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**MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES**  
**LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR**

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2025	L\$198.9252/US\$1.00	L\$200.8042/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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# Continental News

## Congo suspends Kabila's political party over rebel 'ties'

Congolese authorities said Saturday they had suspended the party of former President Joseph Kabila. An Interior ministry statement justifying the ban on the People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy (PPRD) accused Kabila of of 'overt' activism. It said the 53-year-old had been reluctant to condemn M23, the rebel group controlling North and South Kivu provinces. Kinshasa has accused Kabila, in self-imposed exile since 2023 until Friday, of supporting separatist armed rebellion in the country's east. Kabila who ruled Congo until 2019 [made a low key return to the country](#) Friday.



Congo's President Joseph Kabila speaks at a press conference in Kinshasa, Congo, Monday March 26, 2007

He arrived in the rebel-held city of Goma through Rwanda. Weeks before his return, Kabila said he wanted to make a contribution to peace in Congo without elaborating how. Days ago, Congolese security forces raided two properties belonging to Kabila - a farm east of Kinshasa and a compound in the capital. The raids were confirmed by the Kabila family spokesperson. There has been no word from the party on its suspension. Separately, the justice ministry said that a prosecutor had started legal action against Kabila for his ties with M23, the rebel group that Kinshasa says is backed by Rwanda.

## Tunisia jails opponents, critics of President Saied

Tunisia on Friday lawyers said. handed opponents of President Kais Saied Businessman Kamel Eltaief lengthy jail terms after received the harshest penalty convicting them of plotting of 66 years in prison. against state security.

They are among forty people, including high-profile politicians, businessmen and journalists, who who were being prosecuted on security and terrorism charges. Critics say the charges lacked merit, and only served to

consolidate Saied's power grab. The president won re-election virtually unchallenged last year after the jailing or disqualification on flimsy grounds of his opponents.

Saied has ruled mostly by decree since dismissing parliament in 2022 and promulgating a revised constitution giving himself wideranging powers in 2023.



Nouredine Bhiri demonstrated against the President in Tunis on May 15, 2022

## South African orphanage rehabilitates injured predator birds

At the Owl Orphanage in near Velddrif, about 150 kilometres north of Cape Town, bird of prey expert Jacques Nel brings a patient into his clinic. This black-shouldered kite was hit by car. Nel administers a pain killer and anti-inflammatory as his first response. The bird has a joint injury and needs about four months of rehabilitation at the facility. Dr Megan Murgatroyd is a raptor specialist and says these top predators are under threat. "Raptors globally are not doing

And the reason for that is because of breeding season," he says. "It's either earlier, it's later, or during the time, or after the time, which can pose certain problems when it either starts warming up or cooling down, or suddenly there's rain which it is not supposed to rain in a non-rainy season, and then the young would die," Nel explains. After being rehabilitated by Nel for two and half months, the Cape Town SPCA is overseeing the return to the wild of a young African Goshawk. Supervisor Jon Friedman is bringing it a meal before it is released later in the day. "This bird came to us about two



A photo made available on Monday, January 16, 2023 shows a white-tailed eagle in the Hortobagy National Park near Hortobagy, Hungary, Friday, January 13, 2023

well. Just over 50% of raptor species globally are in decline. And that's true for South Africa and we're seeing it in the Western Cape as well," she says. Raptors play a vital role in the ecosystem, Dr Murgatroyd explains: "They're important for controlling rodent species, for taking out weak or sick animals, vultures are important for cleaning up the environment. There's a whole mix of roles, but generally having raptors in the environment is important for balance and without them the ecosystem is clearly not healthy and not okay." As the only SPCA-accredited birds of prey rehabilitation centre in the Western Cape province, Nel sees a wide variety of cases. He heals the birds, feeds them, and rears them until they can be released back into the wild. 457 birds of prey were rehabilitated in 2024 alone at The Owl Orphanage. The work is funded entirely through private donations. Nel has more reason than ever to be concerned about the birds' future. "The main threats for birds of prey at the moment, I think number one is climate change.

months ago as an injured stray. He had an eye injury and a wing injury as well. Two days later we took him up to our rehabilitation centre at the Owl Orphanage, where he spent another two months in rehab, getting to this point where he is now, where he is ready to go back into the wild -- his eye has been healed, his wing is perfect, his weight is perfect, his flight fitness is 100%," says Friedman. Friedman brings the African Goshawk to the Blaauwklippen Wine Estate near Stellenbosch, where it was originally found injured. According to Blaauwklippen Wine Estate Facilities Manager Stefan de Wet, staff on the farm keep an eye on the wildlife here. They call the SPCA if an injured animal is found. "We've got plenty of bird life, plenty of prey, birds of prey, guinea fowl, geese, different kinds of ducks, even caracal, civet. So we've got wild game on the farm which we tend to look after, and also preserve as far as we can," says de Wet. The plan is to place a ring on the Goshawk prior to release, to aid in future identification. But the bird has other ideas, and makes a successful bid for freedom before it can be attached. This young African Goshawk, now with a healed eye and wing thanks to Jacques Nel, is back home with a second lease on life.



# EDITORIAL

## Allow President Doe to rest in peace

Seeming words of war ensued recently between Madam Nancy B. Doe, widow of slain President Samuel Kanyon Dow and a family, Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue over a memorial ceremony of her late husband, President Doe.

Senator Pennue, an ethnic Krahn, and family member of the slain President, reportedly initiated a military traditional memorial ceremony for the late President recently in Caldwell, Montserrado County.

But this is not go well with Mrs Doe, who contended that she and her children, as the immediate family, should have been the one to lead such exercise.

We think that brewing confusion in the once first family over what should be a last respect and memorial for a husband, father and renowned statesman, who was decapitated by rag-tag rebels is absolutely unwarranted.

President Doe died a very painful and humiliating death in the hands of rebels commanded by late Senator Prince Yormie Johnson after he was attacked and captured in September 1991, on the base of the regional peace monitoring group, ECOMOG inside the Freeport of Monrovia. He had gone to welcome the peacekeepers when he met his fate.

We call on Madam Doe to ceasefire and focus on keeping the family united especially, in the wake of plan by the government to give the late President a national memorial thru reburial.

We believe that as widow and mother, she is in a unique position to carry the family along irrespective of who does what. Rather that issuing public statement, washing their dirty clothes in the press, such disagreement should be addressed in family meetings.

The late President was a very decent and loving president, who positively impacted Liberia is many ways. His love for sports kept the nation united. His agriculture program, Green Revolution, put citizens to work, including his officials, who were required to cultivate private farms for self-sufficiency in food.

President Doe was also development-oriented. He modernized the National Police Headquarters. As a military man himself, he gave the Armed Forces of Liberia top priority, increasing salary of servicemen, building barracks and equipping troops. All that is history now.

This is why we think it is important that the family should unite and look up the current government that has announced a reburial plan, not only for President Doe, but late President William R. Tolbert, so that the two leaders, whose leaderships ended, leaving dark clouds over the nation, can rest in final peace, and allow Liberia to forge ahead.

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# COMMENTARY

by Alain Ebobissé,  
Fatih Birol

## “We are the Oceans”



From 9 to 13 June 2025, France will be hosting the third United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (UNOC, or United Nations Ocean Conference). For this crucial event, some 100 Heads of State and Government will converge, as well as tens of thousands of researchers, scientists, economic actors, activists and citizens from around the world. On this occasion, France's aim will be clear: protecting the oceans through tangible action. The oceans belong to all of us. They feed and protect our peoples. They inspire dreams and enable travel. They offer sustainable energy, means to trade, resources and infinite scientific knowledge. One in three people relies on the oceans for their livelihood, yet the oceans are in danger. They remain little-known, with neither global governance nor the financing needed for their preservation. The numbers are worrying: more than eight million tons of plastic end up in the oceans every year, according to a study in *Science*. Moreover, more than a third of fish stocks suffer overfishing, while ocean acidification, rising sea levels and the destruction of marine ecosystems gain pace, as direct consequences of climate change.

We must act now. More than ever before, we must make sure that multilateral action is equal to the challenges of protecting the oceans.

Ten years after COP21 and the Paris Agreement, which established a binding global framework to limit climate change, the third United Nations Ocean Conference is a historic opportunity. The “Nice Ocean Agreements” will form a genuine international compact for conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, fully in line with the sustainable development goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

To this end, the talks in Nice need to be very operational and action-focused, aiming for better governance, more financing and greater knowledge of the seas.

When it comes to governance, the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) is essential. The high seas, which represent more than 60% of the oceans, are currently the only space not governed by international law. The lack of oversight and common rules is causing a real

social and environmental disaster, with massive hydrocarbon and plastic pollution, illegal and unregulated fishing techniques, and the taking of protected mammals. To end this legal vacuum, we need the BBNJ Agreement to be ratified by 60 countries, so as to come into force.

The protection of the oceans also requires public and private financing and support for a sustainable blue economy. To continue enjoying the incredible economic opportunities offered by the oceans, we need to make sure marine resources can regenerate. In Nice, several commitments will be announced for global trade, shipping, tourism and investment.

