



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

**LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR** DATE **BUYING SELLING** WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025 L\$200.8466/US\$1.00 L\$198.9649/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.

**French Version Inside** 

Google Play **QPR CODE: 797005** Down Load

NewDawn

**VOL. 15 NO. 053** 

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 09, 2025



# GOV't to look into Taylor's claims Former VP Taylor

**Support Your Family Beyond Borders with MoMo.** 















# Continental News

# Algeria and Mali block flights from South Sudan to accept man deported each other after drone shot down from US in bid to defuse visa row

closed their airspace to Algeria described the allegations terrorist acts against the Iflights from the other regarding terrorism as "lacking in AES". Mali has also summoned country, as the row over a seriousness [and they]... drone that was shot down close warrant no attention or Bamako over the incident,



to their common border escalates.On Sunday, without giving evidence, Mali accused its northern neighbour of being a sponsor and exporter of terrorism after Algeria attacked one of its drones last week.Algeria was the first to ban flights to and from Mali, then Mali later said it was doing the same to all Algerian flights "in reciprocation".Sunday's strongly worded statement from Mali's foreign ministry had challenged Algeria's earlier explanation that the unmanned surveillance aircraft had violated its airspace. The

response". Mali's armed forces are fighting ethnic Tuareg separatists in the north. They have a stronghold in the town of Tinzaoutin, which straddles the Mali-Algeria border.

The shooting down of the drone raised diplomatic tensions, as Mali, along with its allies Niger and Burkina Faso, recalled their ambassadors from Algiers.

Last year, the three junta-led countries formed a regional bloc, the Alliance of Sahel States, known by its French acronym AES.In their joint statement condemning Algeria, they said the shooting down of statement described the the drone "prevented the downing of the drone as a neutralisation of a terrorist

lgeria and Mali have each "hostile premeditated action". group that was planning the Algerian ambassador in declaring that it would file a complaint with "international bodies". It also withdrew from a regional security grouping that includes Algeria.

In its response on Monday, Algeria said it noted the Malian and AES statements with "deep dismay". It described Mali's allegations as an attempt to divert attention away from its own failures. It also said this was the third violation of its airspace in recent months.

"Due to the repeated violations of our airspace by Mali, the Algerian government has decided to close it to air traffic coming from or to Mali, effective today," Algeria's defence ministry said on Monday.Last Wednesday, Algeria acknowledged that it had shot down an "armed reconnaissance drone" close to Tinzaoutin saying it had "penetrated our airspace over a distance of 2km [1.24 miles]". But the junta in Bamako denied

that the drone had violated Algeria's airspace. It said that the aircraft's wreckage was found 9.5km inside its borders. Giving more details on Monday, Algeria said that the aircraft had entered its airspace "then exited before returning on an attack trajectory".BBC

now allow the entry of a man deported from the US, in a dramatic climb down aimed at defusing a visa row between the two countries. On Saturday, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced that the US would be revoking US visas for all South Sudanese. He said it was a response to South Sudan's refusal to accept the return of its citizens being removed from the US.In its initial reaction, South Sudan's foreign ministry said the move was based on a case involving someone who had been incorrectly identified as South Sudanese and was sent back as a result. The government now says it will allow the man to enter the country "in the spirit of the friendly relations".It adds that the deported man, identified as being from the Democratic Republic of Congo, could arrive in the capital, Juba, as early as Wednesday.

"As a result of this decision, the government has

outh Sudan has said it will world's newest country, at US ports of entry. He blamed "the failure of South Sudan's transitional government to accept the return of its repatriated citizens in a timely manner"."We will be prepared to review these actions when South Sudan is in full cooperation," he added.But in a statement on Monday, South Sudan's foreign ministry said it "deeply regrets" the blanket measure against all of the country's citizens based on "an isolated incident involving misrepresentation by an individual who is not a South Sudanese national".It said the man at the centre of the visa row was a Congolese national and he was returned to the US. It added that all supporting evidence was shared with American officials.

But Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau dismissed South Sudan's explanation as "legally irrelevant", saying the African country's embassy in Washington "certified this particular individual as one of their nationals"."It is unacceptable and irresponsible for South Sudanese government officials to second guess the determination of their



deported man was from the Democratic Republic of Congo

## Fifty hippos killed by t least 50 hippos and other lakes, where more dead animals wildlife and boil water from

poisoning in Africa's oldest anthracis and can be deadly but national park, its director has usually it does not spread easily. said. Photos shared by the It largely survives as spores that also most dangerous, national Virunga National Park in the hide away in soil for years before parks on the continent. started appearing last week.

The exact cause of the poisoning is unknown but tests have confirmed the presence of anthrax.

Park director Emmanuel de Merode said work was under way to recover the animals and bury them to prevent further spread. but it was difficult because there were no excavators."It's difficult due to lack of access and logistics," he told Reuters news agency.

"We have the means to limit the spread by... burying them with caustic soda."

The river runs north to Lake Edward, one of Africa's great

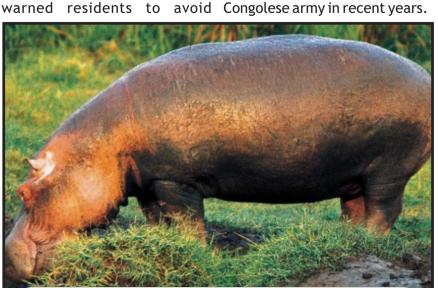
large animals have been have been reported locally.

killed by anthrax Anthrax is caused by Bacillus

local sources before drinking.

Stretching 7,800 sq km (3,000 sq miles), Virunga is one of the most biologically diverse, but

Democratic Republic of Congo entering an animal through The park is a popular tourist in show the motionless animals inhalation or a cut or wound. The destination but has also been floating along the Ishasha River. Congolese Institute for the affected by the conflict Park officials say they first Conservation of Nature has between rebel groups and the



Virunga in eastern DR Congo is home to a third of the world's remaining mountain gorillas and more than 1,000 hippos

instructed the relevant own embassy," Landau added. International Airport to facilitate [his] arrival," South Sudan's foreign ministry said statement.Referring to other possible removals, the ministry said the country was committed to supporting the return of its "verified nationals" who are scheduled for deportation from the US.

The US move at the weekend was the first time the US targeted all passport holders from a particular country since President Donald Trump returned to the White House in January, having campaigned on an antiimmigration platform, with the promise of "mass deportations".

In his statement on Saturday, Rubio said that the US would also block any arriving

citizens of South Sudan, the

authorities at Juba South Sudan's Information Minister Michael Makuei Lueth told the AP news agency that the US was "attempting to find faults with the Tuesday's tense situation" in the country because no sovereign nation would accept foreign deportees. This row comes as fears grow that South Sudan may again descend into civil war after the country's First Vice-President Riek Machar had been placed under house arrest.

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir accused Machar of stirring up a new revolt.Last month, the US ordered all its non-emergency staff in South Sudan to leave as fighting broke out in one part of the country, threatening a fragile peace deal agreed in 2018 that ended a fiveyear civil war. South Sudanese in the US were previously granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS), which allowed them to remain in the US for a set period of time.TPS for South Sudanese in the US had been due to expire by 3 May. BBC

By Richard K. Sherwin

## EDITORIAL

### S/Court ruling should change the "chaotic trend" in Liberia

he Supreme Court of Liberia recently described the ongoing leadership crisis in the House of Representatives as a "chaotic trend" in Liberia that needs to needs to be reversed. We couldn't have agreed with the High Court any

Despite the presence of the legitimate Speaker of the House, a group of lawmakers, referring to themselves as Majority Bloc gathered and elected Montserrado County Sistrict#11 Representative, Richard Nagbe Koon, of the ruling Unity Party as Speaker. This action was done outside the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia.

Though illegal, their action is being backed by the Executive that | has interpreted in its favor, an earlier Supreme Court opinion that noted that actions taken at the House were ultra vires, contrarily i inducting Representative Koon in office as Speaker in spite of the presence of embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa.

Ultra vires is a Latin phrase that is used in law to describe an act that requires legal authority but is done without it.

Speaker Koffa has challenged his illegal removal before the Supreme Court twice, with the recent being a Bill of Information, at which hearing the Court sounded the early warning about 'chaotic trend" in the governing system of the country.

The regional bloc, ECOWAS, thru its parliamentary body has tried | twice in intervening to salvage the impasse without succeeding largely as a result of non-cooperative posture by members of the so-called majority bloc.

In their obsession with power, they have gone to the extent of writing the ECOWAS Parliament, requesting withdrawal of three Liberian Representatives who were sent to that body under the l Koffa leadership. But the Parliament trend the request down because it contravenes its rules.

We are of a very strong conviction that no institution can resolve or address this flagrant violation of the Constitution of Liberia than the Supreme Court that interprets the laws of the land.

