shelling attacks have intensified in recent months with the escalation of fighting in the country's brutal civil conflict. Some 12 million Sudanese people have fled their homes since war broke out - that is equivalent to Belgium or Tunisia's entire population.

Famine has taken hold and starvation is widespread, the UN says, with over half the country experiencing "high levels of acute food insecurity".

Estimates vary, but it is said that at least 150,000 people have been killed by the fighting.

The RSF has denied evidence that it is committing a genocide in Darfur, including the murder of thousands of civilians, and the rape of non-Arab women as a means of "ethnic cleansing". According the UN, Sudan is the world's worst humanitarian crisis. BBC



The market is not far from the city of el-Fasher, which is controlled by the army

group - which documents abuses by both sides in Sudan's civil war that erupted in April 2023 - said the bombing of Tur'rah market was a "horrific massacre" that had also left hundreds injured. Videos posted on social media - some by the army's rival the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a paramilitary group that controls much of Darfur -

RSF have repeatedly been accused of shelling civilian areas. The RSF has deployed drones in Darfur, but the army has the warplanes - and regularly strikes RSF positions across the region. The BBC has not been able to confirm the death toll or the exact date of the attack on the market, which is located about 35km (21 miles) north of the army-held city of el-Fasher.

Rwanda planning to attack Burundi, president tells BBC

Burundi's president has told the BBC he has seen "credible intelligence" that Rwanda plans to attack his country. Évariste Ndayishimiye also said that Rwanda had tried to launch a coup a decade ago in Burundi, akin to "what it's doing in the Democratic Republic of Congo" now.

Rwanda has already hit back, calling the president's comments "surprising" and insisting that the two neighbours are co-operating on security plans for their shared border, which has been shut for over a year. Despite extensive UN evidence, Rwanda has always denied arming and backing the M23 rebel group, which has recently seized large parts of eastern DR Congo alongside Rwandan troops.

Rwanda has also denied links to the resurgent Red Tabara rebel group, which President Ndayishimiye says is a proxy force similar to the M23 and is being supported by Rwanda to destabilise Burundi.

"They would say it's an internal problem when it's Rwanda [who is] the problem. We know that he [Rwanda's President Paul Kagame] has a plan to attack Burundi," Ndayishimiye added. "Burundians will not accept to be killed as Congolese are being killed. Burundian people are fighters."

"But now we don't have any plans to attack Rwanda. We want to resolve that problem by

dialogue."

At the heart of Ndayishimiye's comments was a call for peace and the full implementation of an agreement between the two nations - a peace deal that had been signed in previous years but, according to Burundi, had not been honoured by Rwanda. "The people who did the 2015 coup [were] organised by Rwanda, and then they ran away. BBC



President Évariste Ndayishimiye made the comments in an exclusive interview with the BBC

Bitcoin in the bush - the crypto mine in remote Zambia

The roar of the Zambezi is deafening as millions of gallons of water crash over rocks and tumble down rapids. But there's another sound cutting through the trees of the Zambian bush - the unmistakable high-pitched whine of a bitcoin mine. "It's the sound of money!" says a smiling Philip Walton as he surveys the shipping container with 120 computers busily crunching through complex calculations that verify bitcoin transactions.

In exchange they are automatically rewarded bitcoin by the network.

We're in the far north-western tip of Zambia near the border with the DRC, and of all the bitcoin mines I've visited - this one is the strangest. Water and electronic equipment don't usually mix well but it's precisely the proximity to the river that's drawn bitcoiners here. Philip's mine is plugged directly into a hydro-electric power plant that channels some of the Zambezi's torrent through enormous turbines to

company. "We recognised that in order to get better mining economics we needed to partner with the power company here and give them a revenue share. And so the reason we're willing to come out here somewhere so remote is it allows us to effectively get cheaper power," he says. Zengamina hydro-power plant is huge but technically it's a mini grid - a standalone island of power for the local community. It was built in the early 2000s thanks to \$3m raised from charity donations. British-Zambian Daniel Rea runs the site after his missionary family led the building project, primarily to power the local hospital. Now it provides power for around 15,000 people in the local area but the project hasn't been able to make ends meet because of slow take-up from the community.

Allowing the bitcoiners to set up shop here has been transformational to the business.

"Every day we were wasting over half of the energy we could generate which also meant we're not earning from that to meet our operating expenses. We needed a major user of power in the area and that's where the game-changing



Engineers from Gridless create makeshift computer labs to maintain their bitcoin mines

generate continuous, clean electricity. More importantly for bitcoin mining - it's cheap. So cheap it made business sense for Philip's Kenya-based company Gridless to drag its shipping container full of delicate bitcoin mining computers across bumpy narrow roads 14 hours from the nearest major city to set up here. Each machine makes about \$5 (£3.90) a day. More if the price of coins is high, less if it drops. Occasionally Philip glances down at his smart watch - the home screen showing the ever-changing squiggly line of bitcoin's dollar value. At the moment it's around \$80,000 a coin, but Philip says they can make a profit even when the value of the bitcoin goes low thanks to the cheap electricity on the site and the partnership they have with the energy

partnership with Gridless came in," Daniel says.

The bitcoin mine now accounts for around 30% of the plant's revenue allowing them to keep the prices down for the local town.

Bitcoin and its economics are of course far from the minds of the people in Zengamina.

The town itself is a few miles from the plant and comprises not much more than a few dozen shed-like buildings peppering a cross roads. Only one shop has a fridge and a dozen kids crowd around a communal computer taking turns to choose a song to blare out, causing adults to wince as they go about their day. Although the hydro-electric plant came online in 2007, it took a few more years to connect it to the local town, and then more time to connect individual homes and businesses. So, some people like barber Damian are still enjoying the novelty of getting wired up only a year and a half ago.

EDITORIAL

The Sethi incident: Government should share some blames too

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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COMMENTARY

By Hippolyte Fofack

Dismantling USAID Could Boost African Self-Reliance

WASHINGTON, DC - Back in 2015, then-Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyattawarned the Pan-African Parliament about the dangers of development assistance. “The future of our continent cannot be left to the good graces of outside interests,” he said. “Foreign aid, which often comes with terms and conditions that preclude progress, is not an acceptable basis for prosperity and freedom. It is time to give it up.”

Kenyatta’s call for self-reliance seems prescient in light of US President Donald Trump’s dismantling of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and recent cuts to already-diminished foreign-aid budgets in France, Germany, and the United Kingdom. He had a point: as aid dependence became more entrenched over the decades, Africa’s share of global trade steadily fell, and now stands at less than 3%. National ambitions to build productive industries that can meet domestic demand have atrophied, and continent-wide efforts to strengthen regional integration have waned.

That is why, despite the disproportionate impact of these cuts on the continent, some Africans see the demise of foreign aid as an opportunity. An Afrobarometer survey of 34 African countries found that 65% of respondents wanted their governments to finance development with their own resources, rather than with external loans.

Self-reliance was an aspiration of independence leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana’s first president and a co-founder of the Organization of African Unity (a forerunner of the African Union) - who viewed the foreign-aid system as a form of neocolonialism. Current Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama has taken up the cause, calling the destruction of USAID “a signal to Africa that the time has come for us to be more self-reliant.”