Lastly, how can we protect what we know not – or know insufficiently? We need to enhance our knowledge of the oceans and share it better. Today, we are capable of mapping the surface of the Moon or of Mars, but the depths of the oceans – which cover 70% of Earth's surface – remain unknown. Together, we need to put science, innovation and education to work to better understand the oceans and raise public awareness.

In the context of ever faster climate change and overexploitation of marine resources, the oceans are not just one more issue: they are everyone's business. We must not forget our shared responsibility in the context of challenges to multilateralism. The oceans join us all together and are central to our future. Together, we can make the third United Nations Ocean Conference a turning point for our peoples, for future generations and for our planet.

Liberia is in the process of ratifying the treaty, with the hope of concluding it before June 9.” More than ever, we must take action together and make the third United Nations Ocean Conference a turning point. Your commitment will be decisive for sustainable management of the high seas. France will be pleased to welcome His Excellency Mr. Jeremiah Kpan Koung, Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia, to Nice, committed to the protection of the Ocean, for the celebration of the entry into force of the BBNJ Treaty. We are counting on you.

H.E. Madam Isabelle Le Guellec  
Ambassador of France to Liberia





OP-ED

By Dalia Marin

Is Trump Right About Germany's Surplus?

MUNICH – At 5.8% of GDP, Germany's [current-account surplus](#) is formidable – and has long been the subject of considerable scrutiny. This was true when Barack Obama was US president, but the criticism has grown far more aggressive under Donald Trump. Now, Trump appears committed to forcing Germany to shrink its surplus, but his approach – and the logic behind it – is fundamentally flawed.

Trump blames America's massive merchandise trade deficit – which has [swelled](#) to \$1.2 trillion – for the decline of US manufacturing, reflected in the sector's [plummeting share of total employment](#), from around [20%](#) in 1980 to just 8% in 2024. So, he wants to force countries running significant trade surpluses with the United States to change their ways. His weapon of choice, unveiled on April 2, is “reciprocal” tariffs, with rates [determined](#) by dividing the US trade deficit in goods with a given country by total goods imports from that country, and then dividing the result by two.

None of this makes sense. For starters, as the economist [Paul Krugman](#) explains, “correcting” trade imbalances will not change any of the [wide range](#) of factors – from productivity growth to automation – that have contributed to the decline of manufacturing across rich countries, including in those running surpluses, like Germany.

Moreover, America's trade deficit partly reflects desirable forces – namely, large capital inflows. From Chinese purchases of US Treasury bills (traditionally viewed as a safe asset) to German, Japanese, and South Korean automakers building factories in the US, foreign capital pours into the US economy – an attractive place to invest. These capital inflows have produced a capital-account surplus that corresponds to the US trade deficit (the capital-account surplus equals the trade deficit, and the sum of the two equals zero). Capital inflows are beneficial to the US, not least because Americans do not save enough to sustain high levels of investment – essential to drive innovation and growth – without foreign capital.

Germany's trade surplus reflects the [opposite problem](#): high savings and low investment, by both the government and business. This reflects a [policy](#) choice. During former German Chancellor [Angela Merkel](#)'s 16 years in power, the government maintained strict fiscal discipline, with the federal budget being almost balanced every year, in a practice known as *schwarze Null* (black zero).

But Germany's incoming government, led by [Friedrich Merz](#), has already amended the country's constitutional “debt brake,” thereby paving the way to run a larger federal budget deficit, and adopted a €1 trillion (\$1.1 trillion) investment program, focused on defense and infrastructure. Since [30-40 cents](#) of every additional euro the German government allocates to public investment is spent on imports, this is virtually guaranteed to shrink the country's trade surplus – no tariffs needed.

Progress is also being made on the export side. After the 2008 global financial crisis, Germany's exports to China tripled, causing its surplus to surge. In 2010-18, total German exports grew at an [annual rate of 4.1%](#), with the country's current-account surplus peaking at a whopping [8.9% of GDP](#) in 2016. But China's growth slowdown, together with tough competition from Chinese electric-vehicle and machinery suppliers, led to a [decline](#) in German exports in 2023-24. With these trends set to put further downward pressure on Germany's trade surplus, US tariffs become even less justifiable.

There is one point, however, on which the Trump administration is not entirely wrong: Germany's stellar export performance in 2010-18 was not entirely the product of free markets. In the early 2000s, Germany lowered its average income-tax rate to 44.3% (compared to its 1996 peak of 57%) and slashed its corporate-tax rate to 29.4% (compared to its 1995 peak of 56.8%), while raising its value-added tax from 16% to 19%. By making German exports cheaper, and imports more expensive, these taxes amounted to a “[fiscal devaluation](#)” – an alternative to currency devaluation, which is not available to members of a monetary union.

While boosting Germany's external competitiveness was not the *goal* of these [tax changes](#), which were designed to address domestic challenges, it was a key byproduct. So, when Peter Navarro, Trump's senior counselor for trade and manufacturing, [complains](#) that Germany has “non-tariff barriers” in place, he is not entirely off base. Germany should own up to that, though it is worth noting that other European countries have probably paid a far higher price than the US has. Still, none of this makes Trump's tariffs justifiable, let alone necessary. While Germany's trade surplus has been too big for too long, it is on track to shrink. America's deficit, too, might decline – though, here, the Trump administration should be careful what it wishes for.

*Dalia Marin, Professor of International Economics at the School of Management of the Technical University of Munich, is a research fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research and a non-resident fellow at Bruegel.*

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OPINION

By Carl Bildt

Trump's 100 Days of Failure in Ukraine

STOCKHOLM – It has been nearly 100 days since Donald Trump returned to the US presidency and Russian missiles continue to rain down on Ukrainian civilians. Despite Trump's pledge to end the war on “day one,” peace is nowhere in sight. When will the administration acknowledge that it is failing? Trump's initial demands were straightforward: stop fighting and start negotiating. After his first conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, he announced that a complete cessation of fighting was imminent, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky welcomed that prospect.

Since then, however, Putin and his small team at the Kremlin have obviously succeeded in dragging Trump's inexperienced negotiator, Steve Witkoff, down a rabbit hole of complex conditionalities and impossible demands. After many weeks of this, even the most dimwitted of negotiators should have realized that Putin has no intention of agreeing to a ceasefire or accepting Trump's plan or timetable. Ever since he launched his full-scale invasion in February 2022, Putin has relied on Russian military might to deliver him control over Ukraine. He went in with an army of roughly 200,000 contract soldiers but has since expanded the invasion force to around 600,000 with selective mobilizations and huge financial incentives. Yet despite [suffering](#) 700,000-800,000 casualties, with more than 200,000 dead, the supposedly mighty Russian army controls less Ukrainian territory – [18.3%](#) to be precise – than it did at this time [three years ago](#).

Thus, in military terms, Putin's war has been a massive failure. He probably still believes that his forces can grind their way forward and achieve some military breakthrough. But few independent observers see much chance of that happening. Russia may be able to throw more men and bombs into the battle than Ukraine can, but it cannot instill in those on the front lines the will to fight. So far, defense has proven much easier than offense. That means Putin is ultimately more dependent on Trump than on the Russian military to deliver something that could be called a victory.

Thus, Putin has deployed all the resources at his disposal to play Trump. Everyone knows that the US president is highly susceptible to flattery, and Putin has gone overboard in arguing that the 2020 US presidential election was “stolen,” and that the war never would have happened with Trump in office. He wants us to believe that he went to his private chapel to pray for Trump after the assassination attempt in 2024, and he has even had the Kremlin court artist [paint a portrait](#) of Trump as a gift. In addition to flattery, the Russians have also dangled lucrative business prospects before Trump and Witkoff. In the first encounter between US and Russian negotiators in Riyadh, Putin's team brought a list of multi-billion-dollar investment opportunities that would supposedly become available if only Trump ditched Ukraine and lifted the sanctions against Russia. According to Witkoff, a good portion of his latest meeting with Putin was [devoted](#) to this topic.

Both tactics have clearly worked. Putin knows his business, and he knows his mark. There has been no ceasefire, nor are there any signs that Putin is ready to agree to one. He has continued to launch attacks on civilian targets in Ukrainian cities with impunity.

The Kremlin's demands in its pseudo-negotiations seem to have been twofold. The first is for Ukraine to hand over the four regions of Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson. Witkoff seems already to have conceded this: The US is ready to recognize all four illegally seized territories as part of Russia. But Russia does not fully control these regions. The regional capitals of Zaporizhzhia and Kherson – cities with a combined prewar population of one million – still fly the Ukrainian flag, and no government in Kyiv could survive if it simply surrendered them. Ukraine might be able to accept a frozen conflict along the present front line, but hardly more than that.

The second demand is for security dominance and control over the rest of Ukraine. Putin wants to block any future Western security or military presence in, or assistance for, Ukraine. Trump has already caved on the question of future NATO membership for Ukraine, and he is obviously prepared to promise Putin a full stop to US assistance.

But this is where the Europeans enter the picture. Neither Putin nor Trump wanted them at the table – and that is just as well. As long as the Europeans stand firm in their determination to continue assisting Ukraine financially and militarily, Putin and Trump can agree to whatever they want. It will have no material impact on the ground.