Now that the Court itself has observed that the prevailing situation in the country is "chaotic trend", it has the power to reverse this trend by properly and boldly interpreting the constitution for all parties involved without any ambiguity.

The last time the Court spoke on the issue, it left the public in suspense and doubt, a moment the Executive branch of government took advantage of and provided its own| interpretation, justifying its actions.

This time around, we are asking the Highest Court of the land to come clear in this matter by letting the chip fall where it may in line with the law regarding which party is in the wrong. This will enable the Liberian people to understand the law and reflect l accordingly.

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

have almost universally questioned its are the evolving vanguard of humankind: rationality. As a policy matter, they are right those who are the most Al-informed, even to be scratching their heads. But Trump's cyber-enhanced, and perhaps destined to tariffs are not simply about policy. They are colonize Mars. of a piece with the animating features of his for irrational theorizing.

assertions of power. Hitler's well-known which included esteemed scholars such as with a jolt of metaphysics. Mircea Eliade (who publicly supported Enlightenment politics.

Trump sees himself as single-handedly and totalizing power. fundamentally altering the global order by a of the homeland. Mystical leaders liberate leader is what makes it all happen. crippled instincts from conventional cultural spirit.

Who else could mobilize such transformative populists) and Musk is the tip of the iceberg. forces but the great leader - the one who, as a reliable test of power.

what sovereignty means in practice. It is a that has promised them so much will collapse. self-fulfilling act: declaring an emergency is of law ends.

A state of emergency addresses both how the Law in the Modern Age (Bloomsbury, 2021). nation will survive and who will survive. That is why Schmitt separates people into friends

EW YORK - In the days since US and enemies. For example, Elon Musk's President Donald Trump unleashed his definition of friends can be inferred from the tariff tsunami on the world, companies he owns, such as X.AI, Neuralink, economists, investors, and business leaders and SpaceX. On this reading, Musk's friends

MAGA ("Make America Great Again") Enemies, by contrast, have no claim either to movement: contempt for science and the society's concern or its resources. In this vein, rule of law, persistent lying, and a propensity Trump focuses above all on "illegal aliens," whom he routinely describes as "vermin" and "animals." By defining any "de-nationalized" We have witnessed this embrace of unreason class of "others" as a discrete sub-species, before, accompanied by similarly grandiose Trump places them beyond law's safeguards.

fascination with Theosophy, Gnosticism, and Trump's tariffs reflect the MAGA movement's eugenics was not an isolated phenomenon. broader anti-Enlightenment impulses. He may During the 1930s, psychoanalyst Carl Jung's claim to be concerned with "rebalancing" idea of self-growth or "individuation" was global trade, restoring America's viewed by many (including Jung) to be the manufacturing industries, and raising special destiny of the Aryan race. The well- revenue. But, more fundamentally, his tariffs known Eranos gatherings during this period, are an expression of the will to power - spiked

Romania's fascist Iron Guard), Henry Corbin, The embrace of irrationalism in Europe during and Gershom Scholem, have been shadowed the 1930s facilitated the rise of fascism. (not entirely fairly) by the taint of anti- Today's mythic narratives - from AI-enhanced "evolving" consciousness to Russian Cosmism and Vladimir Putin's "Noöcracy" (which lays For Trump, tariffs are about much more than claim to a species of Russian nationalism a change of economic policy. They are part of likewise rooted in man's destiny to evolve, a toolkit for political and cultural and which shares Musk's desire to colonize transformation. April 2 was "Liberation Day." other worlds) - serve a comparable function:

Herculean act of sheer will. To be sure, What Putin's Noöcracy has in common with Trump's tariffs are likely to make life billionaires like Musk and the MAGA movement materially worse for people around the world (including its New Age "MAHA" (Make America not least Americans. But the particulars Healthy Again) contingent led by US Health matter less than the heroic spectacle itself, Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.) is the cult of the leader's demonstration of MAGA's personality that lies at their center. Only Putin capacity to rivet our attention by arousing can serve as the Russian people's savior. Only shock and awe. To borrow the Silicon Valley Musk can take his acolytes to the next level of mantra (which echoes in Gnostic reveries), evolving consciousness. Only Trump can make one must move fast and break things to America great again by breaking the old order release creative energy, including the spirit and ushering in the new. Submission to the

shackles - like the "wholly incongruous Yes, the populist "spirit of the people" faction Christianity" that, as Jung put it, had been and Musk's libertarian/Silicon Valley faction "grafted upon the stumps" of the Aryan embody contradictory interests and goals. The intense rivalry and jockeying for influence within MAGA between Steve Bannon (for the

Nietzsche put it, carries chaos within to give But this division has so far been modulated, birth to "a dancing star"? That's the MAGA and arguably exploited, by Trump and his pitch. The test follows: Are you willing to loyalists. After all, it is the leader who accept the pain that ensues? This is less an exclusively embodies the mystical, creativeimplementation of policy than a collective destructive spirit whose power can guide the initiation rite, or a massive psyop. As Soviet nation to its destiny. Whether that destiny propagandists understood, inducing friends empowers the masses (as Bannon insists) or and foes alike to repeat obvious falsehoods is billionaire libertarians like Musk and Peter Thiel remains to be seen. It cannot be both.

So is declaring a state of emergency, as For now, as Trump's tariffs make clear, sound Trump did in order to justify his tariffs. trade policy takes a backseat to both sides' Declarations of this sort embody a claim to goal: the consolidation of autocracy. ultimate sovereignty. As the Nazi jurist Carl "Liberation Day" has put everyone who has Schmitt wrote, the executive decision to thrown in their lot with MAGA on notice that initiate a "state of exception" determines without Trump at its center the movement

the emergency. It is one way in which the rule Richard K. Sherwin, Professor Emeritus of Law at New York Law School, is a co-editor (with Danielle Celermajer) of A Cultural History of

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2025. www.project-syndicate.org

WEDNESDAY

By Daniel Gros

## The Revolt Against Regulation

ILAN - Deregulation is back in vogue on both sides of the Atlantic. It is a major plank of US President Donald Trump's agenda, with one executive order requiring government agencies to eliminate ten regulations for every one they introduce. It is also a priority for the European Commission, which has pledged to reduce "administrative burdens" by at least 25%. And it is all over the media, including the cover of The Economist. But is deregulation really the boon for economic competitiveness that its proponents claim?

The quest to lessen the burden of regulation faced by businesses is hardly new. Almost every US president can claim to have taken steps to this end. For example, Barack Obama's executive order on "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review" sought to identify the "least burdensome tools for achieving regulatory ends." Similarly, the European Union introduced a "better regulation agenda" already in 2001.

But today's deregulatory zeal goes much further, fueled by the belief that, despite past efforts to reduce red tape, regulation has become increasingly cumbersome in recent years. Those touting this narrative can usually cite areas where rules have become more stringent or complex; they might even highlight a rule that seems manifestly absurd. But while one can always find examples of burdensome regulations in a large, advanced economy, there is no evidence that regulation has become systematically heavier over the last decade - at least not if one trusts the indicators of the premier global financial institutions.

Start with the World Bank. In 2004, the Bank pioneered a "regulatory intensity" metric for its Doing Business index, based on hundreds of factors, such as the number and cost of permits needed to start a construction project or incorporate a new enterprise. So convincing was this index that major economies, such as China, designed reforms with an eye to improving their score. But the indicator eventually became a victim of its own success, with the emergence of data irregularities - and the resulting political pressure forcing the World Bank to abandon it in 2021.

That does not mean that the World Bank's regulatory-intensity indicator is not useful. In fact, the data irregularities concerned very few countries, and no major developed economies. So, the assessments of Trump's first presidency, in 2016-20, remain relevant. The bottom line is that Trump's deregulation agenda had very little impact. One must scour the detailed sub-indicators to find marginal improvement in a few areas.

The OECD also has a system for measuring regulatory burdens. According to its "product market regulation" indicators - also based on dozens of sub-indicators - the regulatory situation has remained broadly unchanged in the US over the past quarter-century (as of 2023), including during Trump's first presidency and under his successor, Joe Biden. Most EU countries, meanwhile, have improved in this domain.

One might argue that these indicators must fail to capture reality, because they do not align with companies' complaints and the popular narrative. If this is true, the deregulation agenda has another problem: if not even the largest international organizations, with all their resources and manpower, can reliably measure the burden of regulation, the task is probably impossible. This means that we have no way of measuring the scale, let alone the impact, of deregulation.

Without a reliable metric, headline deregulation goals become virtually meaningless. If the Trump administration wants ten regulations eliminated for each new one that is introduced without a way to quantify the impact of each option, agencies can meet their quotas with minor rules, guidance documents, or memos. And if the European Commission wants to reduce the cost of regulation by 25%, it needs to know what that cost is.

