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| DATE | BUYING | SELLING |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025 | L\$198.0617/US\$1.00 | L\$200.9083/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.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

French Version Inside

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Jamesetta Kugmeh finally died at JFK

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Braving the storm



-Senators proposed Act to establish Muslim holidays

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Continental News

Sudan rebels entirely pushed out of Khartoum state, army says

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) group, which has been engaged in a two-year war with Sudan's army, has been

Earlier on Tuesday, fighting had broken out between the warring groups in the city of Omdurman - which is also in Khartoum state and part of the

rivals took control of the area.

Until recently Port Sudan had been viewed as relatively safe, however it was at the centre of escalating fighting when it came under drone attack earlier this month, which the army blamed on the RSF. The attacks hit key infrastructure and led to water shortages and worsening blackouts.

The war has also had diplomatic reverberations, with relations souring between Sudan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), after Sudan accused the gulf nation of supporting the RSF, which it denies.

Those accusations continued on Tuesday, with Sudan saying the UAE was responsible for an attack on Port Sudan earlier this month, Reuters news agency reported.

The UAE has strongly denied the accusations, describing them as "unfounded allegations".

Since the civil war erupted three years ago, thousands of people have died and millions have been displaced from their homes - creating the world's worst humanitarian crisis. BBC



The civil war in Sudan has led to widespread destruction in Sudan's capital city Khartoum

entirely pushed out of Khartoum state, says the military.

"Khartoum State is completely free of rebels", the army said in a statement published by Sudan's News Agency. The announcement comes nearly two months after the military recaptured Khartoum city - including the presidential palace - from its rivals in a major victory.

capital region. The army said on Monday that it had started a "large-scale offensive" in Omdurman, according to the AFP news agency.

The RSF has not yet commented on the army's latest claim.

Khartoum had once been at the heart of Sudan's government, but the country's military leaders were forced to move east to Port Sudan after their

Can Mandela's former negotiator charm Donald Trump?

South Africa's president has faced tough challenges before - he was the chief negotiator for Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) during talks to end white-minority rule in the early 1990s - but his forthcoming meeting in the White House will require all his charm.

Cyril Ramaphosa wants to mend his nation's fractured relationship with the US - and his famous negotiating skills will be put to the test as he tries to win over the world's most powerful leader.

US President Donald Trump and his team have been uncharacteristically quiet about the trip, with White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt declining on Monday to provide any details - or even publicly acknowledge that the visit is taking place.

South Africa's government has described it as a "working visit", seeing the face-to-face meeting between the two leaders, to take place on Wednesday, as "a platform to reset the strategic relationship between the two countries".

The two have been at loggerheads for months, with

Trump repeatedly insisting that South Africa's Afrikaner community is facing a "genocide" - a claim amplified by his close adviser Elon Musk, the South African-born tech billionaire.

Tension ramped up days after Trump took office for his second term in January when President Ramaphosa signed into law a controversial bill allowing South Africa's government to expropriate privately owned land without compensation in certain circumstances, when it is deemed "equitable and in the public interest". This only served to tarnish the image of Africa's biggest economy in the eyes of

the Trump administration - already angered by its genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). In February, the US president announced the suspension of critical aid to South Africa and offered to help members from the Afrikaner community, who are mostly white descendants of early Dutch and French settlers, to settle in the US as "refugees". South Africa's ambassador to Washington, Ebrahim Rasool, was also expelled in March after accusing Trump of "mobilising a supremacism" and trying to "project white victimhood as a dog whistle". BBC



It will be President Cyril Ramaphosa's first meeting with Trump at the White House

Tanzania president warns 'meddling' Kenyan activists

Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu Hassan has warned activists from neighbouring Kenya that she will not allow them to "meddle" in her country's affairs and cause "chaos". Her comments came after prominent Kenyan lawyers and rights campaigners were deported, preventing them from attending the court case of an opposition leader charged with treason.

"If they have been contained in their country, let them not come here to meddle. Let's not give them a chance. They have already created chaos in their own country," Samia said.

Human rights groups are concerned that the Tanzanian government is increasingly cracking down on the opposition ahead of elections in October. On Monday, the leader of the main opposition Chadema party, Tundu Lissu,

charged with treason and publishing false information online, which allegedly incited rebellion and accused police of electoral misconduct. He denies the charges. If convicted, he could face the death penalty. Lissu's legal team raised concerns over the heavy police presence around the court, which the magistrate acknowledged, saying there would be consultations on whether this was justified.

President Samia was widely praised for giving Tanzanians greater political freedom when she took office in 2021 following the death of the incumbent, John Magufuli.

But her critics say Tanzania is once again seeing the repression that characterised Magufuli's rule. The government denies the allegation. The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) said that Kenyan activist Boniface Mwangi and Ugandan lawyer Agather Atuhaire had been detained after they arrived for Lissu's case.

The chief spokesperson for



Kenyan activists were blocked from attending the court appearance of Tanzanian opposition leader Tundu Lissu

appeared in a magistrate's court after being arrested last month.

He raised his fist in a gesture of defiance and told his supporters: "You will be fine. You should not fear." There was a heavy deployment of security officers at the court in Dar es Salaam, the largest city.

This did not deter Lissu's supporters, hundreds of whom had gathered outside.

The case was adjourned to 2 June after the prosecution asked for more time for investigations.

The court had previously attempted to conduct proceedings virtually, but Lissu's legal team opposed this, citing the need for transparency. The Chadema party leader was arrested on 9 April following his rallying call for "no reforms, no election". He is demanding sweeping changes, saying Tanzania's current laws do not allow for free and fair elections. The government denies the allegation. He has since been

Tanzania's immigration authority, Paul Mselle, said he was not aware of the arrests, but would look into it, the Reuters news agency reports. On Sunday, Kenya's former Justice Minister Martha Karua was deported from Tanzania along with two colleagues to prevent them from attending Lissu's court case.

Hours later, former Kenyan chief justice Willy Mutunga and other prominent rights activists said they had been stopped and held at the airport. But another former Kenyan chief justice, David Maraga, was in court and said that he hoped "the legal process ahead will be fair, just, and expeditious".

Speaking at the launch of Tanzania's new foreign policy in Dar es Salaam on Monday, Samia stressed that she would not tolerate external efforts to undermine her country's peace and stability.