Europe thus holds a trump card. If it can muster the political will, it is fully capable of preventing a shameful Munich-style betrayal of Ukraine. European leaders must make clear that they will proceed with their plans to support Ukraine's defense and sovereignty no matter what. In theory, Trump himself could change course by applying serious pressure on Putin and stepping up support for Ukraine. If that were to happen, he might then achieve the ceasefire that he seeks. Otherwise, he will continue to fail – as Putin and his cronies laugh at him behind his back.

*Carl Bildt is a former prime minister and foreign minister of Sweden.*

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# The cry against Mob Justice: Addressing the root causes and advocating for equal justice

It is often said that when the legal system cannot serve everyone equally, it leads to distrust and frustration in the system, something dangerously exploited by the marginalized who, in return, take the law into their own hands. The resulting outcomes are usually mob violence.

Lack of equal justice in any society often has the propensity to brew mob justice or mob violence. This act of lawlessness, which sometimes results in the death of innocent victims, is frequently the outcome of unequal justice or the lack of confidence within a justice system.

Earlier this month, the Government of Liberia declared April a month of Anti-Mob Violence, announcing that the practice has become very prevalent and widespread in Liberian society.

The campaign was launched at a colorful program attracting local and foreign dignitaries. A banner displaying an anti-mob violence campaign bore several slogans, some of which read: “Do you know that Mob Justice undermines our human dignity and creates a lawless society? Do you know that Mob Justice frustrates good governance and respect for the rule of law? Do you know that Mob Justice sends a message that drives investors away?” However, what was lacking among these messages was a slogan guaranteeing equal justice for all, a lack of which has led to the prevalence of mob violence in the country.

The current justice system doesn't seem to guarantee justice for the poor. Criminals roam the streets daily, attacking ordinary citizens and getting away with impunity. In most instances, they attack their victims in public with onlookers watching in dismay—everyone fearful of intervening. This lack of intervention and the perception that justice is out of reach for many leads to the practice of mob violence.

In other scenarios where most of these criminals are apprehended, they are regularly back on the streets in no time continuing with their trade. This repeated failure to protect ordinary citizens also lead to distrust and frustration in the justice system and of course the resulting out come is the formation of vigilante groups-which end up in taking justice into their own hands.

The repercussions of mob justice are far-reaching. It undermines the rule of law, disrupts social order, and instills fear within communities. Moreover, it tarnishes the image of the nation, deterring potential investors and stalling economic progress.

But again, in the absence of equal justice, citizens feel compelled to take matters into their own hands, resulting in chaotic and often tragic outcomes. Mob-justice has a far-reaching repercussion on societies just as unequal justice. Therefore, addressing the root causes of mob justice is as important as launching a campaign against the practices itself.

In this regard, it requires a multifaceted approach. Just by engaging communities and warning them against the practice of mob-violence is not the only way to reduce the practice but ensuring that the justice system is accessible and fair to all citizens is paramount.

When the campaign only focuses on the act but don't address the underlining factors that lead to the practice of mob-justice, it would yield no result The communities must also have access to equal justice and that too should be promoted alongside anti-mob violence.

In so doing, the government, alongside civil society organizations, must work collaboratively to restore faith in the justice system. Initiatives should focus on transparency, accountability, and the swift resolution of cases. Public awareness campaigns can also play a significant role in changing attitudes towards mob justice.

In conclusion, the cry against mob justice is a call for the restoration of trust in the legal system. By ensuring equal justice for all, society can move towards a more lawful and harmonious existence.

The month of Anti-Mob Violence is a step in the right direction, but it must be accompanied by concrete actions and reforms that address the underlying issues fuelling this dangerous practice. Only then can we hope to see a decline in mob violence and the emergence of a just and equitable society for all.

Request for Bids  
Goods  
(Two-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Liberia

Name of Project: Institutional Foundations to Improve Services for Health (IFISH)

Contract Title: Supply, Installation & Maintenance of Medical Equipment for the New Redemption Hospital

Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.: 66460/72070 & TFB9398

RFB Reference No.: LR-MOHSW-479593-GO-RFB

1.

The Government of Liberia has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Institutional Foundations to Improve Services in Health (IFISH) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contracts for the supply, installation & maintenance of assorted Medical Equipment at the New Redemption Hospital through the below three (3) lots and schedules. “For these contracts, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the World Bank’s Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing, except for those payments which the contracts provide to be made through letter of credit.”

Lots#	Description	Bid Security: Guarantee (USD)	Bank
Lot# -1	General & Specialized Medical Equipment	US\$85,000.00	
Schedule#-1	General Medical Equipment		
Schedule#-2	Critical Care, Maternal and Neonatal care equipment		
Schedule#-3	Operating room equipment & instruments		
Lot#-2	Medical Diagnostic Equipment	US\$35,000.00	
Schedule#-1	Laboratory Equipment		
Schedule#-2	Imaging Equipment		
Lot#-3	Sterilization & Medical Waste Management Equipment	US\$15,000.00	
Schedule#-1	Sterilizer & Accessories		
Schedule#-2	Solid Medical Waste Management		

2.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply, installation & maintenance of assorted Medical Equipment. Deliveries of the above items are to be made at the New Redemption Hospital, Upper Caldwell, Monsterrado County, Liberia within a delivery period of 12-16 weeks.

3.

Bidding will be conducted through international competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank’s “[Procurement](#) Regulations for IPF Borrowers” Procurement in investment project financing Goods, Works, Non-consulting and Consulting of July 2016, Revised November 2017, August 2018, November 2020, and September 2023 (“Procurement Regulations”), and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

4.

Bidders can bid for multiple lots; however, **bids will be evaluated on a “lot-by-lot basis”**. If any bidder is bidding for multiple lots, said bidder must meet the qualification requirements for the respective lots on which bids have been submitted.

5.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Ministry of Health, Project Manager at [matt77us@gmail.com](mailto:matt77us@gmail.com), copy [neuf25fumba@gmail.com](mailto:neuf25fumba@gmail.com), [mutricias@yahoo.com](mailto:mutricias@yahoo.com), [joeyaduasante@gmail.com](mailto:joeyaduasante@gmail.com), and inspect the bidding documents during office hours of 9:00 am to 4:30 pm local time Monday to Friday, excluding Saturdays & Sundays at the address given below.

6.

The bidding document in the English language may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders following the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **US\$100.00 (One Hundred United States Dollars)**. The payment will be made in cash to our finance team upon submission of an expression of interest from local entities. However, overseas bidders will make payment through the bank transfer details below. Nevertheless, a copy of the transfer document will be sent for verification by our finance team. Kindly note that the courier with documents for local or overseas delivery from Bidders will be paid for by each bidder for courier services.

Bank Name: EcoBank Liberia

A/C Title: IFISH Account

A/C No.:6101762122

Swift Code: ECOCLRLM

7.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before June 04, 2025, @ 1:00 pm Local time or 13:00 GMT. Electronic Bidding **will not** be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. The outer Bid envelopes marked “**ORIGINAL BID**”, and the inner envelopes **marked “TECHNICAL PART”** will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on June 04, 2025, @ 1:20 pm local time or 13:20 GMT. All envelopes **marked “SECOND ENVELOPE: FINANCIAL PART”** shall remain unopened and will be held in the safe custody of the Purchaser until the second public opening.

8.

All Bids must be accompanied by a “Bid Security “Bank Guarantee as provided above.

9.

Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder’s beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.

10.

The address(es) referred to above are:

**The address for information, inspection, and purchase of the Bidding Document** is as stated below:

Office of the Portfolio Manager  
Ministry of Health, Tubman Boulevard, Oldest Congo Town, Monrovia, Liberia  
Tel.: +231 0777459130, Liberia, 10-1000  
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## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Liberia: NTA & ABK sealed deal to boost public transport fleet

# Who will replace PYJ

*The National Transit Authority has announced the procurement of over 50 new buses to boost public transport here.*

Monrovia, Liberia, April 21, 2025: The National Transit Authority (NTA), in partnership with ABK Incorporated, is finalizing a procurement deal aimed at alleviating the transportation burden on citizens across Liberia. The agreement involves the purchase of 35 fifty-two-seater buses, 20 eighteen-seater buses, and five cargo trucks. In an exclusive interview with The NewDawn over the weekend, NTA Managing Director Edmund Forth revealed that the contract has already been signed by both parties and countersigned by the Ministries of Finance and Justice. According to Mr. Forth, an initial payment of USD 500,000 will be made to the vendor within two weeks, sourced from the 2025 fiscal year budget.



*By: Kruah Thompson*

“We are close to consummating this deal,” Forth stated. “Once the payment is made, the procurement and ordering process will begin to bring relief to commuters countrywide.” ABK is a Liberian-based company specializing in alternative equipment and transportation solutions, owned by Alieu B. Kromah. Highlighting his accomplishments since assuming leadership, NTA Managing Director Forth pointed to significant progress in restoring the agency's capacity, adding that upon taking office, all buses under the NTA's care were non-operational and most of the agency's infrastructure was in disrepair.

### Major repairs

“After appearing at the MICAT regular press briefing in August last year, I made a commitment to revamp this broken system,” he said. “Within six months, we've repaired 13 out of 15 buses

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# “This Government is not here to play”

*... Pres. Boakai warns against Mob-Violence By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh*

*The Liberian leader over the weekend issued stem warning against mob violence, while vowing to take decisive action against perpetrators.*

President Joseph Nyumah Boakai has warned that his government isn't here to play the Presidency, but to rather take all form of action, against ills in the country. Addressing the Anti-Mob-Justice Campaign launched in Sinkor over the weekend, President Boakai warned against Mob-Violence, while urging citizens to respect the rule of law. “This government is not here to play- Presidency, but to look into social problems, and we hear every day about Mob-violence,” People burning down Police Station and we stand against it,” he said.

