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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025	L\$198.1408/US\$1.00	L\$201.0162/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.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

French Version Inside

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Continental News

Tidjane Thiam plans return as Ivory Coast's opposition PDCI party leader

Burkina Faso forces killed 100 civilians in March – HRW

Ivory Coast's opposition PDCI party has set up 45 polling stations across the country and in the diaspora to name a new leader

The move comes after Tidjane Thiam, elected its president in December 2023, was forced to resign due to his dual nationality. Party statutes require its leader to be solely Ivorian. But Thiam was still a French citizen at the time of his election.

The manoeuvre is aimed at bypassing the challenge to his

eligibility.

“We needed to be smart, and the PDCI has once again proven it's a great party. A party of hope,” said party member, Pierre Kouamé.

Another PDCI member at the vote, Yoma Fouka Hervé, described it as a “strategic vote”.

“When the party calls on its loyal soldiers to show up at the political bureau, for the election of its various bodies, it's important to answer the call,” he said.

Thiam officially renounced his French nationality in March and is

now the only candidate to succeed himself as the PDCI's leader.

But ahead of this strong comeback lies another looming battle, the presidential race.

Political analyst, Koua Geoffrey, said the PDCI was banking on “some political optimism”.

“It's likely hoping for a dialogue to open between the opposition and the government, especially regarding a potential revision of the electoral roll,” he said.

This could allow Thiam to register without the risk of being struck off again.

“However, the legal and political hurdles are significant. In my view, this forces the PDCI to seriously consider a Plan B,” said Geoffrey.

That is because the 2025 presidential election is on the horizon and, once again, Thiam's potential ineligibility stands in the way.

The 62-year-old banker's candidacy for president of Ivory Coast is compromised, unless things shift before then.

For Tidjane Thiam, the fight is just beginning.



Tidjane Thiam, CEO of Credit Suisse, 25 September 2019

DR Congo may impose curbs on cobalt exports when existing ban ends

The Democratic Republic of Congo said it may impose strict curbs on cobalt exports when its existing four-month ban ends.

The country accounts for nearly three-quarters of global cobalt mine production, but since February, it has enacted a four-month export suspension of the metal.

Kinshasa said this was to address a global oversupply

which had caused a significant drop in prices.

The metal is used to make lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles and smartphones.

Kinshasa had hoped its export ban would stabilise the market and protect the interests of Congolese producers and investors.

But on Wednesday, the president of the government agency regulating strategic minerals said that while the stockpiles that had depressed

prices had been significantly reduced, they were not yet exhausted.

Patrick Luabeya said that the agency's next decision “will inevitably imply a strict limitation of exports in whole or in part until market balance is reached with regard to the supply and demand of cobalt”.

He added that the Authority for the Regulation and Control of Strategic Mineral Substances' Markets would consult industry players in June regarding the ban.



An electric vehicle on display in Miami, 24 January 2023



Burkina Faso President Ibrahim Traore arrives to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Grand Palace at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, on Saturday, May 10, 2025.

Muslim militants.

An earlier report from Human Rights Watch stated that the government's involvement was likely, because of video evidence on social media, although the findings were not definitive.

The government issued a sharp denial when first reports surfaced, saying in a statement it “condemned the propagation, on social media, of images inducing hate and community violence, and fake information aimed at undermining social cohesion” in the country.

“The viral videos of the atrocities by pro-government militias near Solenzo sent shock waves through Africa's Sahel region, but they told only part of the story,” said Ilaria Allegrozzi, senior Sahel researcher at Human Rights Watch. “Further research uncovered that Burkina Faso's military was responsible for these mass killings of Fulani civilians, which were followed by deadly reprisals by an Islamist armed group. The government needs to impartially investigate these deaths and prosecute all those responsible.”

Burkina Faso authorities did not immediately reply to a request for comment on the group's new report.

The landlocked nation of 23 million people has symbolized the security crisis in the arid Sahel region south of the Sahara in

“The VDPs shot at us like animals, while drones were flying over our heads. Many women and children died because they could not run,” said a Fulani herder, 44, from Solenzo, referring to the pro-government militias.

After the attack, hundreds of Fulani residents fled across the border into neighbouring Mali, the report said.

“Today, in the whole province, there are no more Fulani — they all fled or were killed or taken hostage,” said a 53-year-old man from Solenzo. “But the other (ethnic) communities remain.”

After the government forces left, the report said that jihadist fighters from a group known as JNIM reentered the towns and carried out reprisal killings against residents, targeting the men whom it considered to be military collaborators.

“All the men had been executed in front of the health center,” said a 60-year-old woman who witnessed JNIM abuses in Tiao village, a town to the northeast of Solenzo on April 5. “I counted up to 70 bodies.”

According to analysts, the junta's strategy of military escalation, including mass recruitment of civilians for poorly trained militia units, has exacerbated tensions between ethnic groups.

It is impossible to get an accurate picture of the situation in the country since the military leadership has installed a system of de facto censorship, rights groups said, and those daring to speak up can be openly abducted, imprisoned or forcefully drafted into the army.

recent years. It has been shaken by violence from extremist groups linked to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group, and the governments fighting them.

The military junta, which took power in 2022, failed to provide the stability it promised. According to conservative estimates, more than 60% of the country is now outside of government control, more than 2.1 million people have lost their homes and almost 6.5 million need humanitarian aid to survive.

The attack in the western Boucle du Mouhoun region, including Solenzo and other towns, began on Feb. 27 and lasted until April 2, involving hundreds of government troops and drones, according to eyewitnesses quoted in the report.

EDITORIAL

We admire Speaker Koffa's fight

A man should live by his conviction, pay ultimate sacrifice, and even die for it, if it so requires. This is what Speaker J. Fonati Koffa has demonstrated by resigning after successfully challenging his illegal removal before the Supreme Court of Liberia and defeating the Majority Bloc in line with the rule of law.

The former speaker has left a precedent at the House of Representatives for posterity to learn from in removing a speaker legitimately, as it should be done without any room for contention.

But this is what the so-called Majority Bloc (lawmakers of the House) failed to do in their greed and desperation to remove Speaker Koffa outside of a two-third majority.

Article 49 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia says: “The House of Representatives shall elect once every six years a Speaker who shall be the presiding officer of that body, a Deputy Speaker, and such other officers as shall ensure the proper functioning of the House. The Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and other officers so elected may be removed from office for cause by resolution of a two-thirds majority of the members of the House.” The House’s rule also requires that such removal of the Speaker shall be executed with him presiding in session.

All these provisions were ignored by the Majority Bloc and they went ahead in elected Representative Richard Nagbe Koon as Speaker, who lacks legitimacy, as the Supreme Court declares.

We are glad that Speaker Koffa fought his illegal removal before the law and he got justice, though the political system of the moment could not allow him to resume his duties amid flagrant violations and complete defiance to the Supreme Court’s opinion on the matter.

He has given up the Office of Speaker, for the sake of Liberia, but did expose the wrong procedure followed by the Majority Bloc in carrying out their ill-fated coup.

The former Speaker has left a food for thought for law students and legal luminaries in their career sojourn, for there is a legal maxim that says: What is not legally done, is not done at all. Koffa, being a lawyer himself, proved this before the law without leaving any doubt.

And because members of the Executive-backed Majority know clearly that they are in the wrong, they are not returning to elect a Speaker that will have legal authority, thanks to Fonati Koffa, a man that truly understands the law and fearlessly pursues it to the letter.

Koffa has gone down in legislative history as a Speaker who stood against unconstitutional acts, including his illegal removal by his colleagues and defeated them before the Highest Court of the land.

COMMENTARY

By Romain Troublé

The True Cost of Ocean Plastic Pollution

PARIS – The problem of maritime plastic-waste pollution first [became apparent](#) in the 1970s. In the half-century since then, the problem has become ever more widespread, as scientific expeditions conducted by the Tara Ocean Foundation (of which I am executive director) [have shown](#).

Large pieces of debris, such as fishing nets, and their disastrous effects on marine life, are the most visible symptom. Such waste is [estimated](#) to kill more than one million seabirds and over 100,000 marine mammals annually, often through entanglement or suffocation, and promotes [transport of invasive species](#), triggering a cascading effect on the ecosystems in which they play a central role.

Less visible, but more pervasive, are microplastics, which have been found in the deepest ocean trenches and all types of marine life. Microplastics can, among other things, [modify bacterial and viral communities and disperse chemical toxins in food chains](#) (often after being ingested by marine organisms). Some of these toxins, such as [phthalates](#), are associated with the chemistry of plastics, while others, such as pesticides and heavy metals, are absorbed by the plastic before it reaches the ocean and enters the food chain.