"We will not give a chance to anyone to come and destroy us," she said. She instructed the authorities not to allow "those who have spoiled their countries to cross over to Tanzania... and spread their indiscipline here".

EDITORIAL

Government’s inconsistency over rail operatorship is troubling

The Government of Liberia’s decision to reverse the Inter-Ministerial Concessions Committee’s (IMCC) communication reaffirming ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) as the user-operator of the Yekepa-Buchanan railway is not only troubling but also raises serious questions about the country’s commitment to honoring contracts and protecting legitimate investment.

The IMCC’s original decision was grounded in logic, legality, and Liberia’s long-term development interests. Over seven years of negotiations between the Government of Liberia and AML led to the formulation of Rail System Operating Principles (RSOP), a comprehensive framework embedded in the Third Amendment of AML’s Mineral Development Agreement (MDA).

This framework provides multi-user access to the rail, regulated by the Government, while maintaining AML’s role as user-operator under a no-profit, no-loss model. It also ensures oversight through a Joint Management Committee, grants the Government audit and regulatory authority, including power to revoke AML’s role for non-performance.

The structure aligns squarely with the intent of Executive Order No. 136, which seeks to establish a multi-user rail system in the country. Crucially, the Executive Order itself recognizes the sanctity of existing commitments, like AML’s MDA, and does not seek to override them.

The Yekepa-Buchanan rail line is not just infrastructure; it is the backbone of Liberia’s iron ore industry in which ArcelorMittal Liberia has invested over \$800 million into rehabilitating and expanding the rail corridor.

The company’s commitment to Liberia spans nearly two decades and has resulted in employment for over 7,000 Liberians, coupled with substantial community development initiatives, and steady contributions to government revenue.

But we think to now walk back to a decision that recognized AML’s historic and contractual role as user-operator in favor of an unproven foreign company, Ivanhoe Atlantic, is a grave mistake that sends the wrong signal to both existing and potential investors. It gives Ivanhoe an unfair upper hand and portrays Liberia as a country where agreements can be cast aside to satisfy political expediency or foreign pressure.

Even neighboring Guinea, in its agreement with SMFG, recognizes that access through Liberia is temporary and uncertain. Yet Liberia seems willing to subordinate its national interest and investor credibility to accommodate a neighboring country’s mining agenda.

We consider this reversal as more than a policy misstep, as it also undermines the rule of law and erodes investors’ confidence. The Constitution of Liberia mandates that the state honors contracts, and the AML MDA remains a legally binding agreement. If the Government of Liberia genuinely believes it can no longer accept AML as the rail operator, then the only lawful and honorable path is to amend the agreement through mutual consent, rather than unilateral revocation.

ArcelorMittal’s role as a user-operator does not preclude other companies from using the rail. In fact, the RSOP ensures fair, cost-based access for all, with strong government oversight. This is the very definition of a multi-user model.

Instead of penalizing AML, we believe strongly that Liberia should be celebrating and strengthening its partnership with a company that has demonstrated long-term commitment to the country’s growth. Prioritizing a foreign newcomer over a proven investor will not only jeopardize current operations, but could freeze future investment altogether.

We emphasize that if this country is to build a prosperous and respected investment climate, we must start by honoring our own agreements. The government should reconsider its reversal and stand by the IMCC’s informed and nationally beneficial decision to maintain AML’s user-operatorship under the legal, tested, and transparent framework of the Third Amendment and the RSOP. Liberia must choose principle over politics, for the future of our economy and its credibility as a nation, depends on it.

COMMENTARY

By Aaron David Miller and
Lauren Morganbesser

The Trump Factor in Today’s Middle East

WASHINGTON, DC - As Donald Trump parades through the Middle East this week, he will encounter a very different region than the one he experienced during his first term. True, the Israeli-Palestinian problem remains unresolved, as do the challenges emanating from Iran’s much-advanced nuclear program and the instability and dysfunction in Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Syria, and Yemen.

But this old wine is now packaged in new bottles. Beyond the garish headlines of Trump’s plan to accept a Boeing 747 as a gift from Qatar, new trends are emerging that will redefine the region, posing additional challenges for US policy.

Of all the changes in the Middle East since Hamas’s October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, perhaps the most striking is Israel’s emergence as a regional powerhouse. Aided by the administrations of former President Joe Biden and Trump, and enabled by Arab regimes that do little to support Palestinians, Israel devastated Hamas and Hezbollah as military organizations, killing much of their senior leadership. With the support of the United States, Europe, and friendly Arab states, it effectively countered two direct Iranian missile attacks on its territory.

Israel then delivered its own strike, reportedly destroying much of Iran’s ballistic missile production and air defenses. In short, Israel has achieved escalation dominance: the capacity to escalate (or not) as it sees fit, and to deter its adversaries from doing so. Israel has also redefined its concept of border security in Gaza, Lebanon, the West Bank, and Syria by acting unilaterally to preempt and prevent threats to its territory.

Converting Israel’s military power into political arrangements, even peace accords, would seem like a reasonable next step. But the right-wing government of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu seems uninterested in such options and is unlikely to be induced to change its outlook. Moreover, securing new, lasting agreements also depends on whether there are leaders among the Palestinians and key Arab states ready to take up the challenge, with all the political risks it entails.

But the Arab world remains in serious disarray. At least five Arab states are dealing with profound internal challenges, leaving them in various degrees of dysfunction and state failure. Amid this power vacuum, two alternative power centers have emerged. The first are the states of the Persian Gulf, especially Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar. Relatively unscathed by the Arab Spring and blessed with sovereign wealth funds, oil, and natural gas, these stable authoritarian powers, particularly Saudi Arabia, have begun to play an outsized role in the region.

The second category comprises non-Arab states. Israel, Turkey, and Iran are the only states in the region with the capacity to project military power beyond their borders. While each has suffered periods of internal unrest, they have ultimately maintained domestic stability. Each also boasts tremendous economic potential and significant security, military, and intelligence capabilities, including the capability to manufacture its own weapons.

One (Israel) is America’s closest regional ally, another (Turkey) is a member of NATO and a newfound power broker in Syria, and the third (Iran) retains considerable influence despite Israel’s mauling of its proxies Hamas and Hezbollah. Iran’s nuclear program keeps it relevant, even central, to both Israeli and American policymaking.