Mr. Boakai stressed that the activities of Mob-Violence can hunt anybody, while driving away developments. “This isn't a joke; Mob Violence can hunt anybody. So, we have to move into the communities and invest in social issues, raise awareness and educate our people,” President Boakai added.

For his part, Justice Minister Olsward Tweah warned that the government will not tolerate Mob-violence. “This government will not condone or tolerate mob

lawlessness that has begun to take root in our neighborhoods,” he said.

“Today, I stand before you not only as the Minister of Justice but as a concerned citizen who believes in the rule of law and in our collective responsibility to uphold it.

This government, under the leadership of President H.E. Joseph Nyuma Boakai, categorically denounces these acts of violence and pledges a decisive response,” he added.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Mob Violence Campaign seeks to build a renewed commitment in the justice system and to cultivate a culture of respect for the rule of law by engaging communities in dialogues and educational activities.

At the same time, the campaign aims to empower citizens to seek justice through lawful means—no longer resorting to vigilantism or mob justice. *-Edited by*

*Othello B. Garblah*



The narrator: With just one day to the poll in the Nimba Senatorial by election, stakes remain high, as prominent national and political figures throw their weights behind their choice candidates.

Amongst the prominent national figures are former President Sirleaf and former Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor who are leading an array of women in support of Madam Edith Gongloe-Weh, sister of former Presidential candidate and Human Rights lawyer Cllr. Tiawon Gongloe. Madam Gongloe -Weh's supporters also include former Presidential candidate and political leader of the Alternative National Congress Mr. Alexander Cummings. On the other hand, former President George Weah is leading the support for his party's candidate in the race amid reports of divided support within the ranks of the CDC for its candidate, while incumbent President Boakai and his Vice President who is also leading an array of Government officials are in the county campaigning for Rep. Kogar.

*By Edwin N Khakie*

The upcoming senatorial by-election in Nimba County—set for Tuesday, April 22, 2025—promises to be a high-stakes political showdown, sparked by the passing of the late Senator Prince Yormie Johnson. A towering figure in Liberian politics for years, Johnson's influence in Nimba loomed large due to his populist rhetoric, ethnic appeal among the Gio and Mano communities, and kingmaker role in national elections.

This election represents a defining moment for Nimba County: will it cling to the political legacy of Prince Johnson or pivot toward a more reformist, technocratic direction? With seven high-profile candidates in the race, the contest is expected to be fiercely competitive and closely watched across Liberia.

### Candidate Overview

1. Madam Edith Gongloe-Weh  
Political Background: Former Superintendent of Nimba; three-time senatorial contender, widely respected for her integrity and public service.

### Strengths:

High name recognition.  
Strong support from women, youth, civil society, and urban voters.

Seen as a clean, reform-oriented alternative to the old guard.

### Challenges:

Needs to drive high turnout in vote-rich urban centers like Ganta, Sanniquellie, and Bahn.

May struggle to win over rural voters still loyal to the legacy of Prince Johnson.

2. Rep. R. Martenokay Tingban  
Political Background: Former Representative of District #9.

### Strengths:

Deep roots in lower Nimba.  
Strong ties to traditional political structures.

Experienced in legislative and local governance.

### Challenges:

Limited appeal among younger and first-time voters seeking change.

3. Wonokay Farnqalo  
Political Background: Former Deputy Finance Minister and development expert.

### Strengths:

Technocratic credentials and experience in public finance.

Likely to draw support from professionals and the business sector.

### Challenges:

Low name recognition.

Minimal rural reach.

Needs a robust, well-funded campaign to stay in the race.

4. Rep. Samuel Kogar  
Political Background: Incumbent Representative from District #5, known for his assertive style and grassroots presence.

### Strengths:

Strong base in Gbehlay-Geh and surrounding areas.

Effective ground game with loyal district supporters and youth outreach.

### Challenges:

May face difficulty expanding beyond his core constituency.

Risk of vote-splitting with other candidates from central Nimba.

5. Cllr. Garrison Yealue

Political Background: Legal professional and former Governance Commission Chair.

### Strengths:

Reformist image with appeal among educated voters and religious communities.

### Challenges:

Limited grassroots structure.

Could split the urban reform vote with Gongloe-Weh and Farnqalo.

6. Mack Gbliwon

Political Background: Businessman and first-time candidate.

### Strengths:

Outsider appeal in a field of seasoned politicians.

### Challenges:

Very low name recognition.

Lacks the political machinery to mount a serious challenge.

Could act as a spoiler in key precincts.

7. Dr. George Gonpu

Political Background: Educator and policy expert.

### Strengths:

Appeals to academia and younger voters.

Focus on education and development resonates with progressives.

### Challenges:

Minimal political infrastructure.

Like Gbliwon, is likely to influence the outcome more through vote distribution than direct support.

### Electoral Dynamics

### Ethnic and Regional Factors

The Gio and Mano remain critical voting blocs. Candidates who forge strong alliances with traditional elders and community leaders in rural areas will hold an edge.

### Urban vs. Rural Divide

Urban centers like Ganta and Sanniquellie are likely to favor reform-minded candidates—Gongloe-Weh, Farnqalo, and Yealue. Rural strongholds, especially in Tappita, Gbehlay-Geh, and Kparblee, may lean toward veterans like Kogar, Tingban, or those backed by remnants of Prince Johnson's movement.

### Turnout Trends

In a fragmented field, voter turnout will be decisive. High turnout in urban areas could propel reformists to the front. Lower turnout may benefit candidates with well-established rural machines and loyal voter bases.

### Predicted Front-Runners

1. Edith Gongloe-Weh – Poised to lead if she consolidates urban and youth support. Her reformist brand and name recognition are key assets.

2. Rep. Samuel Kogar – A rural heavyweight with grassroots strength; a serious contender if he expands beyond his home turf.

3. R. Martenokay Tingban – Quietly influential, especially among older voters and traditional structures.

### Dark Horses

Farnqalo and Yealue may peel off enough support from undecided and educated urban voters to influence the balance but risk dividing the reform vote.

Dr. Gonpu and Gbliwon likely won't win, but could play spoiler roles in closely contested districts.

### Prediction Summary

This by-election is shaping up to be a tight three-way race between:

1. Edith Gongloe-Weh

2. Samuel Kogar

3. R. M. Tingban

Gongloe-Weh stands the best chance if she energizes urban voters and leverages her reformist momentum. However, if the reformist vote is divided and turnout remains low, Tingban or Kogar could edge ahead by mobilizing loyal rural voters and tapping into traditional networks.



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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Liberia: NTA & ABK sealed deal to boost public transport fleet

donated by the Indian Government.”

He disclosed that the government allocated USD 300,000 to the NTA during the 2024 fiscal year to assist with repair efforts.

However, he explained that the process was challenging, as most of the critical missing spare parts had to be ordered from India, where the buses were manufactured. But noted that once spare parts arrive, their mechanics will be engaged to begin the repairs.

“The repair work took longer due to these unforeseen issues, but we have successfully restored 13 buses, and the 14th is currently undergoing rewiring and further repairs,” he said.

He also revealed that some of the USD 300,000 allocated funds were used to purchase two 30KVA generators and one 100KVA generator to provide stable electricity for the NTA compound.

In addition to bus repairs, Forth opined that upon taking office at the NTA, he discovered that tools and spare parts, including tire rings, were missing and had to be recovered from various scrap shops across Monrovia.

**Institutional Reforms**

He also outlined broader institutional reforms under his leadership, indicating that after taking over in October, the NTA requested an audit from the General Auditing Commission (GAC), and the audit has since been conducted, and the entity is currently awaiting the results.

He also revealed several reforms that have taken place under his administration at the NTA, including the finalization of a Human Resource manual, which is currently being printed for distribution, and the development of a compensation matrix to ensure fair employee salaries.

Additionally, he said the NTA has completed the implementation of a performance management compliance system introduced by the government in 2024, that the agency now has a functional website and billboard, both part of a broader five-year strategic plan that will soon be made available to the public.

Forth further revealed that to build the institutional capacity, the NTA has engaged professionals to conduct sessions with drivers and mechanics, focusing on regional safety and health.

He also mentioned that the agency is finalizing a contract to outsource health insurance for staff, adding that the bidding process has already been completed and is pending validation from the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC).

**Infrastructure issues**

Addressing long-standing infrastructure issues at NTA, Forth noted that despite having over 400 employees, the NTA previously had only two restrooms, one for senior management and one for general staff. He said a new sex-separated restroom facility is now under construction and expected to be ready within two weeks.

He also stated that the administrative building, which was gutted by fire, has been included in a reconstruction bid. Although initially stalled by the PPCC, the agency has since been instructed to proceed with the construction.

“We are committed to transforming the NTA into a fully functional and efficient agency that serves the needs of all Liberians,” Forth concluded. *-Edited by Othello B. Garblah.*

Shenzhen Mayor to invest in Liberia's Agriculture

Chinese Mayor Qin Weizhong, eyes Liberia's agriculture sector.