How these toxic substances interact with plastics has been the subject of much study. Plastic is comprised of monomers that have been chemically bonded to form long chains of polymers – ethylene, styrene, and propylene become polyethylene, polystyrene, and polypropylene. But the process of [polymerization](#) is often imperfect, and some of the unpolymerized monomers that remain in plastic, like different types of styrene and bisphenol, pose major environmental and health risks.

Moreover, other chemical additives, including plasticizers, fillers, colorants, flame retardants, and antioxidants, are incorporated into polymer formulations to modify their properties. And non-intentionally added substances (NIAS) – impurities, raw materials used in manufacturing, byproducts, and degradation products – bind to finished plastics.

In most cases, because free monomers, additives, and NIAS are simply trapped within the tangle of polymer chains, rather than being chemically bound to them, they are more likely to leach out during the production, use, and disposal of plastic, migrating into liquids, gases, and solids. Some [16,000 such molecules](#) have been identified, but their effects are still not fully known, nor is their toxicity, which can change depending on how they are combined. What we do know is that [one-quarter](#) of these 16,000 molecules are pose a hazard to human health or the environment by disrupting biochemical processes in living organisms.

Halting the flow of microplastics and toxic pollutants into the world's bodies of water is a Sisyphean task. Nevertheless, scientists are trying to stem the problem. For example, the

Tara Europa expedition, in coordination with the European Molecular Biology Laboratory and more than 70 scientific institutions across the continent, has spent the past two years [investigating](#) how these hazardous substances make their way into the seas and oceans bordering Europe. The mission plans to share its findings soon.

But the generation of toxic waste and debris is not the only way that plastic can harm ocean health. The plastics industry has been a major driver of climate change, accounting for an [estimated 3.4%](#) of global greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions. Plastic production is on track to contribute [15% of GHG emissions by 2050](#), exacerbating global warming and thereby increasing the threats to marine life, which is sensitive to rising water temperatures.

Because plastic degrades the entire biosphere, not just the ocean, it is not a waste problem that can be solved by a few sustainability-minded citizens' recycling efforts. This is a systemic crisis that requires an economy-wide solution. A better approach is to understand plastic as one of the “new entities” that must not leak into the environment, a view initially [formulated](#) by the Stockholm Resilience Centre in its work on planetary boundaries and later endorsed by the [United Nations](#). While acknowledging the impossibility of defining a precise threshold for harm, such an approach highlights the need for a drastic reduction in plastic use.

Research [suggests](#) that it would be economically feasible to halve global plastic production at a cost which would almost surely be less than the cost of inaction. But, according to a [recent study](#) by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, even this reduction would not be enough to limit global warming to 1.5° Celsius above preindustrial levels, the target set by the Paris climate agreement. Instead, they found that meeting this goal would require a 75% reduction in plastic production compared to 2015, when the agreement was adopted.

Addressing this global crisis with the necessary urgency will require mobilizing investment and support to reduce the production of single-use plastics, increase the lifespan of plastic objects through regulation, and promote reuse and reparability. While it is tempting to lean on short-term fixes, such as replacing plastic packaging with other disposable materials like paper, cardboard, aluminum, steel, and glass, the goal must not be merely to mitigate the symptoms of the underlying ailment.

Our economies are on the cusp of upheaval as the need for a habitable and healthy planet becomes inescapable. Ignoring or even denying the economic reality of the current ecological emergency would be to shut one's eyes to the close dependence of human activities on a stable and favorable environment. Working with, rather than against, nature requires a paradigm shift, and it starts with plastics.

Romain Troublé is Executive Director of the Tara Ocean Foundation.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
A CONSULTING FIRM TO TRAIN AND EQUIP WOMEN WHO ARE INVOLVED IN CROSS-BORDER TRADE IN THE THREE VALUE CHAINS IN THE TWO PROJECT COMMUNITIES AS A WAY OF STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR INCREASED BUSINESS PERFORMANCE AND SUBSEQUENTLY, IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS

COUNTRIES: Sierra Leone and Liberia

Sector: Gender Equality
Mode of Financing: Grant
Project ID: P-Z1-ID0-009
Grant No: 5900155016801
Issued Date: 7 May 2025

The Mano River Union Secretariat has received a grant from the African Development Fund to implement the project to Build Inclusive Business Ecosystems for Stabilization and Transformation (BI-BEST) in the Mano River Union (MRU) and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grant to payments under the contract for the recruitment of a consultant to train and equip women who are involved in cross-border trade in the three value chains in the two project communities as a way of strengthening capacity for increased business performance and subsequently, improved livelihoods.

The particular services required from the Consulting Firms under the assignment include, but not limited:

- Develop skills of WCBTs through training and mentorship/peer-to-peer support;
- Train WCBTs on cooperative development to strength their networks and associations;
- Improve access to finance through market facilitation with Banks and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs).

The assignment will be undertaken twelve (12) months.

The Mano River Union Secretariat is therefore inviting public and private entities, civil society organizations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), International Organizations, associations, foundations or any structure with a legal mandate to operate in both Sierra Leone and Liberia, and with required expertise in developing and providing entrepreneurship development support to women entrepreneurs and cross border traders using a sectoral approach to express their interest. The Mano River Union Secretariat requires that interested Consulting Firms shall provide information on their qualifications and experience (cover letter, supporting documents referencing similar services and showing demonstrated experience in similar assignments, etc.) to undertake this Assignment.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank’s “Procurement Policy and Methodology for Bank Group funded Operations” (BPM), dated 2015, which is available on the Bank’s website at <http://www.afdb.org>. MRU is under no obligation to shortlist any consultant who expresses interest.

Interested Consulting Firms may query or obtain further information from the Procurement Specialist email address: kensah@mru.int during the Office’s working hours between 09:00 to 17:00 hours GMT.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the email address procurement@mru.int by June 6th, 2025 at 2:30pm Sierra Leone time and mention “CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE WOMEN CROSS-BORDER”

Attention:

Mano River Union Secretariat
32 S Spur Loop, Wilberforce, Freetown
Republic of Sierra Leone
Tel: +23276964965
E-mail : procurement@mru.int

OP-ED

By Harold James & Montagu James

Why an American Pope?

PRINCETON/PROVIDENCE – For centuries, papal elections were also diplomatic wrangles, with the great city-states of Italy (Milan, Florence, and Naples) and then the great powers of Europe (Spain, France, and the Holy Roman Empire) tussling for influence and aiming to install a proxy pontiff. But the pomp, secrecy, and mystique of the process (all on display in the 2024 film [Conclave](#)) is designed to show that a divine hand is guiding the outcome. This is no ordinary political event.

By the twentieth century, countries no longer campaigned openly for “their own” pope, but politics was still a major factor. The last time a political leader vetoed a papal candidate was in 1903, when the aged Habsburg emperor, Franz Joseph – a living relic of a bygone age – blocked the leading candidate. Yet despite the absence of political interventions in the process, the choice of pontiff was still seen to reflect not only points of theology but also the state of the world.

Consider Benedict XV, who was elected just after the outbreak of World War I. Though he was sidelined at the Treaty of Versailles, his call for a “Papal peace” resulted in the Vatican negotiating directly with Franz Joseph's successor. Similarly, Benedict XV's own successor, Ambrogio Ratti, had been named papal nuncio to Poland, and then refused to leave Warsaw when it was besieged during the Polish-Soviet War of 1920. After establishing himself as a skilled negotiator during a time of rising nationalism and totalitarianism, Ratti was elected as Pius XI in 1922.

Pius XI's successor, Eugenio Pacelli, represented an even more striking case of an attempt to respond to dangerous political doctrines. By the 1930s, Nazi Germany had begun to pose a profound challenge to civilization and to Christianity. Pacelli knew Germany well, having been nuncio to Bavaria during the 1919 communist revolution and then witnessing the Nazis' rise. As Pope Pius XII, he sought to wrestle with the German problem, but ultimately left a deeply troubling legacy – probably because he was convinced that confronting Nazi ideology publicly would have undermined his ability to protect Catholics across Europe.

In 2025, anyone thinking about the broader economic or political context of papal selection might believe that Africa is most relevant. Not only does the continent have the world's fastest-growing population, but it is also one region where Catholicism is strengthening its hold. Hence, during the recent humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo Besungu came to be considered “papabile.”

But the Holy Spirit – or was it realpolitik? – decided that the situation in the United States, with its increasingly popular perversion of religion, may pose the gravest threat to the faith. How should the Church tackle a form of Christianity that proclaims itself to be fundamentalist, but is also racist and materialist in the extreme, devoted to a gospel of prosperity that runs counter to everything found in the New Testament? How can it pursue peace in the face of a cynical, transactional approach to international politics – one that is more Machiavellian (though far cruder) than anything that a Borgia prince got up to in the Renaissance?