Deregulation also can be misused to shape the economy in short-sighted or otherwise problematic ways. Much of the Trump administration's deregulation push has focused on the energy sector. At first glance, this might seem to make sense: since the sector is heavily regulated, it stands to benefit considerably from deregulation. This should, in principle, include progress on the green-energy transition, given that regulatory barriers, such as lengthy permitting processes, are often blamed for impeding the rollout of renewables.

But, so far, Trump's executive orders use deregulation to boost the fossil-fuel industry, while blocking progress on renewables. The National Energy Emergency Declaration expediates approvals for "energy projects," but excludes renewables from its definition of energy. Meanwhile, Trump has halted offshore leases for wind projects on the Outer Continental Shelf and paused approvals of the use of federal land for renewable-energy projects.

As is often the case with Trump, the measures are largely symbolic. Only a small fraction of renewable-energy projects are located on public lands, and offshore wind contributes little to overall power generation in the US. But they will increase uncertainty, especially since the Trump administration has also suspended the disbursement of renewable-energy subsidies. Even if existing green subsidies are ultimately confirmed - after all, they benefit Republican-dominated states the most - the risk premium on renewable-energy projects in the US will rise.

Europe provides a counterexample of useful deregulation, as a combination of legislative changes and coordination across bureaucracies has cut permitting delays for wind power installations, leading to a record year for new installations in Germany.

A populist revolt against regulation would be unlikely to yield substantial benefits in the best of times. In cases where deregulation is guided by a bias toward special interest groups - as seems likely under Trump - it is likely to do more harm than good.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2023. <u>www.project-syndicate.org</u>

## OPINION

By Gernot Wagner

## The Climate Policy Pendulum

EW YORK - It is tough to be optimistic about the climate these days. While the costs of extreme weather events like the Los Angeles wildfires pile up, the US federal policy pendulum is swinging away from facts, reason, and basic human decency. Nonetheless, even as the US government moves in the wrong direction, trends in science, economics, and increasingly local politics indicate that the pendulum will swing back in due course.

After all, no one can argue with the physics of today's clean energy technologies. Heat pumps, induction stoves, and electric vehicles (EVs) - to name just three - are fundamentally better technologies than what came before. The best gas furnaces might reach 95% efficiency, meaning they are converting 95% of the energy they use into heat; but most heat pumps easily top 200%, with some reaching 400% or more. Similar comparisons can be made between induction and gas stoves, and between EVs and gasoline- or diesel-powered vehicles. By and large, we know what technologies we should be using to eliminate greenhouse-gas emissions; and in cases where we don't, we know what kinds of things to try.

This knowledge extends well beyond EVs and heat pumps to entire industrial sectors like cement or iron and steel. Here, outgoing US President Joe Biden's administration has made an important contribution with the Department of Energy's Liftoff Reports, which chart pathways to commercialization for a broad selection of low-carbon technologies.

Consider cement, which accounts for some 8% of annual global greenhouse-gas emissions. Ordinary Portland cement, patented 200 years ago, has dominated the sector for decades. While measures like clinker substitution and efficiency improvements can abate up to 40% of emissions, getting to zero will require additional steps. These generally fall into two categories: cutting emissions from producing Portland cement or switching away from it altogether. Promising US start-ups like Brimstone and Sublime Systems are racing to demonstrate that either path is commercially viable.

One key ingredient is public subsidies to help firms climb the learning curve and slide down the cost curve toward faster commercialization. Both Brimstone and Sublime Systems received early research and development funding from the US Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) and have now advanced to the deployment stage, receiving up to \$190 and \$90 million, respectively, to build their first commercial plants. All told, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act allocated around \$100 billion for such purposes, with public funding contingent on matching private investments.

Moreover, these sums are dwarfed by the Department of Energy's loan program. With just \$17 billion in taxpayer funds, the IRA authorizes the department's Loan Programs Office to lend \$350 billion for investments in clean energy and domestic EV manufacturing. And those public funds then catalyze multiples more in private investments. While some Republicans and members of Donald Trump's incoming administration want to cut this program, doing so would only hurt US competitiveness.

Can we restore sanity to our national policies? It might be trite to say that change begins at home, but what is trite is often true. A good place to look is New York. While the city has many problems, its climate policies are not among them. Around 70% of New York's direct emissions come from heating and cooling buildings, while the other 30% comes from cars and trucks. Fortunately, Local Law 97 is already addressing the former. The law is one of the most ambitious decarbonization measures for buildings anywhere, requiring most to reduce their emissions by 40% this decade, and by 100% by 2050. And while New York can do only so much about vehicle emissions, its long-delayed congestion pricing program is finally being implemented. That is a good start.

Given that New York used to be the world's most congested city, the quality-oflife improvement from less traffic can already be felt. The same goes for another measure that took an absurdly long time to address: the lack of trash bins. Over the past year, the city has finally issued official trash, recycling, and compost bins, with enforcement for residential buildings beginning this month. Cleaning up our own act - including with mandatory composting and other policies - will not save the planet. But effective government just might.

Physics alone will not push the pendulum all the way back to where it was before. That will require policies based on sound economics. As long as Trump does not break the fulcrum and bring the entire pendulum crashing down, policies pioneered by his predecessor and by local communities will continue to be a force applying pressure in the right direction.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2023. <u>www.project-syndicate.org</u>



## Liberia: A nation shooting itself in the leg

iberia, a West African country blessed with abundant mineral resources, vast forests, and a climate conducive to agriculture, also has ample water resources. Despite these natural endowments, Liberia is still one of the poorest countries in the world.

It is an irony that a nation so rich in natural resources struggles with entrenched poverty. Come to think of it, the key reasons for this are multifaceted, touching upon poor human capital, inadequate infrastructure, stability issues, and a toxic political environment that deters investors.

Another barrier to Liberia's progress is the lack of skilled labor. Without a workforce proficient in modern techniques and technologies, the potential of Liberia's resources remains untapped.

This is compounded by infrastructure issues - poor roads, unreliable electricity, and inadequate communication networks. These deficiencies make it difficult for businesses to operate efficiently.

#### The toxic political environment

The political landscape in Liberia is another significant deterrent to economic growth. Political instability and corruption create an environment of uncertainty that scares off potential investors.

The fear of abrupt changes in policies and the absence of a reliable legal framework make long-term investments risky.

In recent years, major corporations like Sime Darby have been forced to cease operations in Liberia due to unrest. This unrest is not only driven by local politicians exploiting the populace's ignorance but also by local chapters of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the Green Advocates.

Many of these NGOs have been accused of fabricating stories and coaching locals to tell harrowing tales to secure funding.

While these actions may help the NGOs thrive locally, they harm the country's economic prospects. The false narratives peddled sometimes incite locals against companies attempting to provide jobs and the government striving to attract investors.

#### The "Land Grabbed" Narrative

A recurring theme propagated by these NGOs is land grabbing. This narrative paints investors in the agriculture sector as villains, exploiting local communities. Such stories, whether true or exaggerated, have a chilling effect on potential investors who fear being maligned by NGOs such as the local Chapter of the Green Advocates.

These investors, wary of damaging their reputations, prefer to steer clear of Liberia, resulting in missed opportunities for economic growth.

These fabricated stories, which more often at times are at the root causes of violent protests at some of these plantations resulting to force closures, leave many families even poorer with no other alternative source of income.

When these companies fold-up and leave, these advocates leave these families helpless and jump into another region.

The hostile investment climate created by these factors means that Liberia continues to miss out on economic opportunities. Without foreign investment, the development of critical sectors such as agriculture, mining, and manufacturing is stymied. This has a direct impact on employment, income, and overall economic development.

Liberia has the potential to become a prosperous nation. However, it cannot achieve this under such toxic environment where NGOs, fabricate and instigate industrial unrests that continue to scare investors away.

### News Analysis: A Brief Perspective on the Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) Saga: The Injustice of Implicating Businessman Jeety

he Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) plantation has been a crucial player in Liberia's economic landscape since its establishment in 1959, covering 8,000 hectares in Margibi County. At that time, it was the country's fourthlargest rubber-producing and processing company, significantly contributing to economic stability and job creation. However, before its sale to Indian businessman Jeety, SRC faced various challenges, including local claims of land encroachment and environmental concerns. In response, SRC committed itself to upholding its concession agreement by compensating for damaged crops and actively engaging in dialogue with surrounding communities. This approach demonstrated SRC's dedication to sustainable development in Liberia.

Unfortunately, in June 2024, SRC ceased operations in Liberia following a violent incident at the site involving the Worker Union, led by Madam Mary Bolmah. The unrest was sparked by protests regarding inadequate pay and poor labor conditions, when Jeety was nowhere around.