Africa’s muted response contrasts sharply with the dire predictions of development professionals in Western capitals, who are warning that a humanitarian catastrophe will soon unfold on the continent. According to Nicholas Enrich, formerly USAID’s acting assistant administrator for global health, gutting the agency would result in an additional 71,000-166,000 deaths per year from malaria and one million children annually with untreated severe acute malnutrition, among other harmful consequences.

True, Africa has long depended on foreign aid not just for short-term emergency relief but also for critical health funding. The President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), decades-old programs created by US President George W. Bush, have been instrumental in combating HIV/AIDS and malaria, which are disproportionately prevalent in Africa. Around 67% of people living with HIV worldwide reside in Sub-Saharan Africa and the continent accounts for more than 90% of malaria cases and deaths.

This aid is not confined to Africa’s neediest and most vulnerable countries, such as the Central African Republic, Somalia, and South Sudan, where official development assistance accounts for more than 20% of gross national income. Even Nigeria and South Africa, two of the continent’s largest economies, rely heavily on USAID programs. PEPFAR funds nearly 20% of South Africa’s \$2.3 billion annual HIV/AIDS program, providing life-saving antiretroviral treatments to 5.5 million people every day. PMI support comprises around 21% of the national health budget in Nigeria, which has the world’s highest burden of malaria.

African countries’ dependence on the US for public-health expenditure poses a national-security risk, as vaccine nationalism during the COVID-19 pandemic made clear. It also implies massive governance costs. A 2023 study has shown that foreign aid tends to weaken fiscal capacity in African democracies. These governments may become less accountable to their citizens and more autocratic, propped up by official development assistance.

Foreign aid precludes economic progress precisely because of its “terms and conditions,” as Kenyatta put it. The aid industry in Africa runs largely on foreign contractors, limiting opportunities for African entrepreneurs and undercutting local growth. This constrains the expansion of governments’ very narrow fiscal space, sustains persistently high unemployment rates, and fuels migration pressures. Even South Africa, the continent’s most advanced economy, has an unemployment rate exceeding 30%.

In the wake of Trump’s assault on USAID, Africa should put itself on a path toward health self-sufficiency. That means taking more control over the response to HIV/AIDS and malaria, from research and development to manufacturing diagnostics and treatments, rather than relying on extra-regional solutions and imports. To mitigate the risks of aid dependence and bolster economic growth, African countries must take advantage of the opportunities inherent in health crises and unleash the animal spirits of local entrepreneurs. The Nigerian government has already approved an additional \$200 million in health spending as part of its 2025 budget, and other countries are contemplating similar increases.

African countries must take the same approach to other strategic sectors, especially nutrition security, because overreliance on foreign-aid-funded food imports harms African farmers by distorting markets and depressing local prices. The continent needs fair trade, not aid. With an estimated 60% of the world’s uncultivated arable land, Africa should not be dependent on external suppliers to feed itself.

To be sure, African governments with limited fiscal space and poor access to international markets may not be able to build the infrastructure required to drive domestic production. This problem can be solved by pooling resources with other countries to develop productive infrastructure and resilient regional supply chains, thus boosting intra-African trade and deepening regional integration. India is an example of what can be achieved. After all, its world-beating and uber price competitive generic-drug industry began to take off long before India’s national economy did.

Achieving economies of scale through the African Continental Free Trade Area could help crowd in private capital to build up critical industries. This would enable Africa to expand aggregate output and increase trade levels, both of which have remained dismally low.

Trump’s attack on development assistance can be the wake-up call African leaders need. After decades of lowering ambitions and outsourcing development, it is time for the continent to take full advantage of the growth opportunities associated with domestic crises, rather than ceding control to the aid system and the foreign contractors that fill its ranks. Necessity is the mother of invention, as the cliché goes, which means that the end of USAID could galvanize African governments to confront their countries’ challenges head-on.

OP-ED

By Wolfgang Fengler

Financial Inclusion Must Reach the Last Billion

WASHINGTON, DC - At its most basic level, the goal of economic development is to eradicate poverty. By that metric, significant progress has been made: the number of people living in extreme poverty fell from 1.9 billion in 1990 to an estimated 615 million today, largely owing to supercharged economic growth in the world’s most populous countries in Asia.

But just as the last miles of a marathon are said to be the hardest, the progress made so far is insufficient to carry anti-poverty efforts across the finish line. Now that the fastest population growth is occurring in countries where poverty remains entrenched, and the globalization engine is no longer as powerful as it once was, growth alone is unlikely to be enough. Moreover, escaping poverty is just one step toward true prosperity. To extend the ladder of opportunity to all and integrate the poor into dynamic economic activities, we need alternative and complementary approaches.

Here, bolstering financial inclusion would help, because poverty is not just about how much a person earns. It is about what their earnings can buy them. Lowering the cost of goods and services, and thereby making them more accessible to those who have little, can thus reduce poverty. While advanced-economy governments often provide basic services, that is not the case in the Global South, where benefits are limited in scope. In many Global South countries, basic goods and services are sometimes more expensive for the poor, and it is often costlier to reach this segment of society because they purchase only small quantities of products.

Financial firms have been particularly effective in overcoming these barriers. By lowering the costs of services and expanding access to them, they have demonstrated how inclusion can drive broader development. To explore the thresholds where individuals gain access to financial services, World Data Lab, supported by the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, combined its consumption models with the World Bank’s Findex database.

Our research finds that increasing financial inclusion, which ranges from basic mobile money wallets to full-fledged banking services, disproportionately benefits the poor. We focused on the world’s six billion adults - people aged 15 and older, who are more likely to be economically active - and split them into six buckets of one billion each, according to consumption level.

The poorest billion people, who spend less than \$5 per day, used to be excluded from financial services - their economic lives were built solely on cash payments. But over the last decade, a silent revolution in mobile money and digital payments has taken place, particularly in India and African countries. As a result, more than one-third of the world’s poorest billion adults now have access to financial services (see Chart 1).

These gains have been propelled by the interplay of the income-growth effect, whereby more people have crossed income thresholds that make them “bankable,” and the price effect, whereby the cost of delivering financial services to the un-banked has fallen.

In 2015, around 3.4 billion people had access to financial services. Back then, the “price point” for entering the financial system (at 2017 purchasing power parity) was approximately \$8 per day. That left two billion people - nearly 40% of the world’s adult population at the time - excluded. Over the last decade, economic growth has created a larger global middle class. At the same time, the cost threshold for accessing financial services has dropped substantially, owing to technological innovations such as mobile money and digital banking.

The combination of these two forces has enabled an additional 1.4 billion people - some 800 million from the income-growth effect, and another 600 million from the price effect - to gain access to financial services since 2015. The average global threshold for entering the financial system has dropped to \$5 per day. This lower entry barrier, reflecting the impact of digital money systems, has significantly improved the inclusion of poor people. Among the best-performing countries, especially in Africa, financial services can be offered at a price point of \$2 per day - below the extreme poverty line of \$2.15 per day.