Can the American threat to Christianity be contained? The papal conclave's answer is Cardinal Robert Prevost, an American with an extensive career as a missionary in Peru and as a senior official in the Vatican. Succeeding Pope Francis, Prevost is now Pope Leo XIV. Like his predecessor, he has rebuked US Vice President J.D. Vance, a recent Catholic convert, for trying to argue that Christian love should be applied hierarchically, and thus in an exclusionary fashion. “Vance is wrong,” Prevost [wrote](#) this past February. “Jesus doesn't ask us to rank our love for others.”

Leo XIV, through the very choice of his name, builds a bridge back to Leo XIII, the author of the groundbreaking social encyclical [Rerum Novarum](#). That 1891 text, which had a major influence on Francis's own social teaching, begins by acknowledging the “spirit of revolutionary change which has long been disturbing the nations of the world.” In an increasingly industrial and globalized economy, Leo XIII emphasized social rights and personal dignity for all, and stressed the “obligations of justice” that bring the rich and the working class together. Is Leo XIV saying that we have entered a new chapter of this revolution?

Another namesake of the new pope is the fifth-century pontiff Leo the Great, who centralized papal authority in the midst of political infighting, and allegedly prevented – through skilled diplomacy – Attila the Hun from sacking Rome.

Will the choice of an American pope work? A great deal of Renaissance-style realpolitik would be needed to implement a credible approach to peace and social reconciliation in the age of Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, and Xi Jinping. Fortunately, Vatican diplomacy can sometimes prove brilliantly successful.

Consider the 1970s, when the fault lines undermining Soviet rule were becoming increasingly visible. Religion looked as if it was fracturing the Soviet Union. In addition to an Islamic revival within the Central Asian and Caucasus regions, there had been a bloody coup in Afghanistan. To counter what they saw as a rising Islamic threat, the Soviets intervened, only to end up bogged down in a costly war.

Meanwhile, in Central and Eastern Europe, rising discontent – with precursors in the violence of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and the Soviet crackdown on the Prague Spring in 1968 – was fueling strikes and the rise of Solidarity in Poland. The papal conclave's response was to elect the Archbishop of Krakow, Karol Wojtyła. His emergence as John Paul II brought a sudden illumination: peaceful change and peaceful democratization were still possible.

The first words of Leo XIV's pontificate were “[Peace Be with You](#).” In the coming years, we will learn whether and how the first American pope rises to the challenge of that promise.

Harold James, Professor of History and International Affairs at Princeton University, is the author, most recently, of [Seven Crashes: The Economic Crises That Shaped Globalization](#) (Yale University Press, 2023). Montagu James is a PhD student in History at Brown University.

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Invitation for Bids [IFB]

Forestry Development Authority/TSF Project

IFB Number:

LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/002/2024 &

Purchaser:

LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/004/2024
Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

Project:

Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in Secondary Wood Processing Industry_ Phase II

Contract title:

"Provision of Three (3) Kiln Dryers for each of the Three (3) Share Facility Centers" & "Provision of eleven (11) solar kiln dryers for each of the eleven association"

Country:

Liberia

Grant No.:

5900155018403

Procurement Method:

Open Competitive Bidding National (OCBN)

OCBN No:

LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/002/2024
&
LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/004/2024

Issued on:

May 6, 2025

1. The Government of Liberia through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has received financing from the African Development Bank Group hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of the Scaling up the Participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry_ Phase II, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the "Provision of Three (3) Solar Kiln Dryers for each of the Three (3) Share Facility Centers" & "Provision of eleven (11) Solar Kiln Dryers for each of the Eleven (11) Association". "For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank's Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing.

2. The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply of Solar Kiln Dryer

Lot No. 1	Description	Quantity
i	Solar Kiln Dryer	7 Units
ii	Solar Kiln Dryer	7 Units

3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding National, (OCB-N) method as specified in the Bank's Procurement Policy Framework for Bank's Group Funded operations ² dated October, 2015, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.

4. The bidding document in English may be collected by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below

5. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **1:00 PM, June 3, 2025**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below

6. All Bids must be accompanied by a **"Bid-Securing Declaration"**.

7. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework 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.

8. For any further clarification, please contact:

Attn. Project Coordinator

Project Implementation Unit
Forestry Development Authority

Whein Town, Bernard Farm

Montserrado County
Liberia

Email Address: emmanuellew965@gmail.com
0775-841-431/0886-570-320

Link for Clarification:
Email Address: wynnbryant12@gmail.com
0776-063-643/0886-551-249

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Senator alarms security threats

-Over increased presence of illegal Burkinabes

Senate Security Committee Chair alarms of threats from illegal migrants from Burkina Faso.

Monrovia, Liberia, May 15, 2025 - The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Defense, Security, Intelligence, and Veteran Affairs, Senator Momo Tarnuekollie Cyrus, raises serious concern here about increasing presence of illegal

security.

Speaking during a Senate briefing on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, as the 55th Legislature resumed business for its second quarter, Senator Cyrus alarmed over what he described as deeply troubling behavior exhibited by the illegal immigrants.

"No foreign national should be

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

allegedly engaging in unauthorized farming activities and illegal logging, particularly pit-sawing, in protected forest areas.

He details that there have been disturbing incidents of maiming associated with these migrants, which he notes, clearly violates Liberian laws and threaten community safety.

The Senator reveals that he has already engaged the Ministry of Justice and Liberia's Joint Security apparatus to launch a comprehensive investigation into the matter.

He emphasizes a need to determine whether the activities of the Burkinabè community in the two counties constitute a direct national security threat.

"If findings from the Ministry of Justice and the Joint Security confirm that these actions undermine our national stability, I will seek the indulgence of the Liberian Senate to mandate the Armed Forces of Liberia, through the Executive, to take immediate



Senator Momo Tarnuekollie Cyrus

immigrants from Burkina Faso in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties, warning that their activities pose potential threats to national

allowed to operate above the laws of our land," Senator Cyrus underscores.

According to him, reports indicate that the Burkinabè nationals are

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

EU, GoL sign Euros 56 million Financing Agreement

The European Union has come to Liberia's rescue with a Euros 56 million Financing Agreement to boost the country's national budget.

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia, May 15, 2025, - In a frantic effort to supporting Liberia's development drives amidst suspension of USAID-funded projects across the country, the European Union and the Government of Liberia have signed a Euros 56 million Financing Agreement or an equivalent of US\$62 million, to boost the country's National Budget.

Speaking at the official signing ceremony Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at the ministry of finance and development planning in Monrovia EU Ambassador to Liberia, Madam Nona Deprez, expressed delight to have finally signed the financing agreement for European Union budget support to the Republic of Liberia.

Ambassador Deprez says the 56 million euros grant is in direct support to the budget and 7 million euro grants for complementary measures, with the ultimate goal of increasing Liberia's autonomy with less dependency on external financing sources.

"The European Union's use of direct budget support

reflects our confidence in the Government of Liberia's commitment to pursue ambitious reforms, promote accountability and improve financial governance, and this funding modality demonstrates a strong partnership and shared goals between the European Union and Liberia in promoting good governance and sustainable development", the EU Ambassador explains.

According to her, for the complementary measures, the project is foreseen to be managed by the Swedish International Development Agency or SIDA, which will be comprised of free work streams, improved public finance management systems and domestic revenue mobilization, including natural resources. Secondly, stronger accountability

and transparency for civil society and better capacitated audit systems.

The Ambassador discloses that signing of the financing agreement was a culmination of many months of engagements, conversations, discussions, and negotiations with the Government of Liberia.

She extends appreciation to all ministries, agencies and commissions that were engaged in the discussion to share with the EU their assessment of needs and challenges, the Government of Liberia's reform agenda, as well as reflecting how these policy objectives could best translate in a transformational but realistic and measurable indicators over the coming three years.

"We know this is only the start



Senate expresses frustration

-Over Concessions' operations & handling of Road Fund

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, May 15, 2025, The Liberian Senate expresses disappointment and frustration over increasing resources exploitation across the country by concession companies, and what it calls "selective disbursement" of National Road Funds to counties. The Senate announces plan to embark on a national retreat to formulate a National Concession Road Map for the country.

At the same time, it mandates the Committee on Public Works to review plan for the next road project and ensure that each county is apportion annual allotment for its approval in the National Road Funds budget.

Award.

"Today, we are pleased to announce that the winner for the Pro-Temp Committee award goes to Concession Committee, chaired by Grand Kru County Senator Numene T. H. Bartekwa. This committee has done fantastic work while on vacation with all Ministries and Agencies that are directly under its oversight responsibility."