Additionally, an investigation by the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) revealed significant environmental and social repercussions resulting from the company's activities. It is noteworthy that the same Worker Union had previously led a protest around 2019, during which they burned down the only magistrate court and police station built by the United Nations Mission in Liberia Quick Impact Project. The head of the SRC Worker Union, Madam Mary Bolmah, along with others, was arrested and later released on bail through the intervention of the District Representative, Hon. Clarence Garr. However, after SKY International Insurance Corporation withdrew their bond due to concerns about the financial implications of the delayed case, Mary Bolmah, Lawrence Gborbor and others were re-arrested.

For the record, they were charged with several alleged crimes, including armed robbery, arson, terroristic threats, rioting, failure to disperse, burglary, theft of property, criminal mischief, aiding and abetting a crime, criminal conspiracy, criminal facilitation, attempted murder, and criminal solicitation.

They were indicted by the 13th Judicial Circuit Court for Margibi County during its February Term in 2025, but the trial venue was changed to Montserrado County at the request of the prosecution attorney.

Court documents indicated that the damage caused by the accused amounted to USD 275,210. Consequently, to secure the necessary insurance bond, an amount of USD 550,420.00 must be made available. Apparently, this is yet to be secured.

Jeety's Role in Redeeming SRC and Saving Employees:

Three months after the SRC was burned and the attempted murder of the SRC General Manager, on August 26, 2024, SRC was sold to Jeety by the Socfin Group, the original owner of SRC. Jeety, an industrial businessman, began operating SRC, refurbishing the facilities and employing Liberians, some of whom were initially employed by SRC. It has been established that since taking over, prior grievances, including poor housing, inadequate medical care, and unfair labor practices, have been addressed by Mr. Jeety. Workers, predominantly tappers, have reported noticeable improvements in their working environment.

The concerns of Implicating Jeety in the case:

It is therefore far-fetched and incomprehensible that individuals, motivated by political interests, would attempt to implicate Jeety as responsible for the imprisonment of the former SRC Worker Union President, Madam Mary Bolmah and others.

Let these questions linger in your mind:

- 1. Was Jeety the owner of SRC when it was set on fire? No
- 2. Was it Jeety who sued them for which they are still in imprison? No
- 3. Is it the Government of Liberia that is prosecuting them? Yes. Please see the case Title attached

It is therefore my opinion that those who want to politicize the case should stop and allow Madam Mary Bolmah and others have their day in court with a strong legal representation and account for their alleged actions.

#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Bong approves US355k project

2025

Bong County Council greenlights US\$385K development plan to restore historic Presidential Palace and build junior high school in Kolli-ta Wolah, aiming to boost education and preserve cultural

By: Edwin N Khakie

barnga, Bong County -

Palace and US\$75,000 for the construction of a school in Kollita Wolah. However, the Council The Bong County Council approved a revised amount of has convened a special US\$280,000 for the Presidential



session to approve the County P school in Kolli-ta Wolah.

renovation of the Presidential the renovation of public

Administration's recent rehabilitation-US\$35,000 less development proposal totaling than what was originally US\$385,000 for the proposed. The US\$75,000 rehabilitation of the allocation for the school was Presidential Palace and the approved as presented, with a construction of a junior high key amendment: though originally proposed as an In the session held on Monday, elementary school, the Council April 7, seven out of nine updated the plan to a junior council members voted in favor high school, following of the proposal, while two clarification from youth opposed.Initially, the County representative Miller Bondo.In Administration submitted a addition to these major budget of US\$390,000, allocations, the Council also allocating US\$315,000 for the approved over US\$30,000 for

facilities damaged by a recent windstorm in the county.

During the session, council members emphasized the significance of the projects, citing their value in promoting both socio-economic growth and cultural preservation in Bong County.

Council Chairperson Mr. Aaron S. Fenlah underscored the historical importance of the Presidential Palace, stating, "This building is a landmark. Its rehabilitation is not just about bricks and mortar-it's about reclaiming a part of our identity."

The proposed junior high school will feature classrooms, administrative offices, and basic science and computer labs. Once completed, it is expected to serve hundreds of students from surrounding communities, significantly improving access to secondary education in the region.

With the Council's approval now secured, the County Administration is expected to commence procurement and tendering processes in the coming weeks. Construction is anticipated to begin sometime in 2025. The Council commended the administration's balanced focus on heritage preservation and forward-looking development, while calling for transparency and community participation throughout the project implementation phase.

#### Gov't alarms over widespread mob-violence

-Declares April Anti-mob violence month

The Government of Liberia declares April a month of Anti-Mob Violence here that it describes as widespread in the Liberian society.

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, Liberia, April 9, 2025 - The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Justice officially declares April Antimob violence month, alarming here that mob violence has become very prevalent and widespread in the Liberian society. An Anti-mob justice camping month banner was hosted on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at the Ministry of Justice in Monrovia, in collaboration with the Liberia Chamber of Commerce and the United Nations Development Program. The program was graced by Liberia's Minister of Defense, Retired General Geraldine George; Police Inspector General, Gregory O. Coleman, and other members of the Liberian Joint Security, Development and International Partners, especially representatives in their ability to unite against hatred and fear.

He says Liberians can transform their communities into havens of safety, where dialogue triumphs over destruction, adding that they own it to themselves and future generations to forge a path towards lasting peace one where love, respect and humanity prevail.

He further recounts that prison facilities have been vandalized, looted and prisoners set free, businesses vandalized, looted and burned, while alleged criminals have been apprehended by angry crowds, lynched, and beaten. "So, to address this, we have gathered here today to host the banner for our campaign - Declaring the Month of April 2025 as Anti-Mob Violence Month. Mob violence has become very prevalent in our society and has become widespread. The



UNDP. The Anti-mob justice camping banner had several inscriptions including, "Do you know that Mob Justice undermines our human dignity and respect for the rule of law? Do you know that Mob Justice sends a message that drives investors away?" They were among other inscriptions that characterized the event. Justice Minister Cllr. N. Oswald Tweh, says mobviolence has burned vehicles that were involved in accidents, prevented legal surveys of land and enforcement of judgments of the courts, with police stations

and court houses set ablaze by

angry crowds. The Attorney

General of Liberia notes that

the banner should be a beacon,

reminding Liberians that true

strength lies not in might, but

from the World Bank and the general wellbeing of our communities is seriously threatened by mob violence. Our system of justice and the authority of government are being challenged. Mobs are hands", Minister Tweh laments. Accordingly, he continues that hence, in an effort to arrest the situation and change this course, they have decided to declare April 2025 as Anti-Mob

Minister Tweh expresses appreciation and gratitude to the UNDP and the Liberia Chamber of Commerce for their assistance and collaboration."Any form of mob violence is criminal. This government will not condone or tolerate mob violence. It is a violation of our laws and a violation of democratic principles and values. The Ministry of Justice, in

#### **EPA fines Hongtu Mining US\$10K** concerns about water contamination,

tor environmental violations

company here, for breaching environmental regulations, corporate social responsibility including operating without official permit.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

onrovia, Liberia, Environmental openpits. environmental permit.

The fine follows completion of a preliminary environmental investigation at the company's mining site in Mat House Town, Grand Bassa County. The investigation was prompted by reports of uncontrolled mining, water pollution, and public health concerns, which were highlighted by Liberia's Excellent News Network (LENN) and civil society groups on March 28.

Key findings of the investigation included Hongtu's failure to secure the required operational permits from the EPA, evidence of river diversion,

Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo declares. local communities raised Envir

The Environmental Protection Agency fines a Chinese disrupted livelihoods, and unmet promises. Despite ongoing construction efforts, including hand pumps and a and significant school, the mining operations, environmental degradation, conducted under a prospecting license, April 9, 2025 - The such as un-rehabilitated have contributed to poor river conditions and ecosystem damage."For Protection Agency (EPA) Addressing a press operating without the proper levies a fine of US\$10,000 on conference on Tuesday, April environmental permit, diverting the and creates a lawless society? taking the law into their Hongtu Mining Company 8, 2025 at the EPA Shoni River, and causing widespread Do you know that Mob Justice here, for operating without headquarters in Monrovia, environmental damage, Hongtu Mining frustrates good governance Executive Director, Dr. Company is being fined US\$10,000", Dr.

Yarkpawolo, explained that The company is also issued an

CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Violence Month.

CONT'D ON PAGE 7

### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

From Back Page

## 'We are here to help build Liberia" |

2025

communities.

Buchanan rail line back to the event praised AML for peak construction. Vandermerwe emphasized. movement of goods, Nimba. people, and opportunities One of the strongest A Responsible Mining Model for Africa across counties.