The progress made over the past decade proves that financial inclusion can be achieved with the right mix of innovation, investment, and collaboration. Now, as we approach the last mile in the poverty battle, we must focus on bringing the most marginalized communities into the financial fold.

OPINION

By Ricardo Hausmann

Trump’s \$16 Trillion Trade Blind Spot

CAMBRIDGE – In August 1914, Europeans saw little value in the century of peace that had followed Napoleon’s defeat at Waterloo. As historian Barbara W. Tuchman recounted in her 1962 book *The Guns of August*, public sentiment in Berlin, Paris, London, and Vienna was swept up by a wave of collective euphoria – a feverish excitement over the expected benefits of a swift and decisive world war. The result was four years of misery and devastation.

A similar sense of misguided bravado seems to pervade US President Donald Trump’s administration as it moves ahead with its reckless assault on the global security and trade order of the past 80 years. Convinced of an inevitable and easy victory, Trump has unilaterally declared war on the postwar order, failing to heed the lesson of Field Marshal Helmuth von Moltke the Elder, the military architect behind Prussia’s 1870-71 victory over France: No battle plan survives first contact with the enemy.

At first glance, the United States appears well-positioned to win Trump’s trade war against China and key trading partners like Canada, Mexico, and the European Union. In his public remarks, Trump often fixates on America’s large trade deficit in goods, which reached a record \$1.2 trillion in 2024. According to him, the trade deficit is irrefutable proof that the US is being treated “very, very unfairly, very badly.”

Because it imports more than it exports, the US has more foreign goods to tax than exports vulnerable to retaliation. Trump aims to leverage this strategic advantage by using tariffs – the “most beautiful word in the dictionary,” as he once put it – to pressure firms operating in Canada, Mexico, and China to move production to US soil, thereby eliminating the trade deficit. Given that most of America’s trading partners depend on access to the US market, Trump believes it can flex its economic muscle and force rivals into submission.

But trade is not a battlefield, and economic leverage in one area does not necessarily translate into easy victories elsewhere. The fundamental flaw in Trump’s strategy is that it focuses on the trade deficit in goods while overlooking the much larger role that services, intellectual property, and investment play in the global economy. This myopic perspective makes the US vulnerable to countermeasures that could undermine the very advantages it takes for granted.

The textbook critique of Trump’s trade agenda is that, sooner or later, he will recognize that producing goods in the US raises costs, hurts consumers, and erodes the competitiveness of American exports. But this argument overlooks a crucial detail: America’s economic ties to the rest of the world go far beyond goods. Services and investments are equally – if not more – important. And if that’s where its advantages and potential vulnerabilities lie, there is little reason for other countries to retaliate with tariffs.

Notably, the US runs a sizable surplus in services, totaling \$278 billion in 2023, driven by industries like finance, telecommunications, digital trade, high-value business services, and the licensing of American patents and copyrights. And even that figure reflects only direct sales from the US to foreign consumers. In reality, most large US companies operate abroad through foreign subsidiaries. In 2024, profits from overseas operations amounted to \$632 billion. When these earnings are taken into account, America’s invisible trade surplus approaches \$1 trillion.

Moreover, US-based companies like Apple, Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Nvidia, Johnson & Johnson, and Tesla leverage their innovation-based market power to extract rents from consumers and businesses around the world. If these firms were hit with the equivalent of a tariff, they would not be able to pass the cost on to their customers abroad. After all, if they could raise prices without losing profits, they would have already done so.

If we multiply American companies’ foreign earnings by 26 – the average price-to-earnings ratio of S&P 500 firms – the value of US investments abroad can be estimated at \$16.4 trillion. By contrast, foreign companies operating in the US earned just \$347 billion in 2024. In effect, America’s surplus in services and foreign equity income nearly offsets its trade deficit in goods. That makes its \$16.4 trillion in foreign assets a far more attractive target for retaliation than tariffs on US exports.

America’s technological and intellectual-property (IP) dominance, which underpins its massive services surplus and equity income, is not coincidental. It is rooted in the postwar international order – particularly the grand bargain the international community struck in 1994 during the so-called Uruguay Round of trade negotiations. Under the resulting Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), developing countries committed to enforcing advanced economies’ IP protections in exchange for market access.

As recent research shows, TRIPS has imposed significant costs on most developing countries. Still, they accepted it as the price of gaining greater access to Western markets. But if the US is now seen as reneging on its end of the bargain, why should emerging economies uphold theirs? Many countries would have an incentive to challenge the TRIPS agreement, perhaps even coordinating efforts to weaken or abandon it altogether, putting IP-intensive industries like tech, pharmaceuticals, and entertainment at risk.

While the debate in the US and abroad is focused on tariffs and their impact on prices and exports, other countries will soon begin to wonder whether protecting America’s most valuable economic assets – its IP and the global mechanisms that allow it to be monetized – still serves their interests. When those protections begin to be eroded, maybe – just maybe – Trump and his acolytes will come to see that the multilateral order wasn’t so unfair after all, and perhaps not worth tearing down.

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.

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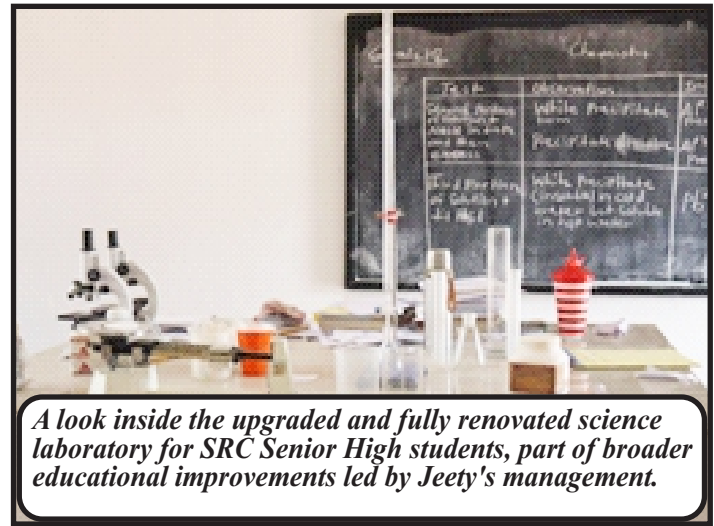
SRC's Revival Brings Hope, Dignity to Workers

"The pace at which the new management is renovating and constructing new homes gives us hope that all workers' camps will receive an upgrade within the 24-month timeframe," says James Kollie, a rubber tapper for over 10 years.

When the Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) changed ownership in August of last year, many dared to hope for a long-overdue turnaround in the living and working conditions of the company workers. Socfin, a Luxembourg multinational group that owned SRC, had just divested its investment, leaving behind years of unresolved social and infrastructural problems. But barely four months later, echoes of optimism are reverberating among workers as issues of decrepit housing units and a plethora of other problems left behind by Socfinaf are being addressed.