On the other hand, Senator Kangar Lawrence lauds the government for steady progress made in road infrastructure and maintenance, while reminding that essence of the National Road Fund is to benefit all counties.

"We do thereby mandate the



Expressing the frustration on Monday, May 13, 2025, during the opening of the second session of the Liberian Senate, Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence said the decision to host the retreat is based on troubling and terrible presentation recently made by the Senate Committee on Concessions. "We will provide some recommendations to the senate, and it will provide insight on the action that has been at stake for the effective management of the counties' nature resources, especially in the extractive industry. The management of our nature resources was discussed at the senate retreat in our quest to increase the national revenue envelope for the economic growth and development of our country. The presentation of our Concession Committee these few days will take the senate to another retreat to get a final resolution on the Road Map as we have done with the Port Authority", Pro-Tempore Kangar Lawrence says.

Despite failing to announce date, venue and time for the retreat, she announces Grand Kru County Senator Numene T. H. Bartekwa Concession Committee as recipient of the Pro-Tempore Committee

Committee on Public Works to review the plan for the next road project and ensure that each county gets annual allotment for our approval. Also, there have been complaints about the violation of the Road Funds Act and we will like to launch an investigation into that issue, for smooth implementation of the law, for development purposes", she urges.

Pro-Tempore Kangar Lawrence, also political leader for Liberty Party, demands a complete report from the Committee on Health on effective and timely disbursement of funds by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to referral hospitals across Liberia.

She mandates the Ministry to report on programs to be implemented to enhance quality care for Liberians in line with budgetary support.

"Phase two of this hearing will include JFK, and Redemption Hospitals. Report from the Education Committee on the status of volunteer teachers' inclusion on payroll, teachers' training and renovation of schools across the country", the Pro-Tempore adds.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Pro-Tempore gives one-week ultimatum

-To end US\$200 Million probe at Agriculture Ministry

By Lincoln G. Peters

-Senate wants investigation into agriculture funds concluded in two weeks.

Monrovia, Liberia, May 15, 2025, Senate President Pro-Tempore, Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence, has given the Senate Committee on Agriculture a one-week ultimatum, to conclude investigation into alleged corruption and mismanagement of World Bank and IFAD STAR and Rural Economic Transformation (RETRAP) US\$200 million project by the Ministry of Agriculture. Pro-Tempore Kangar Lawrence, officially declaring reconvening

Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP)—which together amount to US\$200 million. In his formal communication to the Senate President Pro-Tempore, and his colleagues, Senator McGill requested that the Minister of Agriculture be summoned to provide a comprehensive update on these projects, which aim to support local farmers and expand agribusiness across Liberia. According to McGill, concerns about accountability and transparency surrounding disbursement and management of

Nathaniel McGill, accusing the Ministry of mismanaging US\$200 million in agricultural funds.

Minister Nuetah described the allegations as "misleading", providing a thorough explanation of two major projects under the Ministry's oversight: the STAR Project and the Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP), both of which are funded by the World Bank and IFAD.

Speaking at a MICAT press briefing on April 3, 2025, Dr. Nuetah stated, "We want to clarify the myth that US\$200 million was mismanaged." He explained that the STAR Project, valued at US\$48 million, was funded by the World Bank (\$25 million) and IFAD (\$23 million). "When COVID-19 happened in 2020, the government, of which Senator McGill was a Minister, reallocated \$10.5 million of that money for COVID-19 interventions. That US\$10.5 million was not used by the Ministry of Agriculture. Part of it went to the World Food Programme (WFP), and part of it was managed by the then EPA Director and the Ministry of Agriculture to intervene in the sector, leaving the project with \$38 million for investment," the Minister clarified.

On the RETRAP Project, valued at US\$170 million, Dr. Nuetah explained that US\$30 million was allocated for road construction in Nimba County, specifically for the 40-kilometer road linking Tappita to Toe Town.

However, he noted that the funds for road construction are managed by the Ministry of Public Works, not the Ministry of Agriculture.

He further clarified that the remaining US\$115 million is being used for road construction projects, including the road from Toe Town to Zwedru, also managed by the Ministry of Public Works under the World Bank financing agreement.

Minister Nuetah also addressed delays in the road construction project linking Liberia to Côte d'Ivoire, explaining that World Bank consultants had identified an elephant footprint in the planned corridor. This discovery led to a two-year study on biodiversity to assess the potential environmental impact on wildlife in the area. Consequently, the US\$115 million allocated for this project remains with the World Bank until the study is conducted and findings made public. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Starts from page 6 EU, GoI sign Euros 56 million

of the journey, because now the real work starts, so we need to keep on engaging very regularly until the Government of Liberia can submit a disbursement request, hopefully still this year, so that hopefully we could still disburse about 22 million euros maximum into the treasury in 2025", Deprez reveals. Accordingly, the EU envoy notes that the reforms that they are embarking on is to strengthen public finance management and oversight systems, to enhance domestic revenue mobilization, particularly from the natural resources sector, improve transparency and accountability, and to create a more conducive business environment for investment in local rice value chains, and also to reinforce Liberia's network of protected areas.

"So we look forward to continue to work with you, so that this program can be a successful indicator of the achievement and the implementation of Liberia's ambitious reforms", she says.

In response, Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Augustine K. Ngafuan, appreciates the EU envoy and her team on behalf of President Boakai and the citizenry.

"I want to say again, on behalf of President Joseph Nyuma Bokai and the government, the people of Liberia, to say thank you to the EU family. You've been a friend, indeed. We are at pivotal times. We've been facing some turbulence and some trumps", Minister Ngafuan notes.

He praises the EU for standing alongside Liberia during its difficult times, saying "in some respects, some of our partners have been backpedaling on commitments, cancelling commitments. But you are front pedaling on commitment; you are delivering on commitment.

And in one instance, where one of our partners was stepping down on support, you were stepping up on

support. So, I want to say thank you on behalf of the Liberian people who remember you. You are doing for us so that we can do for ourselves", Ngafuan adds.

He says the ultimate aim of the government's arrest agenda is to transform lives of people across the 15 counties, and on behalf of Liberians, expresses thanks to the EU.

"You are doing it for Liberia, and we as a government will try as much as possible to be worthy recipients of the support."

Minister Ngafuan notes that the EU support is a grant, not a loan, saying it's a grant to the people of Liberia, to the Government of Liberia, for three years.

He informs the EU envoy that the budget support comes directly to the government budget, saying "It is a vote of confidence in the reform that we've initiated, working in partnership with the EU and other partners. We have agreed indicators, and we have a policy dialogue framework that we take very seriously."

He says the aim is to always proceed in ways to justify support, noting the current support is going to help the government to strengthen its ability to generate revenue for the citizenry.

He says ultimately, the government wants to reach a point where the people can depend largely, almost 100%, on their own resources for development.

We are on that path. Last year, of the \$738 million budget, we raised \$698 million through domestic resource mobilization. So, that was upwards, I think, of 90%. So, we intend that the government's contribution to the budget will continue to increase, as we expand the tax base through a package of measures, including principally improving efficiency, he underscores. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Starts from page 6 Senator alarms security threats

and decisive action to protect our nation's sovereignty," he urges his colleagues in the Senate.

Senator Cyrus says Liberia, as a sovereign state, must not tolerate activities that risk its territorial integrity, especially, when carried out by non-citizens operating outside the legal framework of the country.

At the same time, he reaffirms his commitment to safeguarding Liberia's sovereignty and ensuring that the nation's laws are upheld uniformly and without exception. He warns that any action or behavior that threatens Liberia's peace and security will be met with swift and lawful responses.

In addition, Senator Cyrus announces that the Liberia

National Police is in the process of acquiring fifteen 4x4 pickup vehicles, one for each of the fifteen counties, as part of a broader initiative to enhance law enforcement capability and improve the responsiveness of police services nationwide.

"The provision of logistics to our police force is essential in enhancing security presence and responsiveness in all counties," he adds.

Cyrus reaffirms the Senate's dedication to collaborating with the Executive Branch and national security institutions to maintain Liberia as a peaceful and secure nation governed by the rule of law. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



for the second segment of the second sessions of the Liberian Senate on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, outlined dozens of unfinished businesses captioned, "Throwing highlights on some outstanding matters."

She said key among the outstanding matters, is the request to investigate the two hundred plus million dollars loan acquired by the Government of Liberia for the both projects in 2021, under the Ministry of Agriculture from the World Bank.

"We ask the Agriculture Committee to conduct a public hearing and report to the plenary of the Liberian Senate in one week", she mandated.

This included US\$124.5 Million for loan, which she pointed out has not been done, and over US\$40 Million loan for small holder farmers for agriculture projects that are yet to be identified.