Corporate Responsibility company's commitment to technicians in mechanical, in Africa.

and Grand Bassa. extractive capitalism. We workforce. believe in shared growth. "We believe the best gift to Vandermerwe said. applause.

over US\$3.5 million through universities to offer 20 years in Liberia. buildings, youth centers, Industrial Revolution. and agriculture projects.

their money. We support billion investment that their choices and help includes the construction of

added.

conditions were tough.

h o s t electrical, and mining "We are committed to environmental

managed by the in Nimba. This is not just resources. noted.

clinics, schools, market behind in the Fourth As Vandermerwe concluded:

communities should do with II Expansion Project, a \$1.6 Liberians, for Liberia."

hospitals in host implement their visions," he a new ore concentrator plant, expansion of the rail and port facilities, and "We brought the Yekepa- Chiefs and elders present at creation of over 2,000 new jobs during

life. We modernized maintaining open "This is the single largest private Buchanan Port. These are communication and investment in Liberia in decades," said not just assets for AML—they honoring its obligations Vandermerwe. "It's a vote of confidence are national assets," even when global market in the people of Liberia and in the country's future."

These projects, once "ArcelorMittal has been a When completed, the concentrator abandoned and left to rot reliable partner. They are plant will allow AML to process highduring the war, are now always here with us-not grade iron ore in Liberia rather than central to Liberia's just when things are good," exporting raw ore, thereby increasing economy, enabling the said Chief Emmanuel Dolo of government revenue and local value addition.

highlights of AML's presence As the global conversation on climate,

Community First: Beyond in Liberia is its Vocational sustainability, and responsible mining Training Center (VTC) in intensifies, ArcelorMittal Liberia is Throughout his speech, the Yekepa, which has positioning itself as a model for what AML CEO emphasized the graduated over 400 Liberian responsible investment should look like

communities—Nimba, Bong, trades. These graduates protection, zero harm safety culture, now serve as the backbone and full compliance with Liberian law. "We do not believe in of Liberia's mining We work closely with the EPA, FDA, and local environmental officers,"

That is why we contribute Liberia is knowledge. That's The company is also investing in millions annually through why we are expanding the reforestation, biodiversity protection, the Community VTC and preparing to build a and alternative livelihoods for Development Fund, which is modern technical university communities that depend on natural

communities themselves," CSR. This is legacy- The Yekepa ceremony ended with Vandermerwe said to building," Vandermerwe cultural performances, tree planting, and an emotional unveiling of a In 2024 alone, AML disbursed AML also partners with commemorative plague to mark AML's

the County Social internships, scholarships, For many Liberians, ArcelorMittal's Development Fund and the and hands-on industrial legacy is already visible—not just in Community Development exposure, ensuring that roads and rails, but in renewed hope, Fund, helping to finance Liberia's youth are not left empowerment, and partnerships.

"We didn't come to Liberia for the short The anniversary celebration term. We came to stay. We came to "We don't impose what also focused on AML's Phase grow. And we came to build—with

#### UNDP donates to **Liberia's Petroleum sector**

2025 - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has donated Information and Communications Technology (ICT) equipment to the Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority (LPRA) in a significant step toward strengthening institutional capacity and enhancing transparency. Speaking at the ceremony over the weekend at the LPRA headquarters in Monrovia, Mr. Louis Kuukpen, UNDP-Liberia's Deputy Resident Representative for Programme stressed the importance of modern digital infrastructure in improving governance and service delivery.

He explained that the handover is more than just the transfer of equipment, but an investment in institutional capacity and

onrovia, Liberia, April 9, of sustainable development. Receiving the items on behalf of the Authority, its Director General, Marilyn T. Logan, expressed deep appreciation for the continued support and commitment to strengthening public institutions, advancing digitalization of government processes and supporting professional development of civil servants through training and technical assistance.

"This generous donation comes at a pivotal moment as the LPRA undertakes efforts to upgrade its information technology infrastructure systems intended to improve operational efficiency, strengthen regulatory functions, and elevate the quality of our service," said Logan.

As Liberia seeks to advance its petroleum sector, strategic partnerships play a critical role



national development.

"We are confident that the LPRA will leverage this support to enhance transparency and accountability in Liberia's petroleum governance sector", Mr. Kuupen underscored.

He said such support for the Government of Liberia's digital development agenda aligns with UNDP's Country Programme inclusive governance, digital innovation as key pillars sector here. Press Release

in fostering robust, transparent, and resilient regulatory systems.

The equipment, valued \$37,520.85, includes computers, servers, routers, printers, data storage devices, air conditioners, smart televisions, and a projector, among others. The action is designed to improve LPRA's data agenda, which prioritizes management, inter-agency coordination, and regulatory strengthening institutions, and oversight in the petroleum

#### Starts from page 11

due to their special status threshold.

Agency (CSA) in 2014. scheme requires contributory pension hediscloses.

#### Gov't to look into

continue to receive individuals to be at least program for top officials. benefits under the old, 60 years old and have met Despite this, the Minister Piah

non-contributory system a specific contribution reiterated the government's openness to reviewing any additional and the precedence set Former Vice President or overlooked claims. "We don't by the Civil Service Taylor, he said, currently want to dispute the former Vice benefits from both the President's concerns outright. If He further explained that national social security there are supposed benefits she's eligibility for the new scheme and the CSA- not receiving, we are ready to contributory pension managed non-investigate and resolve the issue."

#### Starts from page 6

he vows.

against mob violence.

"We will work with civil radio dramatizations), and Browne

#### **Gov't alarms over**

necessary measures aimed violence, in educating the issues."

collaboration with state society, traditional and community-based activities will be security agencies, will not community leaders, the utilized in altering perceptions, relent in tackling mob youth, to increase public removing misconceptions and violence and will take all knowledge about mob advocating for peaceful resolutions of

at eradicating mob public on the dangers and In separate remarks, representatives violence from our society", consequences of mob of the Liberian Joint Security and the action, educating the diplomatic and development He points out that they public about the rule of communities express appreciation to deem it necessary to go a law, and creating the Ministry of Justice and the step further, disclosing the confidence in the criminal government for the step taken. They beginning this month, they justice system. In this pledge commitment and support to the will be embarking on a light, workshops, government in achieving a more nationwide campaign awareness campaigns peaceful and sustainable (including talk shows and development. Editing by Jonathan

#### Starts from page 6 EPA fines Hongtu Mining US\$10K

which mandates allocation of commitment to enforcing US\$30,000 for restoration environmental laws and efforts.

restoration plan will require industrial practices. Dr. Hongtu to hire a third-party Yarkpawolo highlights that accredited environmental firm to the EPA will continue to develop and submit a support businesses in comprehensive environmental maintaining sustainable restoration plan, which, once operations, while approved, will aim to restore the safeguarding the site to a condition resembling its environment. Editing by pre-mining state.

NewDayy

onmental Restoration Order, The Agency reaffirms its ensuring that companies The EPA clarifies that the adhere to responsible Jonathan Browne

## rança

#### L'ancienne vice-présidente Taylor brise le silence, estimant que le régime de Boakai a déraillé

présidente de la ■République du Liberia, Jewel Howard-Taylor, est sortie de son silence pour livrer ses réflexions sur la gouvernance actuelle du pays sous l'administration

de vie des citoyens.

APRIL 09

Mais, dix-huit mois plus tard, Mme Taylor estime que le gouvernement a dévié de sa trajectoire initiale. Invitée dans l'émission Spoon Talk le lundi 6 avril 2025, Mme Taylor également ex-première dame et épouse de l'ancien président

attentes suscitées pendant la campagne électorale.

« Je me rends compte qu'en période électorale, on dit beaucoup de choses. Mais il n'est pas si facile de concrétiser toutes ces promesses », a-t-elle déclaré. Elle a ajouté espérer que ses propos ne susciteraient pas de colère, soulignant néanmoins la nécessité de parler en tant qu'ancienne haute responsible du pays.

Mme Taylor reconnaît néanmoins les défis auxquels le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai doit faire face, soulignant que le pays lutte encore pour satisfaire les besoins les plus élémentaires.

« Nous sommes toujours confrontés aux besoins fondamentaux : la nourriture, l'habillement, le logement. J'imagine bien les difficultés auxquelles il est confronté et les efforts que cela demande », a-t-



du parti Unity Party (UP), Charles Ghankay Taylor, arrivé au pouvoir en janvier 2024 avec la promesse de «

actuellement incarcéré - a exprimé sa préoccupation face sauver le Liberia » et à ce qu'elle considère comme d'améliorer les conditions une déception vis-à-vis des

CONT'D ON PAGE 9

### L'armée libérienne intensifie son Opération « **Vrai Gardien » pour sécuriser les frontières**

rand Cape Mount, Libéria, 8 avril 2025 - Les Forces armées du Libéria (AFL) ont renforcé l'intensité de leur opération nationale baptisée « Vrai Gardien », visant à sécuriser les frontières terrestres et les eaux territoriales du pays face aux menaces transfrontalières croissantes.

Lancée dans la région occidentale du Libéria, notamment dans le comté de Grand Cape Mount, l'opération a pour objectif principal d'affirmer une présence militaire robuste, de dissuader toute menace potentielle, d'assurer la sécurité des populations locales et de renforcer leur confiance dans les institutions de défense.