By Judoemue M. Kollie

Monrovia, Liberia, April 21, 2025 - Liberia's quest to attract agricultural investments to create more jobs and improve food security is gradually becoming a reality here, as the mayor of Shenzhen, China, discloses plans to partner with the Government of Liberia to strengthening agriculture.

Speaking during a one-day visit to the Ministry of Agriculture, Mayor Qin Weizhong, said Shenzhen would like to invest in the country's agriculture sector.

“We can help to address some of your challenges in agriculture. We will do that under the framework of the Chinese government,” he says.

With a 14-member delegation arriving in Liberia on a 3-day official visit aimed at strengthening economic cooperation and investment opportunities in trade, agriculture, and cultural exchange, it was the first visit of the Shenzhen mayor.

The visit came as the result of the China-Liberia Trade and Investment Forum held in Shenzhen in September 2024 during the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

The mayor informs officials of the agriculture ministry here

that he is hoping that his visit can contribute to a mutual benefit for a strategic partnership.

“We are also involved in empowering people in agriculture as we believe that we can promote agriculture with win-win results,” he adds.

According to him, Shenzhen was not restricted to trade and consumption but technology was a key to the city development agenda.

“Information technology is the heart of our work. We are not only restricted to consumption but also to technology. We are focusing on trade, agriculture investments, and products.”

The mayor was responding to a series of concerns raised by Agriculture Minister, Dr.

Alexander Nuetah during his visit at the ministry.

Dr. Nuetah outlines a number of challenges that are still facing the nation's agriculture, pleading for the mayor's attention.

He names the building of more irrigation facilities, institution capacity building, and supporting farm mechanization as some of the concerns.

Minister Nuetah notes that China remains Liberia's main ally when it comes to agriculture.

According to him, with China's plan to assist Liberia, the country is expected to establish about 8 hubs to enhance farm mechanization.

However, he calls on China to do more to achieve transformative agricultural goals.

Meanwhile, the Delegation presented a Leafy Vegetable Seeder, a precision farming machine for accurate single-grain sowing, donated by the Shenzhen Agriculture and Food Investment Holding Group Co., Ltd. to support Liberia's drive toward agricultural modernization. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Shenzhen Mayor and Minister Nuetah

VP Koung uncovers plot in Nimba

-accuses CDC of wanting to split voters ahead of 2029

Vice President Koung links former ruling CDC to a plot to politically divide the people of Nimba County ahead of the next elections in 2029.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Nimba, Liberia, April 21, 2025 - Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung says he is heavily involved with the Nimba County senatorial by-election to prevent and resist the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) from executing its political plot in the county.

Vice President Koung accuses the CDC of masterminding a plot to divide and split the votes of Nimba in 2029 and disunite the people.

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai declares tomorrow, Tuesday, a public holiday in Nimba for the senatorial by-election intended to fill a vacant created by the passing of Senator Prince Yormie Johnson late last year.

Speaking over the weekend on Radio Nimba, VP Koung noted that Tuesday's (April 22, 2025) senatorial by-election in Nimba is not a mere by-election, rather, he says it's a well thought out political

especially in the absence of late Senator Prince Y. Johnson, who used to keep the county and its people together.

However, he points out that the CDC knows that with only Madam Edith Gongloe-Weh contesting, Representative Samuel Kogar of the MDR will win the senator by-election, because his (Rep. Kogar's) mother is also from the Mahn ethnic tribe, as Edith is.

Therefore, he says they planted two extra candidates to destroy the votes of the Dahn people of Kogar, Mark and Yealue, to enable Gongloe-Weh wins, thus igniting confusion and disunity in the county, which will give the CDC strength and capacity in Nimba 2029 to split the votes.

"These are political thinking and we all are thinking. We all are thinking as if we went to the same school. So, all this is happening to ensure that we, the people of Nimba don't go to the election united in 2029. They don't want Nimba united in 2029,



plot properly arranged and calculated by the CDC to intrude into Nimba political dominance and eventually, to destroy the county's electoral college and voice.

"Now, I could have sat in Monrovia and watched the election play, but the election is just bigger than just senatorial election. There are many people, who want to divide this county politically, especially votes-wise. There are many who are afraid of the strength of Nimba. And so, they believe that to break Nimba into pieces will be a way out for them. The same people that we went against in the 2023 Presidential election, Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC, they sit down and calculated that if only Madam Edith Gongloe-Weh is fielded in the election, and can go in and if she wins, the Dahn people will start to argue about dividing Nimba because there will be two Mahn senators therefore, they can capitalize on that in the future to split the vote in Nimba comes 2029 during the Presidential election. Now, I'm here to protect Nimba Electoral College, voting decision strength and maintain our tribal political balance." VP Koung says.

He notes that the CDC believes that if Nimba County were to split and votes divided, the county will lose its political and electoral power,

because Nimba has proven political dominance. Since 1997, Nimba continues to make President. 2005 and 2011 in second round Nimba voted Ellen. Also, in 2017, Nimba decided to carry former President George M. Weah and he won. 2023, Nimba again decided to give it to President Joseph N. Boakai and he is President today. So, they don't want Nimba County together for 2029, especially in the absence of Senator Johnson."

Koung maintains that he a responsibility to tell the people of Nimba about the CDC's alleged political plot that may likely weaken the strength of Nimba, if his insights are not given attention and ignored.

"If our people don't listen, it's up to them. If our children in the future come and ask how Nimba political dominance and electoral strengthen has reduced, or how we lost it, the record will show that I came to Radio Nimba and spoke but the people didn't listen", he adds.

Reflecting historically, he recalls that in 1964, from the formation of Nimba, the county initiated a traditional balance senatorial representation to avoid conflict and disunity, which most time is represented by the two major dominant tribe, manor (Dah) and Gio or Mah.



# Français

## Ellen Johnson Sirleaf et Jewel Howard-Taylor soutiennent Edith Gongloe-Weh

L'ancienne présidente libérienne, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a officiellement apporté son soutien à la candidature de Madame Edith Gongloe-Weh, unique femme en lice pour l'élection sénatoriale partielle prévue le mardi 22 avril dans

affronte sept candidats masculins dans cette course électorale très disputée. Jeudi 17 avril, devant le parc sportif Invincible à Monrovia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a exprimé sa confiance en la capacité de Madame Gongloe-Weh à offrir une gouvernance de qualité,

peut rester à la traîne alors que le monde avance vers une plus grande inclusion des femmes. Quiconque freine cette évolution freine le progrès mondial. Je suis ici aujourd'hui pour soutenir Edith Gongloe-Weh, candidate au Sénat pour le comté de Nimba. J'appelle toutes les femmes et les jeunes filles de Nimba à me rejoindre dans ce soutien », a-t-elle déclaré.

L'ancienne cheffe de l'État a également rappelé que Madame Gongloe-Weh avait exercé les fonctions de superintendante du comté de Nimba sous son administration, s'y illustrant par son intégrité, son dévouement et son professionnalisme.

Dans un autre soutien de poids, l'ancienne vice-présidente Jewel Howard-Taylor, également cheffe politique du National Patriotic Party (NPP), a officiellement endossé la candidature de Madame Gongloe-Weh. Ne pouvant être présente physiquement, elle a transmis son message de soutien par téléphone,

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le comté de Nimba. Cette élection vise à pourvoir le siège laissé vacant suite au décès, l'an dernier, du sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson. Madame Gongloe-Weh

transparente et axée sur le progrès. « C'est moi, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, ancienne Présidente du Liberia. Je rejoins les femmes du pays pour soutenir une candidate féminine au sein de la législature. Le Liberia ne

## Ride : l'attention se tourne désormais vers les partenaires commerciaux

La Cellule spéciale de récupération des avoirs et de restitution des biens a officiellement clôturé son enquête sur l'entreprise *Gracious Ride* ainsi que sur plusieurs autres individus convoqués dans le cadre de la même procédure. L'enquête se concentre désormais sur les personnes et entreprises ayant entretenu des relations commerciales avec ladite société.

Dans une correspondance officielle datée du mardi 15 avril 2025, la Cellule a informé l'ancienne cheffe du protocole présidentiel, l'ambassadrice Nora Finda Bundoo, de la poursuite des investigations concernant des soupçons de conflit d'intérêts, de vol de biens publics, de mauvaise gestion de fonds publics, de sabotage économique et de blanchiment d'argent.

Ces allégations sont liées à son implication présumée avec le groupe *Anita Group of Companies* et sa filiale *Gracious Ride*, dont l'acquisition serait, selon la Task Force, entachée d'irrégularités et de fonds d'origine illicite.

Après près de douze mois de procédures judiciaires, la Cellule avait été autorisée à

poursuivre son enquête. Quelques jours après cette décision de justice, Mme Bundoo a été à nouveau convoquée le 15 avril pour répondre aux accusations portées contre elle. Selon les termes de cette convocation, l'ambassadrice Bundoo aurait apposé son nom, sa signature et son titre officiel sur des documents d'entreprise relatifs aux sociétés en question, durant son service à la présidence sous l'administration de l'ex-président George Weah.