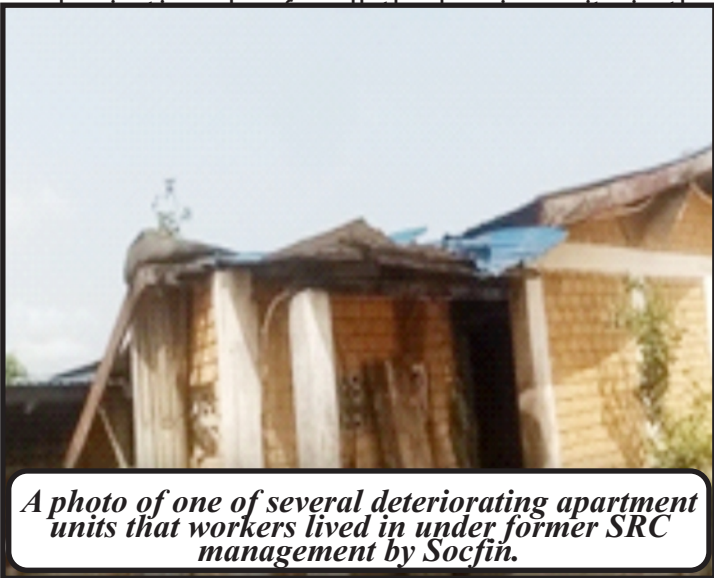
"What we are seeing from the new SRC management is a genuine commitment to solving all the legacy issues that existed under the previous regime," says Henry George, a tapper headsman at Camp One. "We applaud them for the work being done as we look forward to seeing all the legacy issues solved."

A Legacy of Neglect: SRC's Troubled Past



A look inside the upgraded and fully renovated science laboratory for SRC Senior High students, part of broader educational improvements led by Jeety's management.

George's comments come as business tycoon Upjit Singh Sachdeva (Jeety), in the course of acquiring the SRC, made it a priority to address the damning Earthworm Foundation report, which documents a myriad of unresolved social challenges under Socfin. Among the most alarming findings of the report were the dire living conditions of workers and poor provision of social services, among others. However, these dilapidated housing units, for which Socfin was criticized for having workers live in, are being renovated, with the construction of new ones taking place as well. Over 120 homes have already been completed as part of a broader 24-month



A photo of one of several deteriorating apartment units that workers lived in under former SRC management by Socfin.

However, the workers say they hope that all camps will benefit from the housing modernization process in a timely manner, so that every worker can have a home that offers better protection against rain and extreme weather—something that has been lacking for years. In response to the concerns, Jeety says he understands the workers' call for better homes and promises to resolve "the issues once and for all within 24 months," as the living conditions of workers worried him more than anything else.

"My goal is to address all the structural issues—along with others raised in the report, including those related to employment—through a phased and systematic approach," says Jeety in a sit-down interview discussing his vision for SRC and the



One of several photos showing students from SRC High School being served hot meals at no cost during recess, part of a free lunch initiative under Jeety's management.

Earthworm report. "I want every action taken to prioritize the well-being of the workers and, as much as possible, the surrounding communities.

"So far, I have held over three meetings with workers, shared the company reorganization plan with them, and secured their buy-in—finding common ground wherever possible," he added.

Housing at SRC has been the main source of workers' long-standing grievances against the company. In June 2024, tensions peaked, triggering a violent protest, which resulted in the burning and ransacking of the company's properties, forcing Socfin to eventually shut down the company and divest.

According to Jeety, over the course of 24 months, more than 500 homes within SRC will either be renovated or newly constructed, saying the progress made so far clearly demonstrates his commitment to improving the "homes of the company's workforce."

A vision beyond housing

As part of his vision for SRC, Jeety has announced a series of historic first-time projects which, when completed, would improve the overall quality of life on the plantations. These projects include the provision of electricity to all camps at no cost to the workers — an amenity that was virtually unimaginable for workers years ago — and the construction of a borehole system to supply running water in every camp once all are completed.

While these projects are earmarked for completion within two years, some are expected to be ready sooner. Projects including a cost-free Starlink internet service and the introduction of an ambulance are expected to be completed by the third quarter of the year.

In planning these projects, Jeety has held countless meetings with SRC workers to discuss the final details and agree on an implementation timeline. However, the proposed two-year timeline has led to significant disagreement, with workers describing it as "unnecessarily long"—arguing that management has



One of several photos of SRC workers renovated housing units under Jeety's management.

what it takes to complete the projects within one year.

"These projects are truly commendable — but we do not agree with management's two-year timeframe. During our meetings, we negotiated for a one-year or one-and-a-half-year timeline, but management said they could not," says Samuel Morris, one of SRC's longest-serving workers. "We are disappointed, but we appreciate the new management's leadership style — involving us in project planning and holding regular meetings to resolve differences and find common ground. We agreed on the projects but differed on the timeline."

According to Jeety, he understands the workers' desire for fast-tracked projects but economically, it is not feasible, as changes take time and considering the long-term sustainability of the projects, the "two-year timeframe is the best."

"These projects will be provided at no cost to the workers, proper planning requires to ensure the



One of several rundown apartment units occupied by SRC workers during Socfin's tenure..

rely on makeshift solutions in critical moments. The SRC school system and the health center, which were among the many poorly run facilities Jeety inherited as part of his acquisition of the company, have been completely renovated after years of neglect. The clinic now boasts a well-qualified doctor



An inside view of one of the upgraded libraries across SRC schools, renovated as part of ongoing educational improvements under Jeety's management..

and staff, and an array of medical equipment and supplies, including a lab that can perform any diagnosis — just as it can be done at any top-notch hospital in Liberia.

The schools, including the senior high, have been renovated, boasting first-of-its-kind basic necessities like electricity, ceilings, running water, and an upgraded science lab—creating a conducive learning environment—while new school buses ferry children to and from home. Perhaps the most important of the changes has been the introduction of a daily meal program, which parents, students, and administrators say has dramatically boosted attendance and student retention.

"Our enrollment and consistent attendance rates have risen noticeably since we began offering meals," observes Cuthbert Williams, the principal of the SRC school system. "Parents see that their children are guaranteed a proper meal at least once a day, and it encourages them to keep them in class. As a direct result, students are more focused, and we are already

Continue on next page

SRC's Revival Brings Hope, Dignity to Workers



Students test newly installed running water at one of the SRC schools, an improvement carried out under Jeety's management to enhance hygiene and access to clean water.

seeing improvements in exam performance.”

For Daniel Henry, the most exciting of all the developments in SRC is the introduction of a scholarship scheme for graduating students. Under the scholarship scheme, students who score an A+ in the national WASSCE exams will receive scholarships to study in India, while those who earn an A will qualify for local university. The scholarship is historic as it would be the first time SRC sponsored its graduates to seek university educations.

"For years, our schools were neglected. Students were hungry, and buildings were falling apart," says Henry, SRC schools' Student Council President. "Now, classrooms



Left to right: Workers apply finishing touches to one of several newly built, modest apartment units for SRC employees under Jeety's management, with a few completed units visible nearby.

have fans, bathrooms are clean, running water is available, and reading rooms and labs are up to date. The most exciting of all of these is the scheme of scholarships—both local and international.”

The Employment Paradigm Shift
Beyond physical infrastructure, Jeety has also had to deal with the massive layoff of workers, which created uncertainty and economic distress among the local communities. There was fear that he would continue with downsizing, leaving hundreds of workers unemployed. Instead, he took a different approach, re-hiring the laid-off workers, saving 900 jobs in the process as a result of Socfin’s closure.