Dans le cadre de cette mission, une équipe de l'AFL s'est rendue le 27 mars 2025 à l'hôpital public St. Timothy de Robertsport. Cette visite, dirigée par le capitaine Nyenkendoh Fallah, commandant de l'opération, avait pour but de nouer des liens avec le personnel médical et d'organiser les évacuations pêcheurs de Bomie et Feli, sanitaires pour les cas nécessitant une prise en charge au-delà des capacités de l'équipe médicale militaire. Le capitaine était accompagné du lieutenant Ansu Sheriff, officier des opérations, et de l'adjudant Carroll George, sous-officier médical en chef.

En parallèle, une série de consultations médicales a été organisée par l'équipe sanitaire des AFL dans les communautés environnantes de The Town, à partir d'une base opérationnelle avancée (FOB) une installation sécurisée poursuivi leurs activités utilisée pour soutenir les dans le district de Garluwa, opérations tactiques sur le terrain.

Des patrouilles ont également été menées dans les villages de où les troupes ont rencontré des autorités locales. notamment Boimah Sombai, doyen des anciens de Feli, et Boimah Barclay, chef de Bomie. À Bomie Beach, une arme artisanale a été saisie, puis remise à la Commission nationale des armes.

Le même jour, la Garde côtière du Libéria, dans le cadre d'une collaboration interforces, a effectué une patrouille dans la zone de Sewelor, au-delà du lac Piso. Le 28 mars, les troupes ont une zone agricole comprenant les localités de

CONT'D ON PAGE 9



# Éditorial

#### La décision de la Cour suprême doit inverser la tendance chaotique au Liberia

Par Raghuram Rajan

a Cour suprême du Liberia a récemment qualifié la crise de leadership en cours à la Chambre des représentants de "tendance chaotique" qui doit être corrigée. Nous ne saurions être plus en accord avec cette déclaration de la plus haute juridiction du pays.

Malgré la présence d'un président légitime à la Chambre, un groupe de députés se faisant appeler le "Bloc majoritaire" s'est réuni et a élu Richard Nagbe Koon, représentant du district #11 de Montserrado et membre du parti au pouvoir, l'Unity Party, comme président de la Chambre. Cette démarche a été menée en dehors du cadre constitutionnel du Liberia.

Bien que cette action soit illégale, elle a bénéficié du soutien de l'exécutif, qui a interprété à son avantage un avis précédent de la Cour suprême. Cet avis indiquait que les décisions prises à la Chambre étaient "ultra vires", c'est-à-dire prises sans autorité légale. Cependant, au lieu de corriger cette situation, l'exécutif a permis l'induction du représentant Koon en tant que président de la Chambre, en dépit de la présence du président contesté J. Fonati

Le président Koffa a contesté son limogeage illégal à deux reprises devant la Cour suprême, la plus récente étant une requête en information. Lors de cette audience, la Cour a mis en garde contre la "tendance chaotique" qui affecte le système de gouvernance du

La Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO), à travers son organe parlementaire, a tenté par deux fois d'intervenir pour résoudre cette impasse. Cependant, ces efforts ont échoué en grande partie en raison de l'attitude non coopérative des membres du soi-disant "Bloc majoritaire".

Dans leur quête du pouvoir, ces députés sont allés jusqu''à demander au Parlement de la CEDEAO le retrait de trois représentants libériens désignés sous la direction de Koffa. Toutefois, cette demande a été rejetée car contraire aux règlements de l'institution.

Nous sommes convaincus qu'aucune institution, en dehors de la Cour suprême, ne peut régler cette violation flagrante de la Constitution du Liberia. En tant que seule instance habilitée à interpréter les lois du pays, elle doit user de son autorité pour clarifier la situation sans ambiguïté et rétablir l'ordre constitutionnel.

Lors de sa dernière prise de parole sur cette affaire, la Cour suprême a laissé le public dans l'incertitude, une situation qui a été exploitée par l'exécutif pour justifier ses actions.

Cette fois-ci, nous exhortons la plus haute juridiction du pays à se prononcer avec fermeté et clarté sur cette affaire, en se fondant uniquement sur le droit. Il est essentiel que la Cour détermine de manière décisive quelle partie est dans son tort, afin que le peuple libérien puisse comprendre la loi et agir en conséquence.



## rançais

Starts from page 8

Dillon accuse le système judiciaire du Libéria

elle confié, évoquant également les défis rapprochée. qu'elle-même a rencontrés durant son mandat aux côtés du président George

Revenant sur les élections de 2024, elle a révélé que l'ancien parti au pouvoir, la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), n'avait perdu que par 17 000 voix, ce qui, selon elle, témoigne d'un profond clivage au sein de la population.

« Si la majorité était déçue, nous avons perdu. Mais l'écart était mince », a-t-elle affirmé, expliquant que 51 % des Libériens avaient fait le pari du changement avec l'Unity Party, tandis que 49 % pensaient qu'un second mandat pour l'ex-président Weah aurait été préférable.

Elle admet également que son ancien gouvernement n'a pas su suffisamment communiquer sur les actions entreprises. « Nous n'avons pas bien su transmettre à la population ce que nous faisions. »

Par ailleurs, l'ex-vice-présidente a dénoncé le traitement qui lui est réservé depuis son départ du pouvoir. Elle affirme n'avoir reçu aucun des avantages prévus pour son statut, notamment la moitié de son salaire, un véhicule de fonction, ainsi qu'une sécurité

« J'ai écrit à tout le monde : au président de la 55e Législature, au président pro tempore du Sénat, au ministre d'État, au ministre des Finances, et plus récemment, au ministre de la Justice », a-t-elle détaillé. Malgré ses démarches répétées, elle affirme n'avoir obtenu aucune réponse concrète.

Elle a notamment évoqué un incident marquant le jour de l'investiture présidentielle, affirmant qu'aucun véhicule officiel ne lui avait été réservé pour rentrer chez elle.

« En quittant l'inauguration, j'ai été abandonnée. Il n'y avait aucun véhicule pour me ramener. J'ai attendu près de 45 minutes sous un arbre devant le Palais présidentiel, avant qu'un véhicule privé ne m'embarque », a-t-elle raconté, ajoutant qu'elle a été contrainte d'utiliser son propre véhicule personnel.

À travers ses propos, Mme Taylor souhaite offrir des conseils constructifs au gouvernement en place et appelle les dirigeants à améliorer les conditions de vie des Libériens, tout en continuant de s'exprimer sur la scène politique nationale.

#### Le Libéria préside la 83e session du Comité de protection du milieu marin de l'OMI

a communauté maritime mondiale a les yeux rivés sur le siège de l'Organisation maritime internationale (OMI) à Londres, où s'ouvre la 83e session décisive du Comité de protection du milieu marin (MEPC). Cette session, qui s'étendra sur une semaine, s'annonce cruciale pour l'adoption de mesures intermédiaires de réduction des gaz à effet de serre (GES), dans le but d'atteindre l'ambitieux objectif de la stratégie 2023 de l'OMI : décarboner le transport maritime international d'ici 2050. Selon un communiqué émanant de la Mission permanente du Libéria auprès de l'OMI, cette session historique pourrait marquer un tournant majeur dans les pratiques mondiales de navigation, notamment en matière d'adoption de carburants alternatifs et de technologies à faibles émissions de CO2.La présidence de cette session revient au Dr Harry Conway, Représentant permanent adjoint du Libéria auprès de l'OMI. Ce dernier souligne l'importance capitale de cette session pour son pays, à l'heure où les délégués du monde entier doivent adopter des mesures concrètes visant à réduire les émissions de GES dans le secteur maritime.

« C'est un honneur et une source de fierté nationale que le Libéria préside une session aussi stratégique, compte tenu de la



complexité des enjeux à débattre », a déclaré Dr Conway. « Cette position renforce considérablement l'image du Libéria sur la scène internationale et augmente nos chances de conserver notre siège de catégorie 'A' au Conseil de l'OMI, ainsI que d'obtenir un siège non permanent au Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies. » Le Libéria, acteur clé du transport maritime mondial, joue un rôle de premier plan à l'OMI grâce à son important registre de navires. À cet égard, Dr Conway affirme que son pays est prêt à assumer un leadership mondial dans les efforts de décarbonation.

La délégation libérienne, dirigée par l'Ambassadeur Robert W. Kpadeh, Représentant permanent auprès de l'OMI, participera activement aux travaux, qui réuniront quelque 1 300 délégués en présentiel et des milliers d'autres en ligne. La délégation défendra la position du pays en veillant à ce que les mesures adoptées soient justes, équitables et ne laissent aucun pays de

L'ambassadeur Kpadeh a salué la présidence libérienne de la session comme une démonstration claire du leadership exercé par les représentants du pays au sein de l'organisation maritime. « Non seulement nous présidons le MEPC, mais nous gérons également l'un des plus grands registres de navires au monde, conforme aux normes internationales », a-t-il souligné.