All three non-Arab states engender a good deal of suspicion and mistrust among Arab regimes but are nonetheless seen as key players whom no one wants to offend. All three are at odds - with each frustrating the others’ regional objectives - and all three are here to stay. Their influence will most likely only grow in the years to come, given the

fractiousness of the Arab world.

In the immediate aftermath of the October 7 Hamas attack, it seemed that the Palestinian issue was once again front and center, not just in the Arab world, but internationally. Those who claimed it had lost its resonance could point to the outpouring of sympathy and support for Gazan civilians as Israel’s war against Hamas led to a humanitarian catastrophe.

Moreover, the United Nations passed resolutions calling for an end to the war, many around the world condemned the war and Israel, the International Court of Justice took up the question of whether Israel is committing genocide, and the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Netanyahu (as well as for Hamas’s military commander, later found to have been killed).

Nonetheless, it has become stunningly clear that, far from pushing the Palestinian issue to the top of the international agenda, the October 7 attack has actually diminished its salience and left Palestinians divided, isolated, and without good options. Continued US support for Israel’s war against Hamas, despite the exponential rise of Palestinian deaths, has protected Israel from negative consequences; key Arab regimes have done next to nothing to impose costs and consequences on Israel and the US as Palestinian civilian deaths mount. The international community appears too fragmented, distracted, and self-interested to act in any concerted way in defense of Palestine.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian national movement remains divided and dysfunctional, giving Palestinians an unpalatable choice between Hamas and the aging president of the Palestinian National Authority, Mahmoud Abbas. The prospects for anything resembling a two-state solution have never looked bleaker.

How the Trump administration will process these developments remains to be seen. Clearly, it has adopted a pro-Israel view, with Trump musing about turning Gaza into a Riviera-style resort. He has deployed his special envoy to the Middle East to secure the return of the hostages, but has yet to invest in any postwar plan for the beleaguered enclave. Indeed, he has left the strategy for Gaza to Israel, which in turn has resumed its military campaign there. Trump has also acquiesced to Israel’s pursuit of aggressive border defenses vis-à-vis both Lebanon and Syria, while enabling Israel’s annexationist policies in the West Bank.

Yet Trump is nothing if not unpredictable. He announced new US negotiations with Iran in the presence of Netanyahu, who himself has tried to persuade the president that the only solution to Iran’s nuclear program is military action. But if US-Iranian negotiations do advance, or if Trump’s interest in Israeli-Saudi normalization intensifies, he may find himself drawn into the Middle East negotiating bazaar, dealing with the intricacies of day-after planning in Gaza and a political horizon for Palestinians.

These paths are already fomenting tension between Trump, who will not be visiting Israel on his Middle East trip, and a recalcitrant Netanyahu. But given Trump’s absolute control over his party, Netanyahu will have fewer options to appeal to Republicans if the White House proposes policies that he opposes. As most US allies have already learned, if Trump wants something, he’s not adverse to using pressure to get it.

Aaron David Miller, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, is a former US State Department Middle East analyst and negotiator in Republican and Democratic administrations and the author of The End of Greatness: Why America Can’t Have (and Doesn’t Want) Another Great President (St. Martin’s Press, 2014). Lauren Morganbesser is a junior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

OP-ED

By Greg Pollock
and Joshua Busby

Investing in Clean Energy
Bolsters European Security

WASHINGTON, DC/AUSTIN - The United States has, at least for the time being, relinquished its role as the leader of the global energy transition. In addition to abandoning the clean-energy goals laid out by his predecessor, Joe Biden, US President Donald Trump has refused to acknowledge the profound health, economic, and security risks climate change poses to Americans, much less to traditional US allies and partners around the world. The Trump administration has instead turned its focus to revitalizing the coal industry and increasing oil and gas exports in an attempt to achieve “energy dominance” over friends and foes alike.

The fallout has been swift. In March 2025, the US intelligence community failed to mention climate change in its annual threat assessment for the first time in over a decade, and the White House recently did away with the congressionally mandated national climate assessment, produced every four years since 1990. The US Environmental Protection Agency, for its part, is attempting to overturn the long-held scientific finding that greenhouse gases (GHGs) harm human health, which is the basis for US emissions regulations.

With the US turning its back on climate action, and China still heavily dependent on coal, it falls to Europe to lead the global decarbonization agenda. To be sure, the European Union and its member states are also under immense pressure to increase defense spending, which some European politicians believe should take precedence over green investments. But this is a false choice. For Europe, continued investment in clean energy is an investment in security.

The EU has made considerable progress increasing renewable energy as a share of its energy mix since adopting the 2021 European Climate Law, which formalized the goals of the European Green Deal and set the intermediate target of reducing GHG emissions by at least 55% by 2030. These decarbonization efforts were temporarily sidetracked by Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, when Europe had to scramble to replace imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Russia. Despite (or perhaps because of) this challenge, nearly 50% of the electricity generated in the EU in 2024 was from renewables, with gas declining for the fifth year in a row and solar surpassing coal for the first time. Nuclear and wind have become the bloc’s leading energy sources.

What the EU has achieved is impressive. The bloc reduced its dependence not only on fossil fuels, which now account for only 29% of electricity generation, but also on its belligerent neighbor: its gas imports from Russia declined from 150 billion cubic meters in 2021 to less than 52 bcm in 2024. The problem now is that Europe risks becoming reliant on two increasingly unreliable partners: the US and China.

Both the Biden and Trump administrations were more than happy to compensate for the shortfall in Russian gas supplies: Europe’s LNG imports from the US have more than doubled since 2021, from 18.9 to 45.1 bcm in 2024. But given Trump’s obvious disregard for America’s traditional allies, as illustrated by his capricious tariff policies, his administration might be willing to weaponize US energy resources - much like Russia has - to get his way on, say, how to end the Ukraine War, or how many US-made weapons Europe should buy.

Similarly, the EU’s decarbonization drive has made the bloc increasingly dependent on China, which dominates the processing and supply of the critical minerals essential for clean-energy technologies. The Chinese government has amply demonstrated its willingness - most recently in response to the imposition of US tariffs - to restrict foreign access to critical minerals and rare-earth elements to advance its economic and foreign-policy goals.