Cependant, dans une déclaration accordée mercredi au journal *The New Dawn*, Mme Bundoo a affirmé que la Cellule d'enquête agissait de manière partisane, dénonçant une campagne de dénigrement à motivation politique visant à ternir son image. Elle a, de ce fait, décliné

l'invitation.

En réponse, le ministre adjoint de l'Information, Daniel Sando, a annoncé jeudi, lors du point de presse hebdomadaire du MICAT, que l'affaire impliquant l'ancienne cheffe du protocole ainsi que d'autres personnes convoquées a été officiellement classée, conformément à la c o r r e s p o n d a n c e susmentionnée. Toutefois, il a précisé que l'enquête se poursuit à l'encontre d'autres individus liés au *Anita Group of Companies*.

Le ministre Sando a indiqué que le refus de Mme Bundoo, par l'intermédiaire de son équipe juridique, de se présenter

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Ambassador Nora Finda Bundoo

## Éditorial

### « Nous sommes l'Océan »

Du 9 au 13 juin 2025, la France accueillera la troisième Conférence des Nations unies sur l'Océan (UNOC3). Ce rendez-vous sera un moment décisif : il réunira, à Nice, une centaine de chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement, et plusieurs dizaines de milliers de participants, chercheurs, scientifiques, acteurs économiques, militants associatifs et citoyens du monde entier. A cette occasion, la France portera un objectif clair : protéger l'Océan par des actions concrètes.

L'Océan est notre bien commun. Il nourrit les peuples et les protège. Il nous fait rêver et voyager. Il nous offre de l'énergie durable, des moyens de commercer, des ressources et des connaissances scientifiques infinies.

Un être humain sur trois dépend de l'Océan pour vivre, et pourtant, ce dernier est en danger. C'est un espace encore largement méconnu, qui ne dispose ni d'une gouvernance globale, ni des financements nécessaires à sa préservation. Les chiffres sont inquiétants : plus de 8 millions de tonnes de plastique sont déversées dans l'Océan chaque année, selon une étude de la revue *Science*. A cela s'ajoute la surexploitation, qui touche plus d'un tiers des stocks de poissons, mais aussi l'acidification des eaux, la montée du niveau de la mer et la destruction des écosystèmes marins. Et ces phénomènes s'accroissent, conséquences directes du dérèglement climatique.

Il est temps d'agir. Plus que jamais, nous devons faire en sorte que l'action multilatérale soit à la hauteur des enjeux liés à la protection de l'Océan.

Dix ans après la COP21 et l'Accord de Paris, qui a permis d'établir un cadre mondial contraignant pour limiter le réchauffement climatique, l'UNOC3 représente une opportunité historique. Les « Accords de Nice » constitueraient un véritable pacte international pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable de l'Océan. Ce pacte serait ainsi directement en ligne avec les objectifs de développement durable (ODD) adoptés par l'ONU, en 2015.

Pour y parvenir, les discussions à Nice devront être concrètes et tournées vers l'action. Il s'agira d'œuvrer pour une meilleure gouvernance, davantage de financements et une plus fine connaissance de la mer.

En matière de gouvernance, le traité sur la protection de la biodiversité en haute mer (BBNJ) est un levier essentiel. La haute mer – plus de 60% des Océans – est aujourd'hui le seul espace qui n'est pas régi par le droit international. L'absence de surveillance et de règles communes entraîne un véritable désastre socio-environnemental : pollutions massives d'hydrocarbures et de plastiques, méthodes de pêche illégales et non régulées, captures de mammifères protégés. Pour mettre un terme à ce vide juridique, nous devons obtenir la ratification de 60 pays et ainsi permettre au traité BBNJ d'entrer en vigueur.

La protection de l'Océan passe également par la mobilisation des financements publics et privés et le soutien à une économie bleue durable. Pour continuer à bénéficier des formidables opportunités économiques de l'Océan, nous devons faire en sorte que les ressources marines puissent se régénérer. A Nice, plusieurs engagements seront annoncés en matière de commerce international, de transport maritime, de tourisme et d'investissement.

Enfin, comment protéger ce que l'on ne connaît pas – ou pas assez ? Nous devons accroître notre connaissance de l'Océan et mieux la diffuser. Aujourd'hui, nous sommes capables de cartographier la surface de la Lune ou celle de Mars, mais le fond des Océans nous demeure inconnu. Ils recouvrent pourtant 70% de la Terre ! Ensemble, mobilisons la science, l'innovation et l'éducation pour mieux comprendre l'Océan et sensibiliser davantage le grand public.

Face au changement climatique qui s'accroît et à la surexploitation des ressources marines, l'Océan n'est pas un enjeu parmi d'autres. C'est l'affaire de tous. La remise en question du multilatéralisme ne doit pas nous faire oublier notre responsabilité commune. L'Océan est un lien universel, il est au cœur de notre avenir. Ensemble, nous pouvons faire de l'UNOC3 un tournant majeur pour nos peuples, pour les générations futures et pour notre planète.

Le Libéria a engagé le processus de ratification du traité, avec l'espoir de le conclure avant le 9 juin. Plus que jamais, nous devons nous mobiliser collectivement et faire de l'UNOC3 un tournant. Votre engagement est décisif pour la gestion durable de la haute mer. La France sera heureuse d'accueillir S. E. M. Jeremiah Kpan Koung à Nice, engagé en faveur de la protection de l'Océan, pour la célébration de l'entrée en vigueur du traité BBNJ. Nous comptons sur vous.

S.E. Madame Isabelle Le Guellec

Ambassadrice de France au Libéria



# Français

## Starts from page 8 Ellen Johnson Sirleaf et Jewel Howard

accompagné d'un don financier pour la campagne. Madame Howard-Taylor a précisé que sa position reflète la volonté des membres du Comité exécutif national du NPP et des partisans concernés, tous unis derrière la candidature de Madame Gongloe-Weh. Elle l'a décrite comme une fille respectée de Nimba, une ardente défenseure de la bonne gouvernance et de l'autonomisation des femmes. « En tant que porte-étendard du NPP, j'endosse pleinement le choix stratégique et courageux du parti. À ce moment crucial, j'encourage tous les partisans, en particulier les femmes de Nimba, à voter pour Edith. Son élection serait un pas en avant pour le comté et pour un leadership plus inclusif », a déclaré la Dre Jewel Howard-Taylor. Elle a toutefois reconnu les défis internes actuels auxquels fait face le NPP, notamment l'absence d'un leadership officiellement reconnu par la Commission électorale nationale (NEC). « Le NPP traverse actuellement une crise de leadership », a-t-elle affirmé, appelant à un sursaut collectif

pour restaurer la légitimité du parti à travers un congrès démocratique et transparent. En parallèle, un groupe de femmes, principalement issues du Secrétariat des ONG féminines du Liberia, a organisé un rassemblement de soutien à Monrovia. Des dons en espèces ont été recueillis dans une boîte recouverte de tissu traditionnel, au rythme de la musique, pendant que certaines participantes contribuaient via le service MobileMoney. Madame Sirleaf, quittant sa résidence située en face du parc, est venue remettre personnellement une enveloppe contenant une somme non divulguée pour soutenir la campagne de Madame Gongloe-Weh. Ce double appui de figures emblématiques comme Ellen Johnson Sirleaf et Jewel Howard-Taylor marque un moment fort pour les femmes en politique au Liberia, et relance l'appel à une représentation plus équitable au sein des institutions nationales.

## Le gouvernement libérien et ses partenaires au développement renforcent leur coordination pour la mise en œuvre de l'Agenda ARREST

Le gouvernement du Libéria et ses partenaires au développement ont organisé, ce jeudi 17 avril, un retrait stratégique de haut niveau au complexe ministériel Ellen Johnson Sirleaf à Congo Town. Cette rencontre, intitulée « Retraite Gouvernement-Partenaires au Développement » (G-DPR), avait pour objectif de renforcer la coordination et d'aligner les stratégies en vue de la mise en œuvre efficace de l'Agenda ARREST pour le développement inclusif (AAID), le plan national de développement du pays pour la période 2025-2029. Placée sous le thème « Renforcer les partenariats pour la mise en œuvre du plan national du Libéria », la retraite a réuni des hauts fonctionnaires du gouvernement, des chefs de missions diplomatiques, des représentants d'agences internationales de développement, des acteurs de la société civile et du secteur privé.

Le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du Développement, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, a ouvert la session en rappelant le lancement officiel de l'Agenda ARREST et des 15 Agendas de Développement des Comtés (CDAs) par le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, le 15 janvier 2025 à Buchanan, dans le comté de Grand Bassa. Il a souligné que cet agenda incarne les aspirations du peuple libérien en matière de développement. Cependant, le ministre Ngafuan a révélé que, quelques semaines après ce lancement, le Libéria a subi un revers majeur avec le retrait inattendu du soutien de l'un de ses principaux bailleurs de fonds. « Pratiquement tous les projets soutenus par l'USAID, notre deuxième plus grand donateur, ont été annulés, à l'exception de deux », a-t-il déclaré. « Le coût total des

projets annulés pourrait dépasser 300 millions de dollars, ce qui introduit une certaine imprévisibilité dans notre planification. »

Malgré ces défis, le ministre a affirmé l'engagement du Libéria à poursuivre la mise en œuvre de l'AAID, estimée à 8,38 milliards de dollars, couvrant plus de 370 interventions critiques dans tous les secteurs. Il a précisé que 30 % du financement proviendront de ressources domestiques, tandis que les 70 % restants nécessiteront un soutien externe substantiel. Parmi les objectifs clés de l'AAID figurent la réduction de la pauvreté multidimensionnelle de 45 % à 36 % et l'augmentation du PIB par habitant de 850 à 1 050 dollars d'ici 2029, visant ainsi à faire passer le Libéria au statut de pays à revenu intermédiaire inférieur.