Le Libéria est actuellement membre de la catégorie 'A' du Conseil de l'OMI et entend bien conserver cette place lors des élections de décembre prochain. L'ambassadeur Kpadeh estime par ailleurs que le rôle central joué par son pays dans les questions de sécurité maritime et de commerce international justifie amplement une place au Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies.

La Mission libérienne auprès de l'OMI appelle le gouvernement à accorder une attention particulière aux débats en cours, reconnaissant les bénéfices immédiats et à long terme qui en découleraient. Ceux-ci incluent un renforcement de l'image internationale du pays, des opportunités d'investissements public-privé dans les technologies vertes, ainsi qu'un potentiel de revenus pour moderniser les infrastructures portuaires du pays et former les marins aux nouvelles exigences technologiques liées aux navires décarbonés.

La Mission a conclu en réaffirmant son engagement à tenir la nation informée des développements et à défendre fermement une transition maritime mondiale qui soit inclusive et équitable.

### L'armée libérienne intensifie son Opération «

Sinje, Fomba et Bombo. À dans une stratégie Montserrado, Bomi, Grand Sinje, une assistance nationale de patrouilles médicale a été apportée à trimestrielles élaborée par la population. La les AFL pour répondre à des délégation militaire y a défis sécuritaires croissants rencontré le chef de ville : criminalité Adama Sonii, inspecteur de transnationale, trafic la culture et des traditions maritime, drogue et pour les comtés de Bomi, contrebande. Cape Mount et Gbarpolu, L'opération vise non du poste de police local.

échangé avec les chefs opérationnels :Secteur 1 : communautaires et ont constaté une activité minière intense dans la rivière Mafa. La légalité du site d'exploitation reste à déterminer.

Après deux semaines d'opérations intensives dans Grand Cape Mount, la première phase de l'opération s'est achevée le 4 avril. Les troupes ont ensuite été redéployées dans le comté voisin de Bomi, où elles ont entamé de nouvelles patrouilles dès le 5 avril.

« Vrai Gardien » s'inscrit

ainsi que l'ancien seulement à affirmer la représentant Mambu Sonia, capacité des AFL à sécuriser qui a exprimé ses le territoire national, mais préoccupations concernant aussi à favoriser la l'absence de sécurité coopération entre les depuis le démantèlement forces de défense, les communautés locales et les Le 30 mars, les soldats ont autorités civiles.Le patrouillé la localité de déploiement est structuré Jendeweadi. Ils ont en trois secteurs Cape Mount, Margibi, Grand Bassa et Gbarpolu.Secteur 2: Bong, Nimba, Lofa, Maryland, Grand Kru, Sinoe, River Gee, Rivercess et Grand Gedeh.Secteur 3: l'ensemble de la côte libérienne, protégé par la Garde côtière du Libéria, composante maritime de l'opération.

Les objectifs clés de l'opération incluent : la sécurisation des frontières, la surveillance maritime, le maintien de la stabilité interne, le renforcement des relations civilo-militaires, ainsi que la capacité de réponse rapide en cas d'urgence.





## ARTICLE ARTICLE

# A Call for Government Overhaul in Liberia: Rectifying Missteps for a Brighter Future

By: Austin S Fallah-A True Son of the Planet Earth Soil:

WEDNESDAY

iberia stands at a critical juncture in its development. A nation rich in potential yet burdened by history, it is under the leadership of President Joseph Nyumah Boakai and Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung. The government faces an urgent call to action. The time has come for a significant overhaul to safeguard this nation, grappling with economic turmoil and pervasive corruption.

Under the watchful eyes and ears of President Boakai and Vice President Koung, the Unity Party government must expel unproductive and morally bankrupt officials, prioritize reformative actions, and reallocate resources toward institutions dedicated to accountability and transparency.

The people of Liberia, especially the marginalized, deserve better. Genuine

reform is essential to lift them from the profound depths of poverty and despair. The State of Governance in Liberia: Liberia's present state of governance is characterized by in efficiency, a lack of accountability, and a disconnect from the people's needs.

The people have grown disillusioned by the government's inability to fulfill promises made during the electoral campaigns. This disconnect fosters a breeding ground for skepticism and frustration among the masses, particularly among those facing economic hardships. The governing bodies are perceived as ineffective, lacking a moral compass, and disconnected from the reality many Liberians experience daily.

Understanding this landscape is imperative for President Boakai and Vice President Shape more Koung. Liberians expect results: concrete actions that demonstrate care for their well-being. Many citizens feel abandoned by stagnant wages, rising prices, and systemic corruption. The reality is stark; if the government continues on this trajectory, Liberia risks falling deeper into economic despair, exacerbating inequality and social injustice. experience experience shape more platforms semblance citizens in arrative Reallocation.

The Urgent Need for Overhaul:President and Vice President Koung must boldly overhaul the government to address these challenges. Leeway should be granted to those underperforming officials who produce no tangible benefits for the citizens. The government must pivot from a culture of complacency to accountability and performance.Contrary to their promises of change, a large portion of government is entrenched in the status quo. The voices of the downtrodden, those whom the

government vowed to uplift, are gradually drowned out by bureaucratic inefficiency and apathy.

The need for radical reform is palpable, as the consequences of inaction are dire: prolonged hardship for the vulnerable, growing discontent, and potential further destabilization of the nation. Championing the Causes of the People:The government, led by President Boakai and Vice President Koung, must remember its mandate to champion the people's causes. The electorate must see meaningful reforms that resonate with their everyday lives. The promises of alleviating poverty and combating abuses must transition from mere rhetoric to actionable items.

Solutions must be tangible, directly affecting education, health care, and public safety, thereby removing the constraints hindering progress for people experiencing poverty. Engaging with grassroots movements and civil society organizations can foster a better understanding of



citizens' needs. Listening to ordinary people's lived experiences will provide critical insights that could shape more effective policies. Creating genuine platforms for dialogue can restore faith in the semblance of democratic governance, allowing citizens to actively contribute to the nation's narrative

Reallocation of Financial Support for Accountability:

The government overhaul must also prioritize the allocation of material and financial resources to institutions such as the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), the General Auditing Commission (GAC), and other accountability bodies. These commissions play a vital role in ensuring the smooth financial running of the government. Empowering these institutions is nonnegotiable; without them, corruption will loom large, draining resources that could otherwise support essential services. Robust financial support to these organizations can disrupt entrenched corruption networks and promote transparency. An independent and fully supported LACC can hold public officials accountable, discourage nepotism,

and foster an environment where ethical behavior prevails.

Likewise, the GAC's efforts to audit government expenditures should yield an efficient use of resources, ensuring that taxpayer money furthers development rather than lining the pockets of the corrupt. Fostering a Culture of Integrity and Ethical Governance:

As Liberia seeks to recover from a tumultuous past, fostering a culture of integrity within governance is critical. The overhaul should not just be structural but also cultural.

Ethical behavior must be ingrained at every level of government, from the highest echelons (All levels of the Legislature, the Executive, and the Judiciary) to local administrations. A shift towards integrity can catalyze public trust, allowing citizens to see that their government aligns with its espoused values. Equally important is that government officials undergo

regular ethics and governance training, ensuring they understand their responsibilities and the significant implications of their actions on public opinion and trust. A commitment to upholding integrity may(could)differentiate this administration from its predecessors, potentially restoring faith in public institutions.

Public Engagement and Accountability Mechanisms: The government must prioritize transparency and create mechanisms for public engagement. Citizens should be able to scrutinize government actions actively. Engaging the public through town hall meetings and open forums (Which have not been seen by those entrusted with the people's financial resources,

etc.)where citizens can voice concerns and query government officials can improve government accountability.

Technology can also play a pivotal role: online platforms for reporting corruption and discussing policy changes can empower citizens while ensuring their voices resonate within the halls/corridors of power. Beyond engagement, accountability mechanisms must be significant. Introducing measures that demand performance accountability from public officials can foster a culture of efficiency.

Performance metrics, regular evaluations, and public feedback on government initiatives can transform public service into a competitive arena where only the most effective and responsive officials thrive. A Turning Point for Liberia: Liberia faces unprecedented challenges, but there is still an opportunity to redirect the nation's trajectory toward a more prosperous future. The time for President Boakai and Vice President Koung to act decisively is now.

2025

A daughter of slain Liberian president Samuel Kanyon Doe hate each other, it will be welcomes planned state burial by the Liberian government for her late father.

By Lincoln G. Peters

state burial initiated by late father's home county,

together so we can bring onrovia, Liberia, April closure to this", she states. 9, 2025 - Mrs. Celue Providing update on her Doe-Addo, daughter peace and reconciliation tour of slain Liberian President, recently in Nimba County and Samuel K. Doe, says proposed subsequent reunion with her



towards national healing that journey. she wholeheartedly According to her, she welcomes.

stepdaughter of Madam Gedeh counties. Western Liberia.

gratitude to President disbanded rebels INPFL. Forces of Liberia (AFL) led 17 Nimba. help in reconciling the existence. country, something she She points out that prior to the nation's old wounds.

he told me that he wants me seek a therapist.