The recent Summit on the Future of Energy Security, organized by the International Energy Agency and the United Kingdom, offered an opportunity for policymakers to assess how Europe might advance both its security and climate objectives in this shifting geopolitical landscape. Despite efforts by the Trump administration to scupper support for the clean-energy transition, organizers of the recent summit held firm, reasserting that renewables and battery storage are crucial for energy security.

Investments in fighter jets and missile systems are important to deter high-end threats. But in the near term, the EU should focus on developing mechanisms to protect against the more immediate risk that energy-related influence and coercion - whether from Russia, China, or the US - will stymie the Green Deal, or even undermine the bloc’s capacity for independent decision-making. To avert these scenarios, Europe should continue to invest in renewable-energy generation and transmission, increase recycling of critical minerals, and create a critical-mineral stockpile. At a moment when many in Europe are pressuring the EU to choose between following through on its climate commitments and investing in hard security, policymakers should remember that advancing the clean-energy transition - largely through continued investment in renewables - will bolster the bloc’s security. With the US abandoning its claim to international climate leadership, Europe must take up the mantle. The world needs a credible model of successful decarbonization to follow.

Greg Pollock, an Adjunct Professor in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, formerly served in leadership positions in the Office of the US Secretary of Defense, most recently as the Principal Director and acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Arctic and Global Resilience Policy. Joshua Busby, Professor of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, formerly served as a senior climate adviser to the US Department of Defense.

OPINION

By Radostaw Sikorski

Europe’s Existential Choice

POZNAŃ - For years, I have taken every opportunity to urge the European Union and its member states to invest more in defense. When Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his full-scale invasion of Ukraine, I repeatedly asked (as a member of the European Parliament) what further proof we would need to recognize the threats facing all of Europe. What would we - as Europeans - do if our security was threatened while our closest ally, the United States, was otherwise engaged?

Today, we confront that very situation. US officials are openly stating that they do not intend to devote most of their time or resources to dealing with what they deem European issues. According to Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the US has “other priorities to focus on.”

I agree. The global superpower has global responsibilities, and the number of flash points that might demand the US government’s attention seems only to be growing. In addition to challenges in the Western hemisphere, instability in the Middle East, and severe tensions between two nuclear powers - India and Pakistan - there is also the paramount goal of redefining relations with China. Moreover, according to the official US Defense Department planning doctrine, the US can no longer fight more than one major war at a time.

The new US administration has been communicating its position plainly. “We’re here today to directly and unambiguously express that stark strategic realities prevent the United States of America from being primarily focused on the security of Europe,” Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced in Brussels this February. And US Vice President J.D. Vance was even more direct, stating that “Europe’s entire security infrastructure ... has been subsidized by the United States of America,” even though it is neither in Europe’s nor America’s interest “for Europe to be a permanent security vassal of the United States.” President Donald Trump himself has repeatedly accused Europe of “freeloading” and “taking advantage” of the US.

Europeans may not like what we hear, but we cannot pretend not to hear it. We must be prepared for the US to wash its hands not only of Ukraine, but even of Europe. Le Monde’s Sylvie Kauffmann recently argued, “Preparing for the worst is a safer bet than hoping for the best.” We can and should do both - hope and prepare. Trust but verify.

Ever since Trump announced his presidential candidacy back in 2015, there have been two schools of thought on interpreting his words. Some argue that we should take him seriously but not literally, whereas others urge us to do the opposite: treat him literally but not always seriously. I believe that the most reasonable and respectable approach is to treat whatever the US president says both literally and seriously.

Given the current state of the world, this implies that Europe faces an existential choice. We can enter the global game united, as a heavyweight competitor, or we can condemn ourselves to marginalization.

Much has been done already to become a heavyweight contender. Since 2016 - just before Trump’s first term - NATO members, excluding the US, have increased their annual defense spending by 98%, from \$255 billion to \$506 billion. Moreover, after three years of Putin waging war on Ukraine, the EU and its member states have proven willing to spend even more and to embrace a more cooperative, rational, and effective approach to defense planning and procurement. The new joint defense agreement between the EU and the United Kingdom is another step demonstrating this new strategic solidarity.

Deterring Russia is not beyond our means. We don’t need to match US military capabilities; rather, we just need enough to force Putin to reconsider his chances of winning in a confrontation with a united European community of democratic nation-states.

The people of Europe are clearly demanding that we develop a revitalized European defense posture. According to the European Commission, 71% of EU citizens believe that the bloc must strengthen its ability to produce military equipment, while 77% support a common defense and security policy. This gives European leaders a mandate to think and act boldly.

But how long will it take to restore peace to Ukraine and stability to Europe? I believe we must act on the basis of three assumptions. First, we should view this as a war of a former imperial metropole against what it regards as a mutinous colony. History suggests that colonial wars usually take about a decade to end. Anything less than that should be considered a bonus.

Second, we should accept that for the invading country to start negotiating in good faith, it must conclude that the invasion was a mistake. It must acknowledge that the costs of war, and of keeping the former colony subjugated, are greater than whatever benefits the colony can possibly yield. Third, given the above, we should remember that colonial wars are usually finished by a different group of leaders than those who started the fighting.

Yes, boosting European defense capabilities while supporting Ukraine will cost money. Since the start of Russia’s war of aggression, the EU and its member states have provided more than \$165 billion in support for Ukraine and its people. That is a significant amount, but it is still less than 1% of the combined GDP of the EU’s member countries (some \$19 trillion). We can certainly do more.

And as we reinvigate Europe’s defenses, we must not lose sight of why we are doing it: we are acting for our own safety, not to undermine transatlantic relations but to improve them. To avoid a strategic dilemma, we Europeans must be able to help the US defend its allies by taking on our fair share of the security burden.