Le ministre Ngafuan a également mis en avant les efforts du gouvernement pour mobiliser les ressources internes, rationaliser les dépenses, réduire les fuites et les abus, et numériser les processus afin d'accroître l'efficacité. Il a souligné l'importance de l'intégration régionale, notamment à travers la CEDEAO et l'Union africaine, pour renforcer la

résilience économique du pays. S'exprimant également lors de l'ouverture, Mme Christine N. Umutoni, coordinatrice résidente des Nations Unies au Libéria, a salué le leadership du gouvernement dans le lancement de l'AAID et a reconnu les défis financiers mondiaux actuels. Elle a insisté sur la nécessité d'un dialogue approfondi pour renforcer les partenariats et aligner les efforts sur le plan national du Libéria, en mettant l'accent sur le financement innovant et la mobilisation du secteur privé ainsi que de la diaspora libérienne. Mme Umutoni a également félicité le gouvernement pour son ouverture à des stratégies dynamiques et adaptatives, soulignant que les réponses aux défis complexes doivent être tout aussi dynamiques, innovantes et ouvertes à des mécanismes de financement alternatifs. La retraite devrait aboutir à des résultats concrets, notamment l'alignement des budgets nationaux sur l'AAID, l'amélioration des cadres de coordination et le renforcement des mécanismes de responsabilité entre le gouvernement et ses partenaires. « Nous ne sommes pas ici pour battre en retraite, mais pour planifier », a conclu le ministre Ngafuan. « Nous n'avons pas toutes les réponses, mais ensemble, nous pouvons générer des idées qui soutiendront la dynamique de l'Agenda ARREST. »



## ArcelorMittal Liberia soutient les agriculteurs de Liagbala pour stimuler la production locale

Dans une démarche résolue en faveur du développement communautaire et de la durabilité, ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) a apporté un soutien concret aux agriculteurs de la ville de Liagbala, district de Yarmein, par la remise d'outils agricoles essentiels destinés à renforcer la production vivrière locale. Cette initiative, portée par le directeur général d'AML, Michiel Van Der Merwe, vise à autonomiser les populations à travers la culture maraîchère et à promouvoir l'autosuffisance alimentaire dans les communautés hôtes de l'entreprise. Le projet, mis en œuvre par le Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE), une organisation locale basée dans le Nimba, bénéficie du plein appui d'AML et s'inscrit dans une stratégie plus large de diversification des moyens de subsistance dans les zones d'intervention de la compagnie. « Si vous cultivez, et que c'est bon, ils achèteront », a déclaré le PDG d'ArcelorMittal lors de son discours à Liagbala, en soulignant le potentiel de marché dont dispose la communauté grâce à sa proximité avec une voie d'accès. Michiel Van Der Merwe a encouragé les habitants à exploiter cette opportunité : « Vous êtes idéalement situés pour devenir des producteurs majeurs de denrées alimentaires. Nos employés et sous-traitants, qui sont des milliers, ont besoin de se nourrir chaque jour. Si vous produisez de la qualité, vous aurez un marché assuré. » Il a ajouté : « Nous ne voulons plus dépendre de la nourriture importée du Ghana, de l'Afrique du Sud ou de l'Ukraine. Nous devons produire ici, au Libéria, afin que les richesses restent entre les mains de notre peuple. » Mettant l'accent sur la résilience communautaire, le PDG a également lancé un appel à la responsabilité collective : « Oui, AML apportera son aide. Mais nous devons aussi nous entraider. Travaillons la terre, entretenons notre environnement, et faisons de Liagbala un exemple de communauté dynamique et autonome. » Un rêve ambitieux pour Liagbala Van Der Merwe a esquissé une vision audacieuse pour l'avenir de la localité : « Mon rêve est qu'un jour, les produits agricoles de Liagbala soient chargés sur nos trains et exportés dans le monde entier. C'est le défi que je vous propose de relever. » Selon Samuel Peter, membre de l'équipe de développement communautaire d'AML, le projet a été inspiré par une visite du PDG à Liagbala l'année dernière : « Lors de cette visite, il a interrogé les habitants sur leurs activités agricoles. En tant qu'agriculteur lui-même, il a exprimé son soutien à ceux qui voudraient s'engager sérieusement dans l'agriculture. » En réponse, la communauté a exprimé ses besoins en outils de base, semences et autres intrants agricoles. AML a ensuite déployé une équipe pour évaluer la capacité locale et a reçu une note conceptuelle validant la disponibilité de cinq hectares destinés à la culture maraîchère. Les outils et fournitures remis — comprenant des semences et du matériel agricole varié — serviront à la production de divers légumes, contribuant à la sécurité alimentaire tout en générant des revenus pour les familles bénéficiaires. Un projet porteur



d'espoir Le RICCE, chargé de la mise en œuvre du projet, a qualifié cette initiative de transformationnelle. Un de ses représentants a salué la vision du PDG d'AML : « Il ne parle pas seulement de culture locale, mais aussi de transformation des produits et même d'exportation. Cela signifie une agriculture continue, des emplois, et la prospérité pour Liagbala. » Eric Swen, responsable du développement communautaire chez AML, a souligné : « Le développement durable, c'est collaborer avec les communautés comme partenaires. Ce projet peut sembler modeste, mais la vision est immense. Vous avez un marché local : notre cantine AML. Vous pouvez y vendre vos fruits et légumes, et cela vous rapporte directement. » Les résidents de Liagbala ont accueilli le projet avec enthousiasme, exprimant leur gratitude envers AML pour son engagement tangible. Le chef suprême de Yarmein, Richard Martin, a remercié ArcelorMittal pour son appui à l'agriculture dans le comté de Nimba : « L'agriculture est essentielle pour les pays en développement. Nous ne pouvons pas toujours dépendre des entreprises pour l'emploi. Ouvrez vos champs, plantez du plantain, des bananes, du taro. C'est cela qui vous élèvera et développera la communauté. » Cette intervention d'AML à Liagbala reflète son engagement global envers une croissance inclusive, l'autonomisation des communautés et le développement durable dans les comtés de Grand Bassa, Bong et Nimba.

## Starts from page 8 Ride : l'attention se tourne désormais

devant la Cellule a contraint celle-ci à se référer à l'article 21 de la Constitution de 1986 ainsi qu'aux articles 2.1 et 2.3 du Code de procédure pénale libérien. Il a ajouté qu'une des affaires examinées a déjà été clôturée, et que la Cellule est prête à entamer les prochaines étapes conformément au droit libérien.

Concernant l'affaire *Gracious Ride*, le ministre Sando a confirmé que Mme Bundoo a refusé de coopérer avec la Cellule. Malgré cette clôture de dossier pour les personnes initialement convoquées, les investigations se poursuivent activement envers d'autres parties prenantes liées au groupe Anita.



FEATURE

ARTICLE

# Critique of U.S. tariff policy with advocacy for multilateralism

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Recently, under the banner of “America First,” the United States has imposed unjustified tariffs on all trading partners, including China. These tariffs have triggered severe shocks across global economies, stirred turmoil in international financial markets, drawn widespread condemnation, and caused domestic instability.

This represents a typical example of unilateralism, protectionism, and economic bullying. Such actions severely harm the legitimate rights and interests of all nations, violate World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, sabotage the rules-based multilateral trading system, and destabilize the global economic order.

Chinese Ambassador to Liberia Yin Chengwu shared that the Chinese government strongly deplores and firmly rejects such moves. “The international community cannot stand idly by. The wheels of history must not be reversed,” he emphasized.

The United States is not a victim but rather a major beneficiary of global trade. Its justification for tariffs, based on a chronic goods trade deficit, ignores its clear advantages in services.

According to WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, America enjoys a services trade surplus of nearly \$300 billion (as of 2024) with most major economies. More importantly, the U.S. holds near-monopoly power in high-value-added services, collecting over \$144 billion in annual intellectual property royalties, far exceeding other nations. Therefore, the claim that “America loses” due to merchandise trade deficits is fundamentally flawed.

Chengwu noted that the U.S.'s reckless imposition of tariffs harms both itself and others. By levying “reciprocal tariffs” unilaterally, outside the WTO dispute settlement framework, the U.S. has undermined decades of progress in multilateral trade since World War II.

This protectionist move has damaged multilateral trade rules, fragmented the global economy, disrupted supply chains, and weakened international confidence in

globalization.

The economic fallout was immediate: U.S. stock markets plunged after the tariff announcement, wiping out \$5 trillion in market value within 48 hours. A Yale University report predicts that a broad 20% tariff could cost the average American family \$4,200 annually and increase U.S. business costs by \$433 billion.

History and current data show that tariffs do not fix the underlying problems facing the U.S. economy.