President Joseph N. Boakai to Grand Gedeh, and her honor and give her late mother's home, Bomi County, father and former President she said that it was an William R. Tolbert befitting exciting and emotional state burials is a great step moment embarking on such

concluded her tour to Nimba Celue Doe is the biological County, preaching peace, daughter of the late reconciliation and unity president, but a between Nimba and Grand

Nancy B. Doe, as her The late President Doe, who biological mom hails from hailed from Grand Gedeh, Grand Cape Mount County, was captured and brutally executed in 1990 during the Speaking late Monday, April Liberian Civil War by the late 7, 2025, on a local radio Senator Prince Yormie station here, Mrs Doe-Addo Johnson of Nimba County, extended appreciation and who was leader of the

Boakai, regarding the Celue says she believes that proposed plan to give her everything happens in life the late father and the late way it happens because God President Tolbert state wants it to happen, clarifying burials. President Doe, then a that she holds no hate in her Master Sergeant in the Armed heart for the people of

non-commissioned army She discloses that during her officers and assassinated tour in Nimba, she met with President Tolbert on April 12, traditional communities and 1980, ending one-party rule various groupings, and they in Liberia. According to her, shared thoughts and charted the proposed state burial will a new path to peaceful co-

believes will greatly close coming to Liberia, she had a very good and solid "I'm deeply honored and relationship with some of the grateful to President Joseph names believe to be enemies N. Boakai for initiating a to the Doe family, especially process for the reburial of my the Tolbert, Johnson and father and President Tolbert. Quiwonkpa families in the I'm excited about this United States. She notes that because nobody has cared to between 2011 and 2012, when think of doing this. This will Liberians started actively help in the healing of Liberia, using Facebook, the platform giving state burial to these was used to showcase violent presidents. Also, this is a and brutal images of her brilliant Public Relations for father and others, Liberia, as it says a lot about something, she laments, who President Boakai is. I created more negative image met with the President, and in her mind and caused her to

to play a significant role, and "If we Liberians can really I accepted. Hope we all work know, and see that we don't

good. Tribalism is bad. People hate people because of tribes and it makes no sense. Lies and propaganda brought division between Nimba and Grand Gedeh. Are we satisfied now? People lost their families and many things happened during the civil war. We are excited for this new beginning", she concludes.

Similarly, former first lady Nancy B. Doe, is supportive of plan by the Boakai Administration to give her late husband a state burial.

"The Doe family— consisting of myself, our children, and our direct bloodline-has been working closely with His Excellency President Joseph Boakai's government to ensure that my husband receives a dignified and rightful reburial. A reburial date will be announced in due course by the appropriate authorities, and no unauthorized actions by Zoe Emmanuel Pennue will be tolerated.

She had opposed earlier plans by Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue to memorialize her husband, terming it as unauthorized.

A statement issued on April 3, 2025 by the Doe Family reads, "It has come to our attention that a supposed Military Traditional Memorial Service has been organized by Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue, a man who has continuously sought to advance his own SINISTER agenda under the guise of honoring Liberia's fallen leader, the late President

We wish to make it abundantly and categorically clear that no individual or group of individuals, especially led by Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue, has the right to interfere with my husband's remains without the expressed approval and involvement of myself and our appointed spiritual leader."

Samuel Kanyon Doe, Sr.

The statement clarifies that Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue is from the Pennue Family and bloodline which makes him a nephew and son to the sister to the late president.

"He has no rightful claim or authority over the Doe family when I'm alive as well as my children and that he must CEASE his UNWARRANTED ILLEGAL and UNAUTHORIZED interference in matters that concern my family, especially that of the remains of my late husband", Madam Doe rejects. Editing by Jonathan Browne

### Gov't to look into Taylor's clai

has responded to former Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor's recent claims that she has not been receiving her retirement benefits, stating that they will investigate the matter to ensure any discrepancies are addressed. Speaking during her appearance on a local radio and television program, on Monday, April 7, 2025, the former Vice President Jowel Howard Taylor alleged that she has not been receiving the benefits legally entitled to her since leaving office in January 2024. She claimed that although she receives remuneration as a former senator, she has not received any of the benefits due her as a former Vice President. "This is an issue I have raised at many levels," she said. "I even wrote a letter to the President indicating that I am still being paid as a former senator, not as a former Vice President. I have not received the salary, vehicle, or staffing benefits as provided

By Kruah Thompson

ONROVIA - The

Government of Liberia

during the inauguration of himself once received as little

by law."

after tax deductions. The payment included USD \$782.52 in foreign currency and LRD \$66,311.52 representing 30% of the benefits in local currency. At the Ministry of Information's regular press briefing on Thursday, April 8, 2025, Information Minister Jerolinmek Mathew Piah, acknowledged the former Vice President's claims and affirmed the government's commitment to resolving the issue.

"We have taken note of the concerns raised by the former Vice President. The government is open to reviewing these claims to ensure that any benefits she is entitled to are appropriately delivered,"

Minister Piah said, "If there are any benefits, she is supposed to be receiving that she's not, the government is ready to look into the matter."

He explained that efforts to standardize post-service benefits for high-ranking officials began under the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf administration through proposed Transition Acts, which were never fully Taylor further claimed that enacted. "President Boakai



taken away, leaving her wasn't until December 2016 current Vice President, and there wasn't a single vehicle left for me," she said. She added that since then, she has relied on her private vehicle and has not been assigned any security escort. However, in contrast to her public claims, leaked documents circulating on social introduced a contributory media suggest otherwise. The documents indicate that former Vice President Taylor has in fact contribute to their own been receiving retirement retirement plans. benefits. According to the financial records, in March 2025, she received a total gross amount of USD \$1,432.35, with a net payment of USD \$1,117.88

President Joseph Boakai, all as \$800 monthly due to the lack vehicles assigned to her were of a standardized policy. It stranded. "By the time I was that the legislature passed the about to go home, the entire Consolidated Pension and convoy had shifted to the Retirement Act, which repealed Decree No. 14 of the People's Redemption Council and created the legal framework for the National Social Security and Welfare Corporation (NASSCORP)." Piah further noted that the

2017 pension reform system where all government officials were required to

However, he emphasized that senior officials such as former Presidents and Vice Presidents

CONT'D ON PAGE 7



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 09, 2025 VOL. 15 NO. 053

**PRICE LD\$50.00** 

# "We are here to help build liberia" -AML CEO Makes Bold Commitment to National Development (ekera Nimba County Prior a Grant Margaret

At a colorful brought together chiefs, elders, government officials, leaders, ArcelorMittal Liberia infrastructure renewal. (AML) last Friday

Development Agreement (MDA) celebration that signed in the aftermath of civil war, and it brought to light the company's role in the Liberia's youth, and community economic recovery and

At the center of the celebration



commemorated its 20th was Michiel Vandermerwe, anniversary in Liberia with a bold message of renewed commitment to national development, sustainable partnerships, and responsible mining.

The event, held in the historic mining town of Yekepa, marked two decades since the global steel giant began operations in Liberia under a

Chief Executive Officer of ArcelorMittal Liberia, who used the occasion to make a direct and inspiring statement of purpose:

"We are not just a mining company. We are here to build a stronger, more resilient Liberia. Our journey over the past 20 years has not just been about digging iron ore. It has

ekepa, Nimba County - pioneering Mineral been about investing in people, transforming communities, and being a development partner to Liberia."

> With visible emotion, Vandermerwe described how AML has become more than an extractive company-it has evolved into an engine of opportunity for thousands of Liberians through job creation, training, and major infrastructure investments.

"To representatives from the different counties, caucuses, our beloved superintendents, and local government officials—thank you. Most importantly, to our own ArcelorMittal employees: thank you for taking the time to be here today. It's truly wonderful to see all of you here. That turnout is a testimony of a wellfunctioning organization. Well done.," he said.

ArcelorMittal Liberia's story is interwoven with the story of Liberia's post-war reconstruction. In 2006, the company made history as the first major foreign investor to commit to Liberia's rebuilding process. It restored the railway from Yekepa to Buchanan, reopened the Buchanan port, and rebuilt roads, schools, and

CONT'D ON PAGE 11



It's Raining Rewards.

Dial \*156#

to transact and win.





We Offer The Following Printing Services:

Newspapers, Magazines

Flyers, Posters, Calendars

Brochures, Letterhead

- Receipts, Invoices

Souvenirs, Gifts

Designs, etc.













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

Monrovia - Liberia.

Tel: 0886484201 / 0777007529 0886978282 / 0775407211

Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com