Invitation for Bids [IFB]

Forestry Development Authority/TSF Project

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

Purchaser: 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 operations² 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

Broken Promises and Blackouts: Melekei Residents Cry for Power Supply

By Edwin N. Khakie

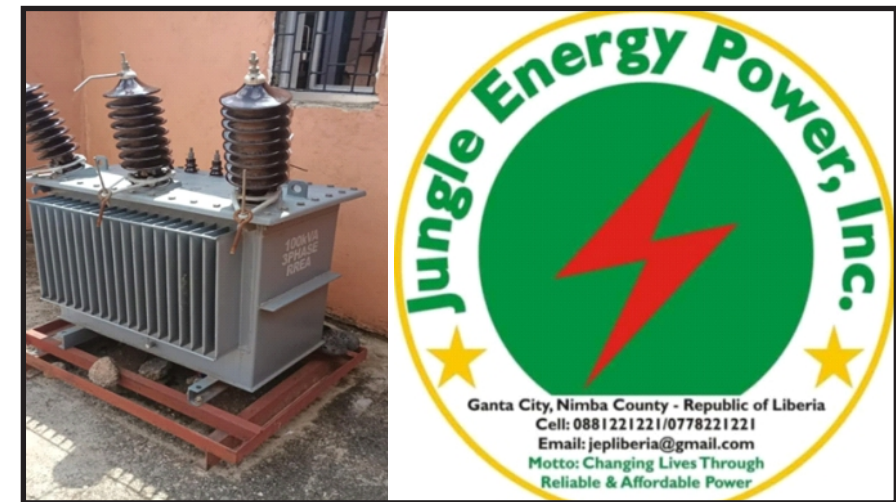
Frustration is growing in Melekei Town, Jorquellah District #3, as residents continue to suffer from a prolonged power outage, despite years of promises from political leaders and the presence of an unused transformer within the community.

regional electricity distributor, for allegedly the 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections, when a new transformer was donated to the town by then-senatorial candidate Johnny K. Kpehe, Sr. as part of a broader promise to bring electricity to Melekei. However, nearly two years later, the transformer still lies dormant, and no connection has been made.

“We are appealing to JEP and our leaders to forget the past and look at the suffering of the people,” said one frustrated resident. “We live in total darkness while a brand-new transformer sits unused.” Residents expressed deep disappointment with political leaders, including Vice President Jeremiah Koung and Senator Prince Kermue Moye, who also promised to extend electricity to the town within two weeks of their electoral victory in 2023. Locals say the promises have not been fulfilled, leaving them feeling abandoned.

“They told us current would reach us in two weeks—it’s been more than a year now,”

Despite this, residents say



Melekei Town, Jorquellah District, reportedly damaged District #3, Bong Cunt May 21, 2025: According to residents, efforts to electrify the town have stalled for years, leaving households, businesses, and schools in a darkness. The community has pointed fingers at Jungle Energy Power (JEP), the

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Bong County: Mother of six killed during feast

-Ex-Lover named prime suspect

By Edwin N. Khakie

Haindi Town, Lower Bong County May 20, 2025: A peaceful celebration turned tragic in Haindi Town, District #7, Lower Bong County, after a woman identified as Dorris Kollie Moannah was allegedly murdered by her former boyfriend, Lawrence King, during a weekend community feast. Moannah, believed to be in her mid-40s and a mother of six, had reportedly left her marital home to attend the gathering. According to family sources, she departed without her husband and children, never to return alive.

Her body was discovered near the feast grounds early the following morning under suspicious circumstances. Local residents quickly pointed to her ex-partner, Lawrence King, as the prime suspect. King has since fled and is currently being sought by police.

The gruesome incident has sparked outrage across the community. In a show of anger and grief, some of Moannah’s

relatives reportedly set fire to properties believed to belong to the fugitive.

“We want justice for our sister, our mother,” one grieving relative said during a protest near the scene. “She was a kind, caring woman who didn’t deserve to die like this. Her killer must be brought to justice.”

Police in Bong County have launched a homicide investigation and are appealing to the public for assistance in locating the suspect.

“This is a criminal matter, and we are pursuing it with

urgency,” said the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) Commander of the Bong County Police Detachment. “We urge anyone with information on Lawrence King’s whereabouts to contact the nearest police station immediately. Community cooperation is vital.”

While the motive remains unclear, investigators believe the incident may have stemmed from a personal dispute. Local authorities are urging calm as the investigation continues.

Friends and family remember Dorris Moannah as a devoted mother and compassionate



Suspect Lawrence King



Victim Dorris

Bong County: Girls take the lead

-As Kathy Justice hosts Empowerment Workshop

By Edwin N. Khakie

Gbarnga, Bong County May 21, 2025, In a bid to uplift and empower adolescent girls in Liberia, Kathy Justice Girls Educational Liberia, a youth-focused nonprofit, successfully hosted a one-day intensive workshop for over 47 high school girls in Gbarnga, Bong County.

The transformative event brought together students from six different schools to discuss and address some of the most pressing issues affecting young girls in Liberian society.

Held under the theme “Empowered Girls, Stronger Futures,” the workshop tackled critical topics such as peer pressure, teenage pregnancy, drug abuse, and career development. The initiative aimed to provide girls with the knowledge, confidence, and leadership tools needed to make informed and positive life choices.

One of the most compelling sessions was a presentation on drug abuse by Pastor A. Dakermue Kollie, who raised alarm over the growing use of harmful substances among Liberian youth. He emphasized

challenge in Liberia. According to UNICEF, 3 in 10 girls give birth before turning 18, often leading to school dropouts, poverty, and long-term socioeconomic struggles.

“When girls become mothers too early, their dreams are often cut short,” said the gender expert. “It’s not just a personal loss—it’s a loss for the country.”

The event was spearheaded by the organization’s Co-Founder and Executive Director, Mr. Thomas Malord Saydee, who recently returned from China to lead the session. Speaking to journalists, Saydee described the workshop as part of the NGO’s broader mission to break cycles of poverty and empower the next generation of female leaders.

“We want to raise girls who know their value and are equipped to shape their own futures,” he said. “Education, awareness, and mentorship are powerful tools in that journey.”

The workshop also featured 15 visiting youth missionaries from Christ for the Nations, an American evangelical organization. The group is currently on a mission tour in Liberia, combining gospel



the heightened vulnerability of young girls, stating that drug abuse increases their risk of sexual exploitation, mental health issues, and school dropout.

“Drug addiction is robbing our youth of their potential,” Pastor Kollie warned. “We must act now—parents, schools, and communities must unite to tackle this growing threat.”

Pastor Kollie’s message was reinforced with global data from the UNODC, which reports a 22% rise in global drug use over the past decade. In Liberia, substances like “Kush” are becoming increasingly popular among teenagers, particularly in urban areas.

A separate session, led by a gender specialist, focused on teenage pregnancy, a persistent

outreach with youth-focused educational programs.