Pro-Tempore Kangar Lawrence's decision is based on Margibi County Senator Nathaniel F. McGill's communication dated March 13, 2025, calling for full accountability in the management and implementation of two major World Bank-funded agriculture programs: Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P) and the Rural

these funds must be addressed to ensure that the programs are delivering on their intended purposes of improving livelihoods of smallholder farmers and boosting Liberia's agricultural sector.

"These two projects amount to approximately US\$200 million, aimed at supporting local communities and farmers in expanding agribusiness in Liberia," McGill stated. "Notably, under the STAR-P program, over US\$40 million was allocated during the previous administration for granting micro-loans to small farmers across the country. It is imperative that we account for how these resources are being used."

He outlined several areas where the Ministry of Agriculture must provide clarity, including a full breakdown of the programs, detailing how funds under STAR-P and RETRAP have been allocated and disbursed since their inception.

He also demanded information on total number of beneficiaries, specifying how many farmers or agribusinesses have received loans or other forms of support through these initiatives

But, Agriculture Minister, Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah, has dismissed allegations made by Senator

Français

Changement d'allégeance et violations constitutionnelles : Koffa explique sa démission de la présidence de l'Assemblée

Après une longue bataille juridique devant la Cour suprême du Liberia, qui avait confirmé son statut de président de la Chambre des représentants, J. Fonati Koffa a officiellement annoncé sa démission, invoquant un changement d'allégeance politique au sein de

au Liberia deviennent de plus en plus imprévisibles, rendant la gouvernance instable. « Nous devons jouer selon un ensemble de règles, mais ces règles ne cessent de changer », a-t-il déploré. Il a rappelé l'arrêt rendu par la Cour suprême le 6 décembre 2024, qui l'avait confirmé comme président légitime de la 55e législature,

législature», a-t-il insisté. Mais selon lui, la dynamique a changé lorsque le président Joseph Boakai a évoqué la question du quorum parlementaire, modifiant de fait les fondements de l'autorité législative. Face à l'intensification des tensions, à la présence accrue des forces de sécurité et aux risques de violence au Capitole, M. Koffa a expliqué que sa coalition a dû choisir entre l'affrontement et la retenue.

« Nous avons choisi d'éviter l'affrontement », a-t-il affirmé. Il a également mentionné la situation précaire d'environ 60 employés législatifs non payés, ainsi que la perte de soutien de certains membres fidèles, affaiblis par les propos du président Boakai. « Il n'était pas judicieux de continuer à porter le titre de président, pendant que d'autres en exerçaient les fonctions », a-t-il justifié. Interrogé sur les rumeurs selon lesquelles il aurait perçu une somme d'argent en échange de



l'Assemblée et de graves violations de la Constitution. Lors d'une conférence de presse tenue le lundi 12 mai à Monrovia, M. Koffa a déclaré que les règles du jeu politique

ajoutant qu'un complément d'interprétation avait été sollicité par le biais d'un Bill of Information. « Même un enfant peut comprendre ce que la Cour a dit : que J. Fonati Koffa est le président de la 55e

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

« Je fais mon travail » : la présidente de la Cour suprême Yuoh s'adresse aux juges

La Présidente de la Cour suprême du Liberia, Son Honneur Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, a rappelé ce lundi aux juges libériens leur devoir de respecter scrupuleusement les lois du pays ainsi que les ordonnances émanant de la plus haute juridiction. Intervenant lors de l'ouverture officielle de la session de mai de la 13e Cour de circuit judiciaire dans le comté de Margibi, elle a affirmé ne pas être attachée aux titres, mais uniquement à l'exécution fidèle de ses fonctions. « Je ne suis pas de ceux qui s'accrochent à leur titre au détriment de leur mission. Je fais simplement mon travail », a déclaré la Présidente de la Cour suprême devant un public composé de juges, d'avocats, de membres du personnel judiciaire, de représentants du Barreau national du Liberia, du Barreau local de Margibi, d'autorités locales, de partenaires au développement et de citoyens. Elle a exhorté les juges à se procurer et à lire attentivement l'Ordonnance judiciaire numéro 9 afin de la comprendre et de la mettre pleinement en œuvre. Elle a exprimé sa préoccupation face au non-respect de cette directive par plusieurs magistrats à travers le pays. « Il est inquiétant de constater que, malgré la promulgation d'une ordonnance judiciaire par

la Cour suprême, certains juges de circuit, de juridictions spécialisées et des tribunaux de première instance ne s'y conforment pas », a-t-elle dénoncé. L'ordonnance en question impose notamment aux juges de circuit d'effectuer des visites régulières dans les juridictions magistérielles de leur ressort, et d'en faire rapport à la fin de chaque session. Or, selon la Présidente, cette obligation est largement ignorée. Mme Yuoh a également fustigé le comportement de certains magistrats qui, en pleine session judiciaire, désertent leur poste sans autorisation. Elle a précisé que la Cour suprême, après avoir rassemblé des preuves tangibles, a déjà suspendu certains de ces juges spécialisés sans salaire. « Dans ces cas, les noms des juges sanctionnés sont retirés du système de

paie, avec notification immédiate à l'Agence de la fonction publique et au ministère des Finances pour garantir la régularité administrative », a-t-elle indiqué. Enfin, elle a mis en garde les juges de circuit qui voyagent à l'étranger sans en informer préalablement la Cour suprême. De tels agissements, a-t-elle prévenu, entraîneront des sanctions sévères. Par ce discours ferme, la Présidente Yuoh réaffirme son engagement à renforcer la discipline au sein du système judiciaire et à garantir que la justice libérienne reste crédible, équitable et respectueuse de l'état de droit.



Éditorial

Nous saluons le combat du Président Koffa

Un homme doit vivre selon ses convictions, être prêt au sacrifice ultime, voire à mourir pour elles, si cela s'avère nécessaire. C'est cette force de principe que J. Fonati Koffa, ancien président de la Chambre des représentants du Liberia, a démontrée en démissionnant après avoir brillamment contesté devant la Cour suprême son éviction illégale, et triomphé du Bloc majoritaire dans le respect de l'État de droit.

En agissant ainsi, l'ancien président a établi un précédent au sein de l'Assemblée nationale, servant de leçon aux générations futures quant à la manière légitime de destituer un président de la Chambre – dans la clarté, la légalité, et sans ambiguïté.

Or, ce respect des procédures est précisément ce qu'a ignoré le soi-disant Bloc majoritaire, motivé par la cupidité et la volonté manifeste d'évincer le président Koffa sans obtenir la majorité qualifiée requise des deux tiers.

L'article 49 de la Constitution libérienne de 1986 stipule : « La Chambre des représentants élit tous les six ans un Président qui en est l'officier président, un Vice-Président ainsi que d'autres officiers nécessaires au bon fonctionnement de la Chambre. Le Président, le Vice-Président et tout autre officier élu peuvent être démis de leurs fonctions pour juste cause, par résolution votée à la majorité des deux tiers des membres de la Chambre. » Les règles internes précisent également que cette procédure doit se dérouler sous la présidence de la personne concernée.

Ces dispositions ont été allègrement ignorées par le Bloc majoritaire, qui a procédé à l'élection du Représentant Richard Nagbe Koon comme nouveau président, une décision que la Cour suprême a depuis déclarée illégitime.

Nous saluons le courage avec lequel le président Koffa a défendu son mandat dans le cadre de la loi. Il a obtenu justice, même si le climat politique actuel ne lui a pas permis de reprendre ses fonctions, en dépit des violations flagrantes et du mépris affiché envers la décision de la plus haute juridiction du pays.

Par souci de stabilité nationale, Koffa a renoncé à la présidence, mais a clairement mis en lumière les irrégularités commises par le Bloc majoritaire dans leur tentative maladroite de renversement.

Son geste offre matière à réflexion pour les étudiants en droit et les praticiens du milieu judiciaire : « Ce qui n'est pas légalement fait n'est pas fait du tout », enseigne un adage juridique que Koffa, lui-même avocat, a brillamment illustré par son combat.

Conscients de l'irrégularité de leurs actes, les membres du Bloc majoritaire, soutenus par l'Exécutif, hésitent aujourd'hui à procéder à une nouvelle élection conforme à la légalité. Et cela, grâce à Fonati Koffa – un homme qui comprend véritablement la loi et l'applique sans crainte, ni compromis.

Il entre dans l'histoire législative du Liberia comme celui qui s'est dressé contre des actes inconstitutionnels, y compris sa propre éviction illégale, et qui a vaincu ses adversaires devant la plus haute instance judiciaire du pays.

Français

Starts from page 8 **Changement d'allégeance et violations constitutionnelles :**

sa démission, M. Koffa a fermement rejeté ces allégations.

« Si j'avais voulu me vendre, le moment idéal aurait été avant l'audience à la Cour suprême », a-t-il souligné.