The issue of salary advances with interest was another sticking point. The Jeety management had inherited a structure where senior Liberia staff, along with others,



A photo of the renovated SRC Senior High School building, now managed by Jeety, reflecting significant upgrades under the new leadership.

without the company management knowledge, had established a loan scheme in which salary advances were given as loans with a steep 25% interest rate, forcing many workers to find themselves caught in a cycle of debt, struggling to meet monthly expenses.

While the policy remains, the interest rate has since been canceled — a move employees described as life-saving. "The management’s decision to cancel the interest rate is one of the most impactful structural changes on the lives of the workers," says Joseph Sackie, head of Camp Two.

"Now, we have access to cash at any point in time, without the worries of running into debt," Sackie added. "We're thankful that the new management listened to us, and kept the policy but removed the contentious part, which was the interest rate."

At the same time, the employment reforms pursued by Jeety have seen a remarkable turnaround in the lives of rubber cup cleaners—a critical task in daily plantation operations carried out by women. Previously, a cup cleaner used to be hired by a tapper and paid US\$15, which would amount to US\$45 if she worked for three tappers. But now, all of them — 120 in total — have been formally hired by SRC and paid \$120 per month, for five-hour work shifts, which is far above their previous \$45 salary.

"I used to worry if the contractor would pay me on time, or if they would deduct unexplained costs," says 30-year-old Mary David, who has cleaned rubber cups for more than five years. "Now, I have a consistent wage and I’m recognized as a full SRC employee. My family’s quality of life has improved, and I feel like I’m finally being treated with respect. We now work for a shorter time than before, among other benefits."

Mary’s view has been echoed by her colleagues — as they describe the changes as historic and a sign of growing respect for their labor and contributions. While Jeety’s nearly five months of ownership of SRC has brought about a mix of



A photo of one of several renovated classrooms at the SRC school under Jeety's management, now equipped with 24-hour electricity and ceiling fans to improve the learning environment.

relief and cautious optimism, one common theme among workers is the issue of bonus systems. Workers say even though their base salaries are in alignment with the Decent Work Act, the existing bonuses do not reflect the rising cost of living. When asked about these concerns, Jeety acknowledged the workers’ desire for a higher bonus system but noted that the current arrangement was agreed upon in consultation with them.

"Back in February, we held meetings, and it was actually the workers who proposed that the bonus be given in cash instead of rice—we agreed on that," he said. "At the same time, our reforms have saved workers about \$25 on average, since they no longer pay interest on salary advances, plus another \$15 because they’re not covering the cost of cup cleaners. That’s \$40 in total savings per worker."

"We inherited a business that had been running at a loss for years. Our main goal is to return the business to profitability while at the same time, looking at the welfare of our employees," Jeety noted. "That said, we take the bonus concerns seriously and will review them in the near future."

As it stands, SRC workers remain cautiously optimistic, saying that they believe the Sachdeva ownership of SRC will bring about genuine and transformational change—one that honors their labor, values their lives, and offers their children a brighter tomorrow.

Français

Gongloe interpelle Koung : "Nimba appartient à tous les Nimbaiens »

L'ancien candidat à la présidence s'oppose aux propos du Vice-président Jeremiah Koung et plaide pour une représentation équilibrée de Nimba. L'ancien candidat à la présidence, Me Tiawan

tribale clivante. Il rappelle que Nimba appartient à toutes ses communautés et non uniquement aux locuteurs Gio. Le Vice-président Koung avait exhorté les Mah et les autres groupes ethniques de Nimba à soutenir un candidat issu de la communauté Gio (ou Dan) lors

d'avocats Gongloe and Associates à Monrovia, Me Gongloe a souligné que le comté de Nimba traverse un moment crucial.

Il a rappelé que le parti au pouvoir, l'Unity Party, et son allié, le Mouvement pour la Démocratie et la Reconstruction (MDR), disposent déjà de représentants au Sénat issus de Nimba. Selon lui, une représentation véritablement équilibrée exige qu'un siège soit également occupé par l'opposition.

"Envoyons un message clair : Nimba est un comté où chacun - indépendamment de son genre, de son district ou de son affiliation politique - peut servir. Il est donc essentiel que les populations politiquement marginalisées du comté, notamment les femmes ainsi que les membres des communautés Krahn, Mandingue, Kpelleh et Bassa (Gbi et Doru), se sentent



Saye Gongloe, fils du comté de Nimba, a vivement réagi aux récentes déclarations du Vice-président Jeremiah K. Koung, qu'il accuse de promouvoir une politique

de la prochaine élection sénatoriale partielle, plutôt que de "gaspiller" leurs voix sur un autre prétendant. S'exprimant lors d'une conférence de presse le lundi 24 mars 2025, dans son cabinet

Protestation des élèves du MCSS contre l'absence de leurs enseignants

Les activités académiques du lycée William V.S. Tubman, situé sur la 12 rue à Sinkor, ont été interrompues le lundi 24 mars 2025, alors que des élèves sont descendus dans la rue pour exiger une augmentation des salaires de leurs enseignants. Des élèves en colère ont envahi les rues, brandissant des pancartes et scandant des slogans, appelant le gouvernement à augmenter les salaires de leurs enseignants et à répondre à leurs revendications. Les manifestants ont insisté sur le fait qu'en l'absence d'une revalorisation salariale, leurs professeurs ne retourneraient pas en classe. Ils ont dénoncé l'absence de leurs enseignants depuis plus de deux jours, une situation qui, selon eux, menace leur progression académique à l'approche de leurs examens de quatrième période, prévus pour la semaine suivante. Les élèves ont également

mis en garde les autorités : si aucune mesure n'était prise pour satisfaire les revendications des enseignants et permettre la reprise des cours dès le mardi 25 mars, ils organiseraient une manifestation encore plus massive, susceptible d'affecter le siège du Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS). Face à la montée de la tension, des rapports ont indiqué que les administrateurs de l'école J.J. Roberts, voisine du lycée Tubman, avaient demandé aux élèves de rentrer chez eux par précaution. Les parents ont été conseillés de ne pas envoyer

leurs enfants à l'école, par crainte d'une escalade des protestations. Une grève lancée par l'Association des enseignants du MCSS Cette mobilisation fait suite à l'annonce, le jeudi 20 mars 2025, d'un mouvement de grève par l'Association des enseignants du Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSSTA). Le président de l'association, Augustine Nyormui, a déclaré lors d'une conférence de presse que les enseignants