Participants were drawn from a range of institutions, including St. Martin Catholic High School, Williams V.S. Tubman Gray High School, Sumo Moye Memorial High School, and Can-Leadership Institute (formerly Triple A), among others.

For many of the attendees, the experience was transformative. Marline Nuo-Duke, a student from Sumo Moye Memorial High School, described the session as “eye-opening.”

“This workshop opened our minds,” she said. “We now know the dangers of peer pressure and how to avoid early pregnancy. I feel stronger and more informed.”

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Grand Kru County lacks functional ambulance

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Barclayville, Liberia, May 21, 2025 - Grand Kru County Chief Health Administrator, Dr. Learwellie P. Craig, has alarmed of significant shortage of ambulances in the county, the local Ministry of Health and



which he says could lead to a health catastrophe, if not addressed immediately. Speaking to reporters in the County, Dr. Craig emphasized that lack of functional emergency transportation for nearly two years poses severe health risks, particularly for patients requiring urgent medical attention. Dr. Craig underscored that without adequate ambulance

services, timely medical care leading to an acute lack of for patients could be compromised, which might result in preventable fatalities and deteriorating health conditions. He described the ongoing shortage as embarrassing for the local Ministry of Health and services. He emphasizes that with only one functional ambulance available, it's difficult for the County Health Team to operate effectively without financial support for maintenance and servicing. Dr. Craig noted that Grand Kru might experience increase in maternal and neonatal mortality rates due to the absence of reliable transportation, urging stakeholders to intervene promptly. He pointed out that despite those challenges, the Minister of Health has committed to prioritizing Grand Kru County for future ambulance supplies. He expressed optimism but stressed the need for immediate actions from local leaders and citizens. He acknowledged a recent donation of an ambulance by Representative Nathaniel Behway of Electoral District #1, pointing out that the vehicle is facing serious mechanical issues that require attention to ensure it can be safely utilized. He emphasized that the County Health Team's technical department had submitted a

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Dr. Kpoto names WHO's new Regional Director for Africa -As Liberia chairs nomination committee

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Geneva, Switzerland, Health Minister Dr. Louise Mapleh Kpoto, has announced Tanzanian Professor Mohammed Yakub Janabi, as World Health Organization (WHO's) new regional director for Africa. Addressing the global health diplomacy recently as chair of the nomination committee after a high-level session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, the Liberian Health Minister pronounced the name of Professor Yakub Janani, as the next Regional Director for Africa at the WHO. Reading the committee's resolution, Dr. Kpoto declared: "The Regional Committee, considering Article 52 of the Constitution, and in accordance with Rule 52 of its Rules of Procedure, nominates Prof Mohammed Yakub Janabi as Regional Director for the African Region." Dr. Kpoto's leadership as chair of the session drew commendation from several international delegates. Her role in facilitating a transparent and diplomatic election process reflected



Civil society group welcomes call for railway regulator

A local Civil Society Organization (CSO), One Voice Liberia, says it welcomes call for a national regulator that will supervise and coordinate Liberia's railway sector.

Ivanhoe-Liberia, formerly High-Power Exploration (HPX), an American Iron Ore Miner, had made the call here. One Voice believes the establishment of a national regulator, which is already on course with the issuance of an Executive Order by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, will be beneficial to Liberia, financially, instead of having an external regulator.

In a statement issued here, the group voices its support for the establishment of the national regulator, while also raising concerns over what it terms some government officials' selfish moves over national interest regarding the ongoing rail access negotiations involving the Government of Liberia, ArcelorMittal, and Ivanhoe Atlantic (High Power Exploration HPX).

But, in the end, Liberia lost significant territory to the French colonial power."

Similarly, it continues that Liberia concluded many concession agreements in the 1920s and 1960s in agriculture and mining that left much to be desired. But those were the conditions of the times. The concession agreements led to an economic boom and the creation of bustling industrial enclave towns. Towns such as Bomi Hills, Bong Town, and Yekepa became ghost towns amidst global economic crises, mine closures, the April 12 Coup, and Liberia's protracted civil war," it says, and stresses, "Times have changed. This is the 21st Century. President Boakai has experienced all the phases, the boom in Bomi Hills, the economic hardships when boomtowns burst, and the civil crises. We believe that he's determined to make a difference."

"The President is calling for a review of all existing agreements, including



It urges officials to avoid quick fixes and prioritize fair and equitable agreements in alignment with the country's current needs.

The organization expresses unease over perceived parallels to past negotiations infamously characterized by the phrase "Oui, Oui, Bon, Bon," where Liberia may have made concessions against its interests. "We want to frown on the attempts by some of President Boakai's officials and economic advisors to go back to the old days of 'Oui, Oui, Bon, Bon' agreement model of decades ago," the group notes.

According to OVL, "This was when Liberia negotiated the country's borders with France. The old joke was that Liberian negotiators pretended to understand French and answered "Oui, Oui, Bon, Bon" to everything the French negotiators said. That may not have been true because the two sides exercised unequal power.

comprehensive audits where necessary, and OVL believes it is high time for fair and equitable agreements going forward. "Above all, he wants inclusive economic growth and development with prosperity for all Liberians where no one is left behind."

ONE VOICE emphasizes the importance of evaluating existing agreements, promoting inclusive economic growth, and ensuring prosperity for all Liberians, noting that President Boakai's administration has taken steps to establish the National Railway Authority (NRA) and assert Liberia's ownership of railway assets, including the Yekepa Railway.

It says the objective is to transition the rail corridor to an independent, multi-user system to enhance trade and economic development, especially in the context of regional trade agreements like the African Continental Free Trade Area,

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Français

Le Port de Monrovia bientôt doté d'un terminal de vrac de 200 millions de dollars

Le Directeur général de l'Autorité portuaire nationale du Liberia (NPA), M. Sekou H. Dukuly, a annoncé un projet ambitieux de construction d'un nouveau terminal de vrac et de vrac



reconditionné d'une valeur de 200 millions de dollars américains au port autonome de Monrovia. L'objectif est de faciliter la manutention des principales marchandises comme le riz, le ciment et

leblé. M. Dukuly a fait cette déclaration lors d'une interview diffusée sur une radio locale de Monrovia, le lundi 19 mai 2025. Il a souligné que le Liberia est l'un des rares pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest à ne pas

disposer d'un terminal spécialisé pour les marchandises en vrac, une carence qui alourdit considérablement les coûts pour les entreprises comme pour les consommateurs. « Nous sommes l'un des seuls ports de

la sous-région à ne pas disposer de terminal spécialisé pour le vrac », a-t-il déclaré. « Les meilleures pratiques internationales recommandent de traiter les marchandises en vrac - qu'elles soient sèches ou poussiéreuses - via des installations distinctes des c o n t e n e u r s . Malheureusement, ce n'est pas encore le cas au Liberia. »

Le manque d'infrastructures dédiées engendre des frais de stationnement excessifs pour les navires. M. Dukuly a cité l'exemple d'un navire arrivé en juillet 2024 qui n'a pu être déchargé qu'en novembre, générant ainsi des frais journaliers de 2 500 dollars.