« Il n'est nullement question d'argent ici, seulement des salaires et avantages légitimes de nos collègues. »

Revenant sur l'incendie survenu l'année dernière au Capitole et les accusations portées contre certains membres de son personnel, il a réaffirmé sa demande d'enquête internationale.

« On ne peut pas résoudre une affaire criminelle par une négociation politique. Ce serait reconnaître implicitement une culpabilité. »

Quant à l'éventualité d'un arrangement politique concernant l'élection d'un nouveau président, il a répliqué :

« On ne peut pas négocier la loi. Une vacance a été créée aujourd'hui à midi, et conformément à la loi, un nouveau président doit être élu. »

Par ailleurs, le député de la circonscription #2 du comté de Grand Kru a annoncé la publication prochaine de son livre intitulé “De 1 à 73 : la conspiration du Capitole”, dans lequel il retrace les événements ayant conduit à sa chute.

Le processus menant à sa démission avait commencé en 2024, quelques mois après l'arrivée au pouvoir du président Boakai, lorsque certains de ses collègues, se regroupant sous la bannière du Bloc majoritaire, avaient annoncé un vote de défiance contre sa présidence, l'accusant de corruption, de conflits d'intérêts, entre autres griefs.

Ce Bloc, soutenu par l'Exécutif, avait alors déclaré sa destitution et élu à sa place le député Richard Nagbe Koon du parti au pouvoir, l'Unity Party. Mais J. Fonati Koffa avait contesté cette décision devant la Cour suprême, qui avait jugé les actions du Bloc majoritaire ultra vires — c'est-à-dire au-delà de leurs compétences — et par conséquent illégales.

Allouer 10 % du budget national à l'agriculture lors d'une visite historique au Liberia

En visite stratégique de trois jours au Liberia, Son Excellence Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe, président du conseil d'administration de l'Alliance pour une Révolution Verte en Afrique (AGRA), a exhorté le gouvernement libérien à manifester son engagement envers la transformation agricole en consacrant au moins 10 % du budget national au secteur agricole, conformément aux objectifs du Programme détaillé de développement de l'agriculture en Afrique (PDDAA).

S'exprimant lors d'une réunion avec les hauts responsables du ministère de l'Agriculture, M. Boshe a souligné que l'engagement financier constitue un indicateur fondamental de la volonté politique et un levier essentiel pour mobiliser l'appui international ainsi que les investissements du secteur privé.

« Si le Liberia souhaite transformer son agriculture, cet engagement doit être clairement reflété dans le budget national », a déclaré M. Boshe. « Le PDDAA fixe une norme minimale de 10 % d'allocation budgétaire. Ce n'est pas un chiffre arbitraire, mais un signal fort adressé aux partenaires au développement et aux investisseurs pour leur montrer que le Liberia est prêt à prendre en

main sa propre transformation. »

Cette visite de haut niveau fait suite à une invitation du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai. Elle vise à renforcer le partenariat entre l'AGRA et le Liberia à travers l'élaboration d'un programme stratégique d'héritage : une feuille de route ambitieuse destinée à stimuler la production alimentaire, créer des emplois et attirer les investissements.

S'appuyant sur son expérience en tant qu'ancien Premier ministre de l'Éthiopie, M. Boshe a mis en lumière le lien direct entre les investissements budgétaires et les résultats concrets :

« L'Éthiopie était autrefois synonyme d'insécurité alimentaire. Aujourd'hui, nous sommes exportateurs nets de denrées alimentaires. Ce changement ne s'est pas produit par hasard. Il a été rendu possible grâce à l'allocation de ressources conséquentes, au renforcement des institutions et à une mise en œuvre rigoureuse. Ce ne sont pas les politiques seules qui produisent des résultats, ce sont les budgets. »

Le président de l'AGRA a également insisté sur la nécessité d'une approche gouvernementale intégrée et d'un changement de paradigme national :

« L'agriculture ne relève pas de la seule responsabilité d'un

ministère. Elle doit être considérée comme une priorité nationale. Il nous faut sortir d'une logique de subsistance pour construire des systèmes agricoles résilients, productifs et durables. »

La délégation technique d'AGRA, conduite par le vice-président chargé de l'expertise technique, M. Jonathan Saa, accompagne le Liberia dans la conception de ce programme d'héritage phare qui sera dévoilé lors du Forum africain sur les systèmes alimentaires à Dakar, au Sénégal, du 31 août au 5 septembre 2025. Ce programme ambitionne de dynamiser les chaînes de valeur agricoles et de positionner durablement le Liberia sur la voie de la sécurité alimentaire.

Le ministre libérien de l'Agriculture, Dr J. Alexander Nuetah, a salué le message de l'AGRA et confirmé la nécessité de cet engagement budgétaire accru :

« Je suis ravi d'entendre votre message, Excellence. Et il faut que le Président l'entende aussi. C'est le combat que nous menons ici. Le soutien des bailleurs ne saurait se substituer à l'engagement du gouvernement. Nous devons prouver notre sérieux. »

Par ailleurs, M. Boshe a indiqué que l'Éthiopie, l'un des principaux producteurs de café au monde, explorera les voies permettant de valoriser le « Coffee Liberica » sur le marché international. Il a souligné l'importance des systèmes de contrôle de qualité et des standards internationaux pour faire émerger cette filière.

Cette visite officielle constitue une étape majeure dans la relance de l'agriculture libérienne et témoigne de l'engagement continu de l'AGRA à accompagner le pays sur la voie d'une croissance agricole inclusive et durable.

Ngafulan exprime son regret face à la suspension du Compact MCC au Libéria

Le ministre libérien des Finances et de la Planification du développement, M. Augustine Kpehe Ngafulan, a exprimé son profond regret et sa frustration suite à la suspension soudaine du programme Compact du Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) des États-Unis, alors même que le Libéria avait été déclaré éligible à cette initiative.

Intervenant lors de l'émission de débat nocturne The Heat, le ministre Ngafulan a rappelé que l'annonce de l'éligibilité du Libéria au Compact MCC avait suscité un grand espoir à travers le pays, notamment en raison de son potentiel à accélérer le développement des infrastructures, du secteur énergétique et d'autres domaines clés.

« En janvier 2024, une délégation du MCC a séjourné au Libéria et a donné son feu vert au ministère des Finances pour lancer le processus de recrutement d'un coordinateur, d'un économiste principal, d'un spécialiste du secteur privé et d'un expert en genre, soit cinq postes à pourvoir. Des centaines de Libériens avaient postulé. Aujourd'hui, tout est suspendu », a déploré le ministre.

M. Ngafulan a attribué cette interruption à des changements internes au sein du gouvernement américain, soulignant que le programme MCC



ne semble plus être une priorité actuelle pour les États-Unis. « Nous n'avons pas de contrôle sur les décisions de la démocratie américaine. Une nouvelle administration est en place, et il est possible que le MCC ne soit plus dans ses priorités. Nous devons désormais tourner la page et aller de l'avant. »

Le 19 décembre 2024, le conseil d'administration du MCC avait sélectionné le Libéria comme pays éligible pour développer un nouveau Compact, saluant les progrès réalisés dans les réformes économiques et de gouvernance démocratique. La PDG du MCC, Alice Albright, avait alors exprimé son enthousiasme à renforcer le partenariat avec le Libéria.

Malgré cette pause inattendue, le ministre Ngafulan a affirmé que le gouvernement libérien intensifie ses efforts pour mobiliser des ressources internes et renforcer sa souveraineté budgétaire à travers la mise en œuvre de la politique « Liberia First ».

« L'année dernière, le budget national s'élevait à 738 millions de dollars, avec un objectif de mobilisation de ressources internes fixé à 690 millions. Grâce aux efforts de l'Autorité fiscale du Libéria (LRA) et d'autres institutions, nous avons collecté 698 millions de dollars, soit un excédent de 800 000 dollars. C'est un record historique », a-t-il indiqué.

Le ministre a également annoncé le déploiement prochain d'un système technologique de collecte automatisée des recettes fiscales, appelé payment switch, qui sera installé dans les entreprises pour améliorer la traçabilité et la transparence des transactions. Il a aussi évoqué un renforcement des audits et une révision des contrats de concession afin de maximiser les avantages pour le Libéria.

« Grâce à ces outils technologiques et à une meilleure gouvernance fiscale, nous allons mobiliser davantage de ressources locales pour répondre à nos besoins sans dépendre exclusivement de l'aide extérieure », a conclu le ministre Ngafulan.



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FEATUREARTICLE

A Vision of Hope and Transformation for Liberia: Embracing Eloah-Meleka-God-Almighty:

By: Austin S Fallah-From the Sleeping Pen on Sabbatical/Vacationing.