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

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Gongloe interpelle Koung : "Nimba

incluses et représentées", a-t-il déclaré. Il estime que cette inclusion passe par un accès équitable aux postes électifs et a appelé les électeurs de Nimba à voter en faveur de la seule candidate féminine en lice pour cette élection sénatoriale. "Vous avez sept candidats issus de l'opposition parmi lesquels choisir, mais l'un d'eux se distingue : une femme qui a servi avec mérite en tant que Superintendante de notre comté et qui est arrivée deuxième lors de trois précédentes élections sénatoriales. Il n'y a actuellement aucune femme dans le Caucus législatif de Nimba. Edith Gongloe-Weh, originaire du district statutaire de Yarwin-Mehnnsonoh - l'un des rares districts à n'avoir jamais produit de sénateur - est la seule candidate féminine de cette course. Je vous exhorte à voter pour Madame Edith Gongloe-Weh. Elle représente notre meilleure chance d'assurer un leadership inclusif, équilibré et tourné vers l'avenir au Sénat", a plaidé Me Gongloe. Il a rappelé qu'historiquement, tous les districts d'origine de Nimba ont déjà produit des sénateurs, à l'exception de Yarwin-Mehnnsonoh et de Gbelley Geh. Il a souligné que, par le passé, la représentation sénatoriale de Nimba était équilibrée, avec un sénateur issu de la partie haute du comté et l'autre de la partie basse. Il a évoqué la dernière élection respectant ce schéma en 1997, qui avait vu l'élection de la sénatrice Margaret Kermah de Tappita (Basse Nimba) et du sénateur George Korkor de Gbanquoi (Haute Nimba). "Actuellement, un sénateur issu de la Haute Nimba siège déjà au Sénat. Il est donc impératif qu'un représentant de la Basse Nimba soit élu pour garantir un équilibre géographique et historique. C'est précisément ce qui fait de Madame Gongloe-Weh le choix idéal pour combler ce siège vacant", a poursuivi Me Gongloe. Edith Gongloe-Weh est la sœur biologique de

Me Tiawan Gongloe, qui dirige actuellement le Liberian People's Party (LPP). En outre, Me Gongloe a mis en avant les implications financières et politiques de cette élection partielle. Il a critiqué la candidature du député Samuel Kogar, représentant du parti au pouvoir, soulignant que son éventuelle élection déclencherait une nouvelle élection partielle pour pourvoir son siège à la Chambre des représentants. "Si Samuel Kogar est élu, une troisième élection partielle devra être organisée depuis les élections générales de 2023. Ces scrutins successifs ont un coût. Alors que les États-Unis ont réduit leur aide au Liberia et que notre pays est appelé à adopter des mesures d'austérité, pouvons-nous vraiment nous permettre d'organiser encore une élection coûteuse à peine deux ans après les générales ? Il ne s'agit pas seulement d'une question de stratégie politique, mais de gouvernance responsable", a-t-il averti. Il a également dénoncé l'impact financier de ces élections successives sur une économie déjà fragile. "Voter pour le candidat du parti au pouvoir, dans ce contexte, reviendrait à cautionner des dépenses publiques inutiles qui alourdisent encore davantage notre économie en difficulté. Trop longtemps, les femmes de Nimba ont été écartées des instances législatives. Nos voisins - Bong, Grand Gedeh et Grand Bassa - ont tous élu des femmes au sein de leur caucus législatif. Pourquoi continuerions-nous à refuser à nos propres mères et filles cette opportunité ? Élire Edith Gongloe-Weh serait un premier pas significatif vers la justice et l'équité. Cela montrerait que Nimba valorise toutes les voix de ses citoyens", a-t-il conclu. La Commission nationale des élections a fixé l'élection sénatoriale partielle de Nimba au 22 avril 2025.

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Protestation des élèves du MCSS

cesseraient d'enseigner jusqu'à ce que leurs revendications soient prises en compte. Parmi ces revendications figurent : Une augmentation des salaires en fonction du niveau d'éducation des enseignants ; L'intégration des enseignants bénévoles en tant qu'employés à temps plein ; La mise en œuvre des augmentations salariales précédemment promises ; Une augmentation du budget alloué au fonctionnement des écoles. M. Nyormui a reconnu que cette grève aurait un impact significatif sur les élèves, mais a estimé qu'elle était nécessaire pour contraindre le gouvernement à agir. Des promesses non tenues L'année dernière, le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, avait déclaré que le gouvernement envisageait une revalorisation des salaires dans les secteurs essentiels, dont l'éducation. Il avait précisé que les employés gagnant en dessous du salaire minimum verraient leur rémunération portée à au moins 150 dollars, avec des ajustements selon leur catégorie. Toutefois, le directeur général de l'Agence de la fonction publique (CSA), Josiah F. Joekai, a révélé le 18 février 2025 que le

ministère des Finances avait alloué 8,8 millions de dollars américains à cette mesure, bénéficiant à 5 612 employés des secteurs prioritaires, notamment l'éducation. Cependant, selon une source interne au MCSS, les enseignants de cette institution n'ont pas bénéficié de cette augmentation, le MCSS étant une entité publique sous la tutelle du ministère de l'Éducation, mais disposant d'une certaine autonomie administrative. Cette source, qui a requis l'anonymat, a expliqué que sous l'administration Weah, le recrutement massif de personnel avait gonflé la masse salariale, obligeant le gouvernement à procéder à un audit avant toute nouvelle revalorisation. En l'absence d'ajustements salariaux pour les enseignants du MCSS, l'association des enseignants a donc décidé de déclencher un mouvement de grève pour attirer l'attention des autorités. Une situation sous haute surveillance La mobilisation des élèves du MCSS, qui se sont révoltés le 24 mars pour exiger une réponse du gouvernement, a poussé les forces de l'ordre à intervenir. Quatre véhicules de police transportant des agents

ArcelorMittal Liberia approuve le troisième amendement de son accord minier

Monrovia, Liberia, 25 mars 2025 - ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) a annoncé son soutien au cadre de gestion « User-Operator » proposé dans le troisième amendement de son Accord de Développement Minier (MDA) avec le gouvernement libérien, réaffirmant ainsi son engagement en faveur d'un modèle ferroviaire partagé. Ce modèle, largement adopté pour le transport de matières premières en vrac en Australie, au Brésil et au Canada, a également fait ses preuves dans le secteur minier en Guinée voisine. ArcelorMittal Liberia a accepté les principes d'exploitation du système ferroviaire (Rail System Operating Principles - RSOP) recommandés par le gouvernement libérien, garantissant ainsi une gestion transparente et non discriminatoire du réseau ferroviaire. Dans ce cadre, une Autorité ferroviaire nouvellement créée sera chargée de superviser les normes, de mener des inspections et d'assurer le respect des règles par tous les utilisateurs du réseau. Ces principes multi-utilisateurs entreront immédiatement en vigueur. Le modèle guinéen comme référence ArcelorMittal cite l'exemple de la Guinée, où le modèle « User-Operator » a été mis en place avec succès dans le secteur de la bauxite. En Guinée, le gouvernement autorise les sociétés minières à investir dans les infrastructures ferroviaires et portuaires tout en maintenant un contrôle opérationnel. En contrepartie, ces entreprises financent les coûts d'investissement, allouent des capacités ferroviaires aux autres utilisateurs et contribuent à l'économie nationale par le biais des taxes et redevances.