« C'est comme si vous louiez une voiture pour transporter vos biens, mais qu'à l'arrivée vous ne trouviez aucun espace de stockage : on commence alors à vous facturer cinq dollars par jour. Ces coûts sont ensuite

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Cummings appelle à l'unité et met en garde contre la discrimination ethnique et religieuse

Alexander B. Cummings, ancien candidat à la présidence et leader politique du parti Alternative National Congress (ANC), a lancé un appel fort en faveur d'un changement de mentalité chez les jeunes Libériens, les exhortant à rejeter toute forme de discrimination fondée sur l'ethnie, la religion ou le genre. S'exprimant lors d'une retraite organisée par la jeunesse de l'ANC ce week-end au siège du parti dans le district 10, comté de Montserrado, M. Cummings a insisté sur le fait qu'aucun individu ne choisit son appartenance ethnique, religieuse ou son sexe, et que ces éléments ne devraient en aucun cas servir de fondement à l'exclusion ou à la marginalisation.

« Nous ne devrions jamais nous discriminer les uns les autres sur la base de la tribu. Personne ne choisit d'être Kpelle, Grebo, Mano ou Mandingo », a déclaré M. Cummings.

« De même, la religion ne devrait pas être un motif de discrimination. La

majorité des gens naissent dans une religion sans l'avoir choisie. En tant que jeunes, vous devez adopter une nouvelle manière de penser. » Le leader de l'ANC a également plaidé en faveur d'une plus grande inclusion des femmes dans les postes de décision, soulignant que l'égalité des sexes est un levier essentiel de développement.

« On ne choisit pas d'être un homme ou une femme, c'est une donnée biologique. Alors pourquoi discriminer ? Nous avons besoin de plus de femmes à la tête des institutions libériennes. Ce n'est pas un geste de charité, c'est une

décision stratégique. Quand nous confions des postes aux femmes, nous ne leur rendons pas service, nous nous rendons service à nous-mêmes. »

M. Cummings a par ailleurs critiqué la tendance persistante à recycler les mêmes dirigeants, tout en s'attendant à des résultats différents.

« C'est l'erreur que nous répétons sans cesse. Nous ramenons les mêmes personnes au pouvoir et nous espérons un changement. Rien ne changera si nous

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Éditorial

L'inconstance du gouvernement libérien sur la gestion du chemin de fer soulève de vives inquiétudes

La décision du gouvernement du Libéria de revenir sur la communication du Comité interministériel des concessions (IMCC), qui réaffirmait ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) comme opérateur-utilisateur du chemin de fer Yekepa-Buchanan, est non seulement préoccupante, mais soulève également de sérieuses interrogations quant à l'engagement du pays à respecter ses contrats et à protéger les investissements légitimes.

La décision initiale de l'IMCC reposait sur des principes de logique, de légalité et sur les intérêts à long terme du développement du Libéria. Après plus de sept années de négociations entre le gouvernement libérien et AML, un cadre solide - les Principes d'exploitation du système ferroviaire (RSOP) - a été intégré dans la Troisième modification de l'Accord de développement minier (MDA) d'AML.

Ce cadre établit un système ferroviaire à accès partagé, régulé par l'État, tout en maintenant AML dans son rôle d'opérateur-utilisateur selon un modèle sans profit ni perte. Il prévoit également la création d'un comité de gestion conjoint, un droit de regard étatique à travers des audits, ainsi que le pouvoir de révoquer AML en cas de manquement à ses obligations.

Cette structure est parfaitement conforme à l'esprit du Décret exécutif n°136, qui vise à instaurer un système ferroviaire à usage multiple au Libéria. Ce même décret reconnaît explicitement la validité des engagements préexistants, tel que le MDA d'AML, sans chercher à les annuler.

La ligne ferroviaire Yekepa-Buchanan dépasse le simple rôle d'infrastructure : elle constitue l'épine dorsale de l'industrie du minerai de fer du Libéria. ArcelorMittal Liberia y a investi plus de 800 millions de dollars pour sa réhabilitation et son expansion. L'entreprise est présente dans le pays depuis près de vingt ans, emploie plus de 7 000 Libériens, participe activement au développement communautaire, et contribue régulièrement aux recettes publiques.

Revenir aujourd'hui sur la décision qui reconnaissait le rôle historique et contractuel d'AML, au profit d'une entreprise étrangère encore peu éprouvée, Ivanhoe Atlantic, serait une grave erreur. Ce choix envoie un mauvais signal aux investisseurs actuels et potentiels. Il accorde un avantage indu à Ivanhoe et donne l'image d'un Libéria prêt à renier ses engagements pour satisfaire des intérêts politiques ou des pressions extérieures.

Même la Guinée voisine, dans son accord avec SMFG, reconnaît que l'accès à travers le Libéria demeure temporaire et incertain. Pourtant, le Libéria semble disposé à sacrifier ses propres intérêts et sa crédibilité pour soutenir l'agenda minier d'un autre pays.

Ce revirement n'est pas qu'une simple erreur de politique publique. Il ébranle l'état de droit et sape la confiance des investisseurs. Or, la Constitution du Libéria oblige l'État à honorer ses contrats, et le MDA signé avec AML reste juridiquement contraignant. Si le gouvernement estime ne plus pouvoir accepter AML comme opérateur ferroviaire, la seule voie légitime et honorable serait de renégocier l'accord de manière consensuelle - non de l'annuler unilatéralement.