As Liberia stands on the brink of an era ripe with potential, Liberians can reflect on the myriad challenges plaguing the nation and her people for far too long.

The time is coming when every air-breathing Liberian will come together to appreciate and honor Eloah-Meleka-God-Almighty, the Creator who has watched over every Liberian through their struggles.

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Liberia is a land endowed with natural resources, rich soil, and a resilient population. Liberia possesses vast mineral wealth, abundant forests, and thriving agriculture waiting to be harnessed.

The paradox lies in our current state. How can a nation blessed with such richness see its citizens live in poverty and dissolutionment?

This discord between the nation's resources and realities is not merely an economic problem but signifies a more profound malaise affecting the collective spirit.

For too long, the nation's narrative has been marred by inefficiency, corruption, and a lack of vision.

The assets that should enrich the people are often exploited to benefit a privileged few.

Consequently, they declare themselves a "rich" nation while their children sleep hungry, their roads lie in disrepair, and their hospitals remain underfunded.

The urgency of acknowledging Eloah-Meleka-God-Almighty becomes evident.

Liberians need a divine intervention to shift their trajectory toward fulfillment and abundance.

A Day of Transformation: The Promise of Liberation:

That day is approaching, characterized by peace, love, mercy, and favor.

It is a day when Liberians, regardless of their affiliations, will gather under the unifying grace of Eloah-Meleka-God-Almighty.

The trials they have faced are not insurmountable; instead, they are the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision, waiting for a voice to breathe life into them.

In Ezekiel 37:1-14, the Almighty challenges the prophet to speak to the dry bones and prophesy life into them.

The question posed to Ezekiel, "Can these dry bones live?" resonates with Liberians as they look upon their nation.

The answer lies not merely in human effort but in the transformative power of faith.

Eloah-Meleka-God-Almighty knows what lies within these bones, the potential for restoration, revitalization, and awakening social consciousness that will propel Liberia into a new era of abundance.

Reclaiming Their Dignity: A Shared Responsibility:

What will it take for Liberia to rise from its ashes? The answer lies in a collective commitment to values that uphold human dignity.

The identity as Liberians is not defined by their trials but by their responses to them; in a society where every individual matters, Liberians must cultivate love and unity, pushing aside the forces that seek to divide them.

This responsibility falls on them as community leaders, students, youths, young people, women, educators, politicians, and citizens.

Love must manifest in their interactions, transcending tribal, political, and economic lines. Liberians must recognize that their strength lies in their diversity, grasping that together, they can forge a nation that honors Eloah-Meleka-God-Almighty.

Many attribute the alleged destructive forces that manifest themselves against fellow Liberians to a lack of understanding and compassion.

In an age when polarization threatens to splinter



their society further, they must engage in dialogue and empathy.

Liberians must embrace Eloah-Meleka-God-Almighty's call to be a beacon of hope, demonstrating through their actions that love triumphs over hatred.

Embracing Transformation through Faith:

As they cultivate a culture of compassion, Liberians must also uplift their governance and institutions.

A corruption-free Liberia requires each Liberian to respectfully challenge the status quo and engage in honest dialogue about the systems and practices.

The faith they place in Eloah-Meleka-God-Almighty can inspire them as they envision and pursue reform, infusing their institutions with integrity and accountability.

Let them ask ourselves: What does an ideal Liberia look like?

In this vision, education is accessible and equitable, security for all, health services flourish, and economic opportunities abound.

For this vision to become a reality, Liberians must recommit ourselves to hard work, ethical leadership, and mutual respect.

Every action they take in the name of teamwork and collaboration brings them closer to manifesting a nation that honors Eloah-Meleka-God-Almighty.

The Role of Community and Engagement:

A renewed Liberia must also involve communities taking an active role in shaping their destiny.

They must foster grassroots movements that embody Eloah-Meleka-God-Almighty's love and message.

Each neighborhood, district, county, city, village, and town should become incubators of positive change.

By empowering individuals at the local level, they can stitch together a quilt of progress that reflects their nation's diverse fabric.

They must inspire the youth and foster a sense of ownership in the country's development.

Young people are the future leaders, and it is essential to impart knowledge and ethics, helping them recognize their potential to initiate change.

When they understand their power and divine purpose, Liberia shall see a renewed zeal for justice, equity, economic empowerment/emancipation, and progress resonating throughout Liberia.

An Abiding Commitment to Shared Values:

As they embrace this transformative journey, they must continually remind themselves of the core values Eloah-Meleka-God-Almighty calls them to uphold: integrity, love, respect for human dignity, and stewardship of their nation's resources.

These values should permeate every sector: agriculture, education, government, technical, grassroots organizations.

Each voice matters. Each contribution counts.

This is a philosophical, political, or theological stance and an actionable directive.

They can create coalitions that hold their leaders accountable while encouraging respectful civic engagement.

They must drive the dialogue on issues affecting their nation and communities and ultimately position themselves to influence policy changes that elevate the welfare of every Liberian.

The Dawn of a New Era:

The promise of a prosperous, united Liberia lies within their grasp, anchored in their faith in Eloah-Meleka-God-Almighty.

Embracing their God-given resources is a spiritual and moral obligation, urging them to live out principles of justice and love.

That day is indeed coming when Liberians will see their nation rise from despair to hope when they honor their Creator-Eloah-Meleka-God-Almighty with words and actions that reflect a love for one another.

Let them firmly believe that Liberia can and will be transformed.

The dark days are numbered, and the light is imminent, provided they commit to faith and action.

With the guidance of Eloah-Meleka-God-Almighty, they can change the narrative and inspire a legacy of abundance, dignity, and hope for generations to come.

CBL unveils US\$63.32 million plan

The Central Bank of Liberia says plans are far advance to digitalize Liberia's economy.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

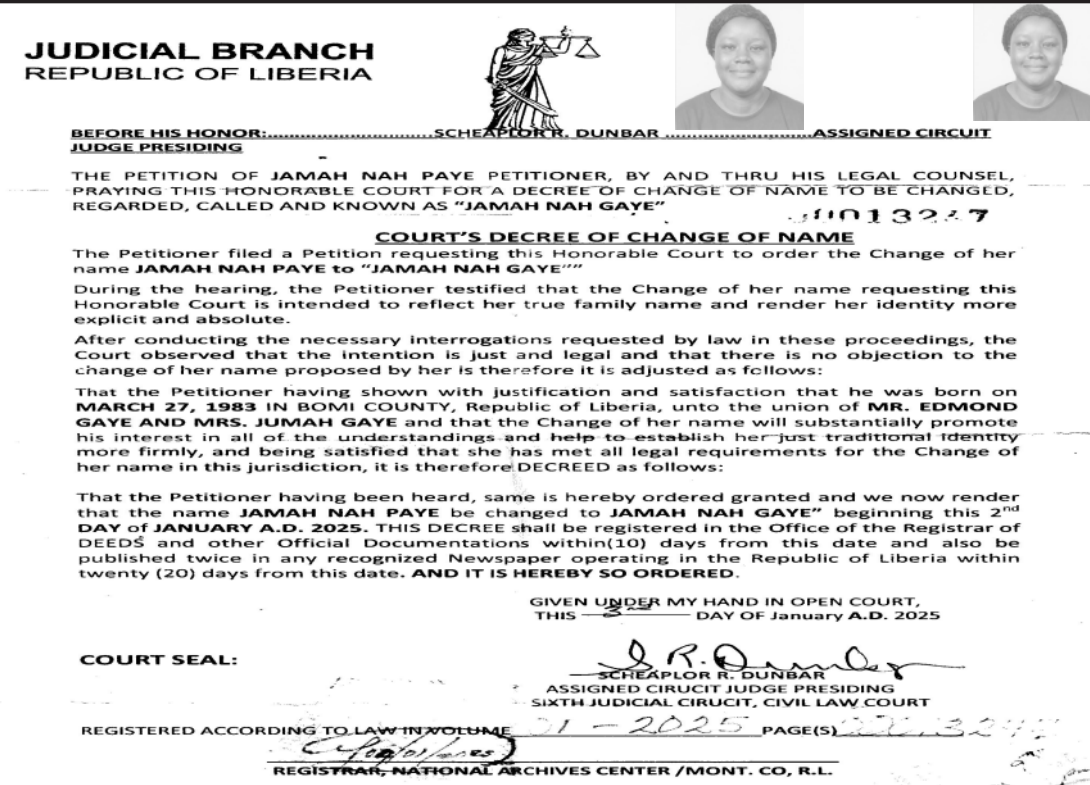
Monrovia, May 15, 2025: As part of efforts on Tuesday May 13, CBL presented its ambitious five years Strategic Plan, covering 2025-2029, worth USD\$ 63.32 million before partners in the sector. The plan aimed at fostering financial inclusion, addressing instability and increasing public trust in the banking sector.