Dans ce système, les entreprises minières exploitent les infrastructures qu'elles développent sur une période de 35 ans, tout en garantissant un accès partagé à d'autres acteurs du secteur. ArcelorMittal Liberia plaide pour une approche similaire au Liberia afin d'encourager les investissements étrangers dans le développement des infrastructures. La société met en garde contre l'adoption de politiques favorisant des opérateurs extérieurs au détriment des investisseurs déjà établis, ce qui pourrait décourager les financements à long terme. Les enjeux de l'exportation du minerai guinéen via le Liberia Alors que des discussions sont en cours concernant le transport du minerai de Guinée via le Liberia, ArcelorMittal souligne que la Guinée a, pendant plus de quarante ans, rejeté de telles propositions. Aujourd'hui, avec l'achèvement de l'infrastructure ferroviaire du Trans-Guinea Railway, il est peu probable que la Guinée revienne sur sa position et accepte d'exporter ses ressources via le Liberia. Dans ce contexte, AML s'interroge sur l'intérêt des entreprises à investir dans les infrastructures ferroviaires et portuaires libériennes si l'État prévoit d'en confier la gestion à un opérateur tiers. L'entreprise insiste sur la nécessité pour le Liberia de tirer des leçons du modèle guinéen en garantissant un environnement propice aux investissements, tout en assurant des bénéfices économiques durables pour le pays. Investissements et engagement d'ArcelorMittal Liberia Malgré les controverses sur l'usage du réseau ferroviaire, ArcelorMittal Liberia réaffirme son engagement en faveur d'un système ferroviaire multi-utilisateurs et continue d'investir

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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LN RCS concludes induction training for local and regional leadership

Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, March 26, 2025 - The Liberia National Red Cross Society (LN RCS) has successfully concluded a two-day induction training for its newly elected local and

Resource mobilization and Fundraising. The induction training was designed to address a critical knowledge gap following recent local elections conducted by the Red Cross across Liberia's 15

governance structure, policies, and principles of the Red Cross so that they can lead with excellence and integrity." With the growing humanitarian challenges, the training emphasized the importance of strong leadership and coordination to sustain Red Cross humanitarian actions and ensure its visibility and relevance among key community actors. Participants gained insights into governance principles, policies, and guidelines, equipping them to enhance institutional integrity and promote adherence to humanitarian standards. "The future of humanitarian action in Liberia depends on the strength of our local leadership," Blamoh added. "By investing in their training and development, we are reinforcing our commitment to accountability, transparency, and impactful service to the most vulnerable communities." In addition to strengthening governance, the training provided a platform for fostering collaboration and coordination among Red Cross local offices in the southeastern region. This initiative aims to improve the delivery of humanitarian services, advocate for local needs, and drive impactful action on the ground.



regional leadership under the theme: Strengthening Leadership and Collaboration for Effective Governance and Management. The training, held in Zwedru from March 20 to 21, 2025, brought together 36 participants from Sinoe, Grand Kru, Maryland, River Gee, and Grand Gedeh counties. The attendees included local governance members, management staff, the LN RCS Southeastern Regional Vice President, and the Chairpersons on policy and governance as well as

counties. those elections resulted in 92 individuals assuming various leadership positions, with 93% of them (elected officials) being new to their positions and unfamiliar with their roles and responsibilities. "The success of the Red Cross in responding to humanitarian needs at the community level depends on strong, knowledgeable, and committed leadership," said Gregory T. Blamoh, Secretary-General of the LN RCS. "This induction training is a vital step in ensuring that our newly elected leaders understand the

Police Seize Truck Hauling Scrap Materials in Bong's District One"

A truck transporting a large quantity of scrap materials from Bong's District One was impounded on Sunday by police in Gbarnga.

By: Edwin N Khakie

Gbarnga, Bong County, March 25: The arrest took place on the grounds that local authorities were reportedly unaware of the county's recent unveiling of scrap vendors, which took place weeks ago. According to reports, the truck was stopped during routine checks, and the drivers were questioned about the legitimacy of their cargo. Police officials stated that they were not informed about the formal unveiling of scrap vendors in the county, leading to the arrest. However, later this evening, the truck was released after the vendors involved presented the necessary documentation to verify that their business activities were authorized. The vendors were able to

prove that they had the proper permits and licenses for transporting and dealing in scrap materials. In response to the incident, some citizens of Kpaai District have expressed dissatisfaction with the county's handling of the vendor unveiling. They stated that they will continue to engage with any scrap vendors regardless of the county's actions, citing

the failure to properly inform the community about the vendors' activities.

The situation has raised concerns about communication between local authorities and residents, as well as the lack of clear coordination in regulating scrap vendors in the area.

Mr. Sam Baryougah Elliott Sr., Bong County Administrative Officer who headed the unveiling ceremony in Botota is expected to address these concerns in the coming days.



First Lady Kattumu Boakai calls for collective fight against TB

Liberian First Lady, Ms Kattumu Boakai, is calling for all hands on deck, in the battle against Tuberculosis or TB in Liberia.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, March 26, 2025 - First Lady Kattumu Boakai, emphasizes a need for collective effort in the fight against tuberculosis (TB) in Liberia. Her call for unity and commitment suggests that tackling TB requires collaboration among government agencies, healthcare workers, international partners, and the public. She echoed that with the right strategy and investment, the nation can achieve tremendous success, as she dedicated 50 Olympus microscope generously provided by Global Fund, to enhance laboratory diagnosis services. She calls on all Liberians to take the right precautionary measures

First Lady stated.

According to the latest data from WHO, one life is lost every 78 seconds globally. The situation demands renewed commitment and sustained investments to end TB as a public threat on the continent and beyond. Despite Liberia TB Control Program significant strides in the fight against the deadly disease, yet there is more to do, according to WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu. The World Health Organization (WHO) has urged all member states, policymakers, health care providers, civil society and partners to step up, and act with urgency, to close the TB funding gap by increasing investments at national and international levels. Plan Liberia had also



including early testing, proper treatment adherence and maintaining healthy living conditions. Ms Boakai gave the urge during remark at program marking World TB Day here.

The First Lady, who is the National TB Ambassador for Liberia, reaffirmed her role to improving the health and wellbeing of all citizens. She thanked the Ministry of Health and partners that have continued to support this cause, mentioning that TB remains a significant public health concern worldwide and even in Liberia today.

"While we have made great stride in the fight against this disease, much needs to be done; ending TB is possible but this requires and collective commitment and strategic investment and unwavering dedication to deliver on our promises." The

expressed readiness relatively with the Government of Liberia and will continue to pledge unwavering support to enhance efforts end tuberculosis, HIV, and malaria in Liberia.

Miriam Murray, Country Director of Plan International Liberia emphasized tirelessly efforts to combat TB continue and that all should be committed at all times to combat anything that stops or interferes with the development of the young people, women, girls, and the communities.

"TB presents one of the world's health challenges; its prevalence is high in Liberia and should be made a serious concern to ensure that everyone is onboard to end TB in Liberia", she said.