China, by contrast, remains committed to true multilateralism and to safeguarding the international trading system. It firmly believes

related products to China, a more than 29-fold increase year-on-year.

Liberian enterprises have been invited to key events like the Shanghai Import Expo, the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo in Changsha, and the Canton Fair. These platforms aim to increase global recognition of Liberian brands and open new sales channels.

China is actively aligning its trade initiatives with Liberia's ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID). Chinese investment in Liberia is growing, allowing more Liberian-origin goods to qualify for policy incentives. This not only boosts exports but also drives Liberia's socioeconomic growth.



China strongly opposes tariff and trade wars. Chengwu stated that “there are no winners in such conflicts.” Protectionism, he stressed, is a dead end. While China does not seek confrontation, it is prepared to respond to U.S. provocations with firm and proportionate countermeasures.

“China is an honest and rightful major country, and a responsible member of the international community. We stand firmly against hegemonism, not only to defend our own rights, but to protect the shared interests of all nations,”

He continued, “We will never sit idly by while the rights of the Chinese people are undermined or while international trade rules are violated. China is willing to work with all parties to safeguard a WTO-centered system and promote fairness and justice.”

As the world's second-largest economy and second-largest consumer market, China remains committed to high-standard opening up. The Chinese envoy affirmed that China will continue institutional reforms across rules, regulations, management, and standards. “We will foster a world-class, law-based, market-oriented business environment,” he explained.

He welcomed all nations, including Liberia, to ride the “express train” of China's development and share in the opportunities presented by its vast market.

China is confident that openness and cooperation represent an unstoppable trend.

that development is a universal right, not a privilege reserved for a few.

In recent years, China has created green channels for African exports, hosted international trade expos, and supported the entry of high-quality specialty products from least developed countries into its market.

Initiatives such as skills training and cross-border e-commerce support have helped partner nations build trade capacity. These actions have widened the door for developing countries to participate in a fairer, more inclusive global economy.

According to Chengwu, following the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), China granted zero-tariff treatment to all least developed countries, including Liberia, that maintain diplomatic ties with Beijing. In the fourth quarter of last year, Liberia exported \$6.52 million in rubber and



# Liberia: Banking sector in crisis

Liberia's banking sector has been declining since 2022, but new data in CBL's 2024 report show that the decline has deepened under President Boakai.

The Central Bank of Liberia's 2024 Annual Report delivers a warning that cannot ignore: the country's commercial banking sector is in sustained and worsening decline, Ambulah



Mamey, an International Development Practitioner has told the New Dawn. The numbers are not just discouraging, they reflect deep institutional vulnerabilities and policy inertia that now threaten the recovery agenda of the Boakai-Koung administration, Mamey added. Between 2022 and 2024- four balance sheet indicators of a healthy banking sector- total assets, bank capital, deposit and credit to the economy—posted back-to-back annual declines. Commercial banks' total assets, the value of what the banks own and can deploy to support the economy, contracted from L\$314.4 billion in 2022 to L\$207.42 billion in 2024—a staggering 34% drop, manages a portfolio of multi-sector USAID-funded resilience programs in Somalia, Tanzania, and Burundi, point out. He continued that over the same period, bank capital, the sector's shock-absorbing buffer, fell from L\$45.15 billion to L\$31.44 billion, a 30% erosion in financial stability. Loans, which are vital for investment, growth, and job creation, dropped from L\$103.01 billion to L\$76.6 billion, a 26% contraction. At the same time, customer deposits, a core measure of public trust in the banking system, plunged by 41%, from L\$228.77 billion to L\$135.56 billion. The data shows that the downturn started in 2022 and 2023 during Weah's administration but that the contraction deepened during the first year (2024) of President Boakai's administration. For example, Mamey observed that the drop in total bank assets between 2023 and 2024 amounted to L\$86.5 billion, more than four times the decline posted for 2022 and 2023. Deposits fell by L\$63.15 billion under the Boakai administration—more than double the previous year's loss.

“The decline in credit under the Boakai administration (L\$16.24 billion) surpassed the L\$10.17 billion drop in 2023. This is the hidden collapse we can no longer ignore!” Mamey stated. According to him, the implications of the decline are profound. A shrinking banking sector undermines the government's ability to mobilize domestic capital, and it cripples access to credit for small and medium-sized enterprises. “They impede poverty reduction, job creation, and inclusive growth; the core promises of the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID),” he said noting that the “AAID places private sector expansion at the heart of its economic strategy, but that ambition is incompatible with reality in the banking sector. It is clearly impossible for the current trend in banking system to channel resources into the real economy to as needed, but despite these signals, there is no policy response of sufficient scale or urgency.” He opined. In early 2024, the Boakai administration, dubbed as the “RESCUE” took steps by commissioning an audit of the Central Bank. Conducted by the General Auditing Commission, the audit found widespread financial mismanagement and governance lapses and issued an adverse opinion—a rare and serious verdict in public sector financial auditing. The report cited “material weaknesses” affecting the Central Bank's operations and called for urgent executive and legislative action. Mamey explained that this moment could have marked a turning point. But instead of using the audit as a launchpad for reform, the administration backed away from accountability. Governors of the bank implicated in mismanagement were rewarded with hundreds of thousands of U.S. dollars in exit benefits while mid-mangers that were used as agents of loots and corporate gangsterism remain with the bank, probably to execute another similar mission. Credible reports suggest that the reward decision was influenced by actors close to the presidency

who traded personal financial gain for accountability; reinforcing the idea that many policy makers in Liberia are more tolerant of failure than committed to accountability and reform. Fix the Banks or Fail the Nation However, Mamey explained that it is not late to reverse the course but doing so will require bold, coordinated action from both the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance. Regulatory reforms must be enforced to ensure compliance with capital adequacy, risk controls, and governance standards, he said. Adding that even more urgently, public trust must be rebuilt, and confidence in the banking system restored. Mamey further explained that a credible response must prioritize restoring the functionality and attractiveness of the banking system to the micro, small and medium sized (MSMEs) businesses in the real economy. According to him, this could include rolling out a credit stimulus facility to de-risk lending to MSMEs through strategic partnerships among the Central Bank, the Ministry of Finance, and commercial banks. At the same time, he continued that the government must invest in expanding digital banking infrastructure and modernizing transaction systems to make banking faster, more efficient, and responsive to the needs of small businesses—many of whom now avoid the banks due to delays and poor service delivery. Mamey went on to further explained that to complement these efforts, a national banking literacy campaign should be launched, targeting entrepreneurs and informal sector actors through their organizations, to build trust, increase their banking footprints and enable them benefit additional banking services. The government must anchor these initiatives with safeguards that prevent elite capture and ensure benefits flow to productive enterprises and not used for political reasons. He said Liberia cannot achieve inclusive growth while its banking system is declining. The decline he stressed is not a seasonal downturn, but a result of structural deterioration and institutional inaction. “The Central Bank must return to its core mandate of safeguarding monetary and financial stability and the executive must lead with the courage to replace, penalize, and reform where necessary. The cost of continued inaction is already visible: falling investor confidence, reduced access to credit, rising unemployment, and deepening poverty. While the Boakai-Koung administration still has tools at its disposal—and the time to use them— the window is closing fast, and the lack of policy response of sufficient scale or urgency leaves much to desire.” He concluded. -

Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

# Suspended NAFFA boss wants speedy investigation

Delay in the investigation into the corruption allegations against suspended NaFAA boss Emma Metieh Glassco has compelled her to launch an appeal for speedy investigation.

Monrovia, April 21, 2025: Suspended National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) boss, Emma Metieh Glassco has launched an appeal to the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) requesting a speedy investigation into corruption allegations levied against her. “LACC, please be reminded that I am still here. It has been over two months-since February 13, 2025. I

amount is at the center of the corruption charges against her. In one of the reports published by the Liberian Investigators, the World Bank emphasized that its projects are governed by strict policies and legal agreements designed to ensure that funds are used for their intended purposes. “The World Bank takes seriously our obligation to ensure that Bank funds are used for clearly defined activities for the benefit of the people and



am patently waiting for you. Please don't forget about me,” Mrs. Glassco wrote on her social media page. The former NAFAA boss, since her suspension has continued to plead innocent of any wrongdoing and has repeatedly expressed her preparedness to submit to any investigative body aimed at clearing her name. “The Bible says good name is better than silver and gold. Please let this (investigation) be time bond and not perpetual so I can move forward with my professional life,” she said. Madam Glassco plead follows series of articles published in two local dailies last week in which it was reported that the World Bank one of the institution's whose funding she was accused of siphoning denounced the allegation. The Bank is said to have provided US\$3.1 million for the construction of NaFAA's headquarter-that

communities we serve,” the Bank said in its response to the paper. Experts who spoke with the paper indicated that they believe the LACC's investigation may be more about examining procurement processes and compliance rather than any clear-cut case of fraud. “It is extremely difficult for someone to manipulate World Bank project funds without detection,” “The systems in place are rigorous. If there were procedural lapses, that's one thing, but outright theft? That would require collusion at several levels — and there's no evidence of that.” The expect told the paper. Indications are that armed with this information which suggest no clear-cut fraud in the World Bank funded project, government may be combing for other charges to be brought against Ms. Glassco. But until then, her cry for speedy investigation remains louder.