According to him, these five strategic pillars serve as the cornerstone of the CBL's Strategic Plan for 2025-2029. Giving the overview of the project, Mr. Jay Gbleh Brown II, Director for Development Finance at the Central Bank, stressed that the Five-years Strategic Plan, will serves as a comprehensive roadmap, guiding the bank's actions and priorities as it strives to foster macroeconomic stability, promote financial inclusion, and support sustainable development throughout Liberia. Explaining the plan further, Mr. Brown said a Strategic Plan Committee (SPC), reached



The Bank's Executive Governor Henry F. Samoi unveiling the plan mentioned fifty-five projects, seven of which have received funding commitments from donor partners in the sum of 16.01 million, while US\$47.3 million stands as a gap amount to completing the project. Making the presentation before partners and the media in the Bank's Board Room, Mr. Samoa stated that the CBL's five years strategic plan aligns with the Government's ARREST Agenda, which aimed to address the needs of the entire Ecosystem and take Liberia to Digital Economic. “Our Plan in the next five years is to digitalize the Liberian economy, that is while we are currently working and soon, we will be launching the National electronic Payment Switch, and to do that we have already targeted the GSM companies,” Governor Samoi said. He highlighted the five critical pillars of the Strategic Plan (SP), as Domestic Price Stability, Regional Integration, Operational Efficiency, Financial Stability, Financial Inclusion and Digital Financial Services.

out to wide range of stakeholders, including international partners, marketers, rural population, credit unions, among others to rebrand the Bank's image and increase Financial Public Trust and Confidence. He said the (SP), is developed at a time Liberia has signed a new four year (4yr) Extended Credit Facility (ECF), program with the International Monetary Funds (IMF). Also in remarks, Dimitri De Pues, Private Sector Development of the European Union, commending the Central Bank for the launched of the Five Year- Strategy Plan, said the strategic will create the enabling environment for the private sector to grow. Pues stressed the critical role of the private sector in reducing poverty and its commitment to the Bank's initiative. He and other partners, including the African Development Bank (AfDB), UNDP, U.S. Embassy, pledged their supports towards the (CBL) Five Year Strategic Plan. Meanwhile, the themed of the CBL Strategic Plan 2025-2029, is “Optimal Use of Technology for Macroeconomic Stability and Inclusive Economic Growth.” -*Edited by Othello B. Garblah.*



Body discovered in parked car

comment were unsuccessful. Officials say they could not provide comment at this stage. However, a source within the hospital, speaking on condition of anonymity, suggested that fear of reputational damage and a lack of clear internal coordination may have contributed to the inaction. However, the Liberia National Police Bong County detachment is reportedly investigating the incident, but no official findings have been released. Meanwhile, civil society organizations and

concerned citizens are calling for an independent probe into the matter. They are also urging the Ministry of Health to take immediate steps to ensure accountability and prevent such incidents from recurring. As public trust hangs in the balance, the pressure is mounting on both Phebe Hospital and the Bong County Health Team to address the situation transparently and responsibly — or face further backlash from an already outraged population. *Edited by Othello B. Garblah.*

WAEC sets new rules for 2025 Senior Exams

Liberian students siting this year's West African Examination will have to comply with new sets of examination regulations. By: Kruah Thompson

MONROVIA, Liberia: The West African Examinations Council (WAEC) has introduced a series of new mandatory regulations and exam procedures for the upcoming 2025 West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE), scheduled to run from Thursday, May 15 to June 10, 2025. Speaking during a regular press briefing organized by the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT) on Tuesday May 13, 2025, in Monrovia, WAEC Liberia Head, Mr. Dale Gbotoe, outlined the key changes. He emphasized that while students will sit for the same subjects, individual exam questions will vary slightly across schools to minimize malpractice. “Though all candidates will be doing the same test, their questions will be slightly different,” Gbotoe said. He explained that, for example, while students from J.W. Gibson High School may sit for Mathematics on a given day, those at a nearby institution like Adventist High School will also write Mathematics, but with a different set of questions. “This approach has been tried in other countries and proven effective, so we are implementing it for four core subjects this year,” he added. Gbotoe also announced that the Ministry of Education, in consultation with WAEC, has approved the inclusion of technical and vocational subjects in the exam scope, and Liberian candidates will be sitting for nine subjects in total. Outlining the New Mandatory Guidelines Mr.Gbotoe said that WAEC has set strict rules for candidate behavior and exam administration According to him, Candidates must arrive before 7:30 a.m. for morning sessions and by 12:00 p.m. for afternoon papers. Further adding that Students are required to follow all lawful instructions from exam supervisors and submit to a physical search. Additionally, he says, only pencils are to be used on objective answer sheets, while black or blue pens should be used for essays. And "Candidates must wear their official school

uniforms." Speaking on the Prohibited Actions for the exam WAEC boss issued a stern warning against several violations. He says absolutely no camping is allowed before or during the exam period, and candidates must not pay any fees to individuals under the guise of "flexibility" charges. Cell phones, textbooks, prepared notes, or any foreign materials are strictly banned from examination halls, and accordingly, all script tampering, substitution, and stealing of answer sheets are prohibited. Moreover, he added that students must not tear question papers, fail to submit answer sheets, or seek assistance from supervisors, teachers, or fellow candidates. However, he says Insulting or assaulting examination staff is strictly forbidden. Meanwhile Mr. Gbotoe disclosed that the Liberian government has paid the WAEC fees for all 53,210 candidates registered to sit this year's exams. "A total of 1,078 senior high schools are participating, with 1,045 based in Liberia and three in Guinea. Previously, he says, the Guinean schools would travel to Ganta for the exams, but arrangements have now been made, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for them to take their test in their own regions.' According to him, this year, 379 examination centers will be used across 155 schools, and of the amount of 53,210 candidates, 18,201 are from public schools and 36,428 from private institutions. Notably, 800 of the schools are private. Looking ahead, Gbotoe revealed that public school students will take their exams online starting next year, as the Ministry of Education has equipped these institutions with computers. However, he says all Private schools, will continue using the traditional paper-based method until they build the necessary digital infrastructure. Meanwhile, WAEC has assured the public that these reforms aim to ensure fairness, reduce malpractice, and modernize the examination process across West Africa. -*Edited by Othello B. Garblah.*



Dale Gbotoe

-The vehicle had been park on the hospital compound for days
Citizens in Bong County are pointing fingers at the Phebe hospital administration and Bong County Health Team following the discovery of a lifeless body in a parked vehicle on the hospital's compound.

Gbarnga, Bong County—A wave of shock and outrage has gripped Bongese following the discovery of an unidentified dead body inside a parked vehicle on the

The body was reportedly found inside a grey vehicle on the hospital premises, under unclear circumstances.

Eyewitnesses claimed that the vehicle has been parked at the hospital compound for days without

breakdown?," John Kerkulah, an eyewitness asked.

As of press time on Tuesday, May 13, neither the Phebe Hospital administration nor the Bong County Health Team had issued a formal statement on the matter. Their silence has only intensified public suspicion, with some community members alleging a cover-up or gross administrative failure.

“This reflects a total collapse in medical protocol and public health responsibility,” said Joseph Momo, “a civil society advocate based in Gbarnga. “Even if the cause of death is natural or unknown, there are clear procedures for such situations. The dignity of human life must be respected, and public health must be protected — especially on hospital grounds.” Citizens also raised concerns about the absence of immediate police intervention and the lack of any visible efforts to identify the deceased or determine the cause of death.

“What if this was a case of foul play or an infectious disease? We’re all at risk,” another observer remarked. “The failure of the health team and hospital leadership to act promptly is deeply troubling.”

Attempts to reach officials at Phebe Hospital and the Bong County Health Team for

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



grounds of the Phebe Hospital compound in the County.

The disturbing incident has sparked intense public criticism, with many residents accusing the hospital administration and the Bong County Health Team (BCHT) of negligence and silence in the face of what is being called a serious health and security concern.

any noticeable response from health officials or law enforcement, raising questions about the efficiency of the hospital's internal security and crisis response systems.

“This is unacceptable and shameful,” said one eyewitness. “How did a vehicle with a dead body get onto the compound, when the hospital has a security checkpoint? Who is responsible for this

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Everyone is a Winner

It's Raining Rewards.

Dial *156#

to transact and win.

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WE DO PHOTOCOPY

A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline 'New Dawn', a calendar titled 'New Dawn CALENDAR', a brochure titled 'New Dawn BROCHURE', and a magazine titled 'New Dawn Sports' with the headline 'JSS\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections'. The publications are arranged in a layered, overlapping fashion on a blue background.