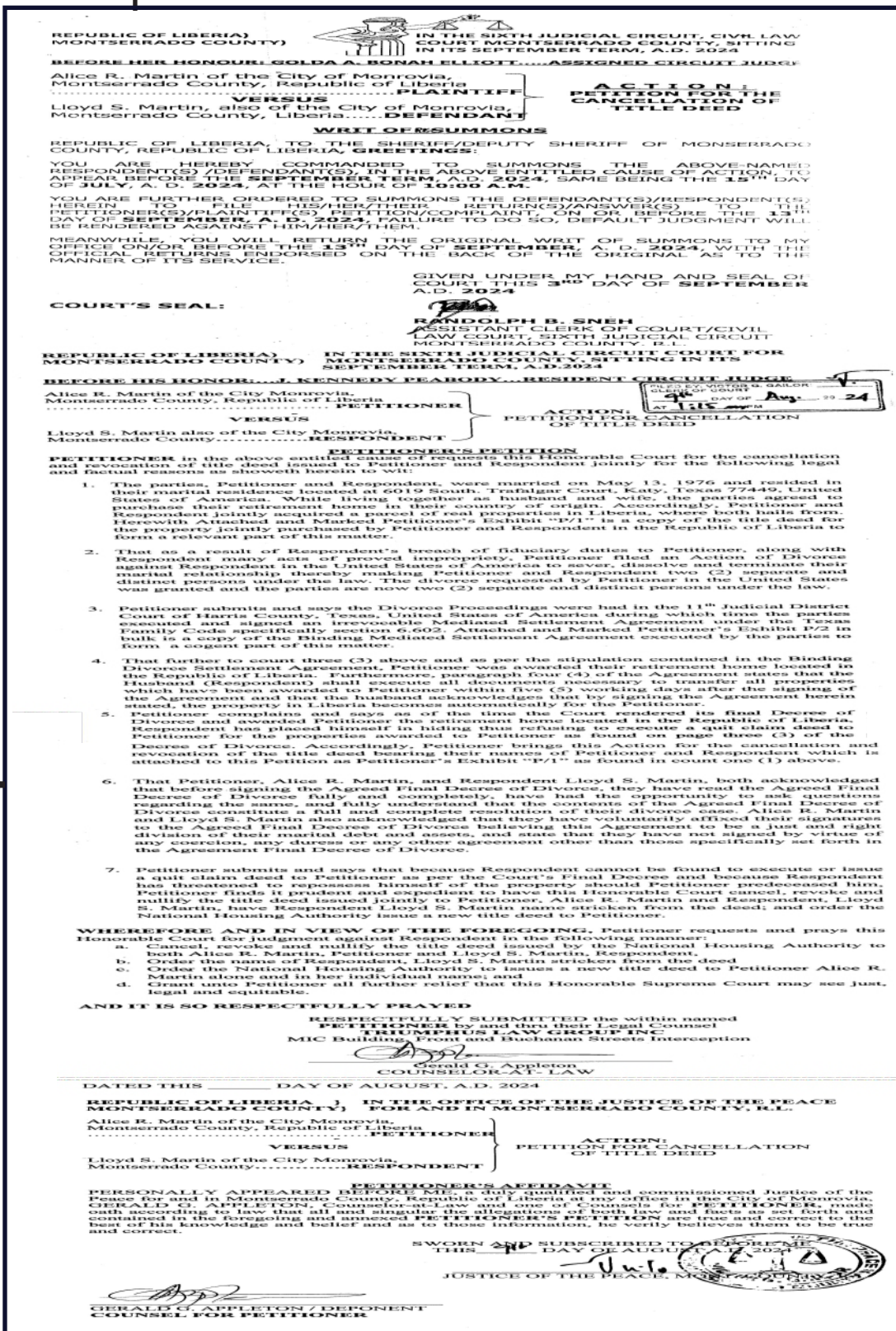
On March 24, 2025, the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Nimba searches for PYJ's replacement

First Lady Kattumu Boakai calls

attendance were students from Montserrado County. The program, which began with a parade from the premises of the Ministry of Health in Congo Town, was held at the Paynesville City Hall. Editing by Jonathan Browne



-8 candidates in the race

Nimba, Liberia, March 26, 2025 - As Nimba County gears up for a

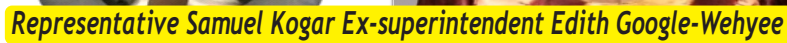
Democracy and Reconstruction died last year when he collapsed suddenly at his residence in Paynesville outside Monrovia. He was

only two are looking elsewhere, including Representative Taa Wongbay of District#9, who is supporting the only female in the race Madam Edith Google Wehyee, while Representative Musa Hassan Bility has, for obvious reason, thrown weight behind his newly-formed Citizens Movement for Change (CMC's) candidate, former county inspector Mack Gbliwon.

However, the pending senatorial by-election promises to be a competitive race, as four out of the eight candidates vying continue to receive huge endorsement on a daily basis.

They include Representative Samuel Kogar from the late Senator PYJ's MDR, who is said to be receiving significant from citizens, including Vice President Jeremiah Koug, followed by Former Superintendent Edith Gongloe-Wehyee, who is being endorsed by rural women and men across Nimba; Former District#4 Representative, Cllr. Garrison Yealu and Former County Inspector, B. Mack Gbliwon.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 07



crucial senatorial by-election on April 22, 2025 to replace late Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, debate continues among Nimbaians, who to elect to complete the nine-year term of the late PYJ, who was fond of calling himself “godfather” of Nimba politics. The late Sen. Johnson, kingmaker and founder of the Movement for

poised to spend 27 years in the senate, having already served two 9-year terms since 2005. A NEW DAWN's survey gathered that out of a total of nine Representatives from the county, six alongside current lone Senator Nya D. Twayen, Jr., are supporting the senatorial bid of Representative Samuel Kogar. Out of 11 caucus members,

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New Dawn Sports
Gwas raises red flag

The New Dawn
Uncertainty hangs over schools
As authorities weigh whether to close 10
Nephew butchered uncle

A photograph showing two large, industrial Heidelberg printing machines in a workshop setting. The machine on the left is a smaller, older model with a yellow and black frame. The machine on the right is a larger, more modern model with a black frame and a large control panel. The text "2 Colors Heidelberg Machines" is overlaid in the center of the image.

A hand holding a pen is shown pressing down on a document. The word "PRESS" is written in large, bold, white letters on the document. The background is a vibrant, abstract splash of colors including red, yellow, green, and blue, suggesting a dynamic or creative environment.

A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a letterhead with the New Dawn logo and a blank space for an address, a calendar with the New Dawn logo and the word 'CALENDAR', a magazine cover with the headline 'J\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections', and a brochure with the New Dawn logo and the word 'BROCHURE'. The background is a colorful, abstract pattern.

A collage image. On the left, a person is operating a large industrial machine, likely a paper mill. On the right, there is a collection of various paper products, including notebooks, documents, and a roll of paper, set against a colorful, abstract background.

A photograph of a large industrial machine, possibly a paper mill component like a winder or unwinder. The machine has a white upper section with a control panel on the left side. The control panel includes several buttons, a small digital display showing "0.00", and some text labels. Above the control panel, there's a colorful, curved decorative element with green, yellow, and red stripes. To the right of the control panel, there's a large, dark, rectangular opening, possibly a motor or a part of the machinery. Below the main body of the machine, there's a white cabinet with a door and a handle. The overall appearance is that of a well-used industrial piece of equipment.