Le rôle d'AML comme opérateur-utilisateur n'empêche en rien l'accès d'autres entreprises à la voie ferrée. Les RSOP garantissent justement un accès équitable, basé sur les coûts, sous supervision étatique rigoureuse - la définition même d'un modèle multi-utilisateur.

Au lieu de pénaliser AML, le Libéria devrait valoriser et renforcer son partenariat avec une entreprise qui a démontré un engagement durable envers la croissance du pays. Privilégier un acteur étranger sans antécédents solides au détriment d'un investisseur éprouvé risque de compromettre les opérations actuelles et de dissuader tout investissement futur.

Si le Libéria souhaite construire un climat d'investissement prospère et respecté, il doit commencer par honorer ses propres engagements. Le gouvernement doit reconsidérer sa décision et soutenir la position avisée et bénéfique de l'IMCC en maintenant AML comme opérateur-utilisateur dans le cadre légal, éprouvé et transparent de la Troisième modification de l'accord et des RSOP.

Le Libéria doit choisir le principe avant la politique, car l'avenir de son économie et la crédibilité de la nation en dépendent.

Français

Starts from page 8Le Port de Monrovia bientôt doté d'un

répercutés sur le consommateur », a-t-il expliqué.

Il a précisé que malgré la levée de la taxe d'exportation de 20 % imposée par l'Inde pendant la guerre russo-ukrainienne, le prix du riz sur le marché libérien demeure élevé en raison de ces surcoûts portuaires.En l'absence d'un terminal adapté, le port est contraint de décharger le riz et d'autres produits en vrac dans des conteneurs ou via des opérations « route à route », un système inefficace, surtout en saison des pluies.

Dans le cadre de ses efforts de modernisation, M. Dukuly a récemment effectué un voyage au Maroc pour lancer le tout premier Plan directeur portuaire depuis la fin du conflit libérien. Ce plan stratégique vise à anticiper l'évolution du trafic maritime et des tendances économiques sur les dix prochaines années.

« Ce plan évaluera notre situation actuelle, projettera notre croissance à deux et cinq ans, et analysera les tendances économiques sur une décennie », a-t-il affirmé. « Il nous aidera à déterminer le nombre d'utilisateurs - entreprises et particuliers - dans l'espace MRU et CEDEAO qui utiliseront nos installations portuaires. »

Il a toutefois reconnu que le gouvernement libérien ne dispose pas actuellement des fonds nécessaires pour lancer la construction du nouveau terminal. Néanmoins, un site a déjà été identifié, et la NPA se concentre pour l'instant sur la réhabilitation des infrastructures existantes.

« Dans les mois à venir, vous verrez un port complètement rénové, des bâtiments administratifs à la

clinique, en passant par les routes et les équipements », a-t-il déclaré. « Il est important que notre personnel travaille dans des conditions décentes et dispose des outils nécessaires. »

Interrogé sur les activités de la société ArcelorMittal au port de Buchanan, M. Dukuly a révélé que l'entreprise ne verse actuellement aucune redevance à la NPA, une situation qu'il juge inacceptable.

« Ce n'est pas normal. Des discussions sont en cours avec les membres du Comité interministériel. Je salue la position ferme du Président sur la gestion du chemin de fer. Pour la première fois, nous avons une ouverture au dialogue sur une exploitation équitable et conforme à la loi. »

Il a dénoncé le refus d'ArcelorMittal de collaborer avec la NPA sur l'expansion du port de Buchanan et l'absence de compensation pour l'utilisation des eaux territoriales libériennes.

« Ils utilisent le port sans honorer leurs obligations. Ils refusent de discuter avec nous », a-t-il regretté.M. Dukuly a toutefois salué la collaboration des institutions publiques, notamment la Commission d'intelligence financière (FIC), la Commission nationale d'investissement (NIC), les ministères de la Justice et des Affaires intérieures, ainsi que le Bureau du Président.

Il a conclu en indiquant qu'il ne compte pas soumettre à court terme un amendement à l'accord avec ArcelorMittal à la législature.« L'objectif est d'avoir les bonnes discussions et de poser les bons actes pour l'avenir », a-t-il déclaré.

Starts from page 8Cummings appelle à l'unité et met en garde

continuons ainsi », a-t-il affirmé. Il a invité les jeunes à développer une nouvelle éthique de travail, à adopter des valeurs fondées sur l'intégrité, et à rejeter la corruption.« Il nous faut une nouvelle manière de penser, où entrer dans le gouvernement ne signifie pas voler ou s'enrichir. Développer notre pays, c'est améliorer la vie de tous. »

Le leader politique a également mis l'accent sur la nécessité d'investir davantage dans l'éducation supérieure, la formation professionnelle, le sport, les arts et l'industrie du divertissement, comme autant de moyens d'autonomiser la jeunesse et de favoriser la prospérité.

Encourageant les jeunes militants de l'ANC pour leur mobilisation, il a salué leur engagement à jouer un rôle actif dans la transformation du parti.

« La jeunesse sera le moteur de la renaissance de l'ANC », a-t-il déclaré, en appelant également les femmes du parti à participer

pleinement à cette dynamique.« Nous voulons que vous contribuiez à faire de l'ANC une véritable alternative au statu quo, avec une nouvelle façon de travailler pour transformer le Liberia. »Déplorant la pauvreté persistante du pays malgré son immense richesse naturelle, M. Cummings a une question rhétorique :

« Pourquoi restons-nous pauvres alors que nous avons du minerai de fer, des diamants et d'autres ressources ? »Il a conclu en exhortant les jeunes Libériens à exiger une gouvernance plus juste et inclusive, qui profite à l'ensemble de la population, et non à une poignée de privilégiés.

La retraite d'une journée, organisée par le Congrès des jeunes de l'ANC, a réuni des membres du comité exécutif, des représentants de comités et divers militants du parti. L'événement s'inscrit dans les efforts de relance de l'ANC, après ses faibles performances électorales lors du scrutin présidentiel de 2023.

commentaire

La destruction mutuelle assurée du développement

Par Jayati Ghosh

NEW DELHI - Vers la fin de l'épopée indienne du Mahabharata, le clan Yadava de Krishna s'autodétruit. De nombreux présages sombres annoncent sa chute : la nature se comporte de manière erratique et les parasites se multiplient. Le péché, la tromperie et la violence prolifèrent, érodant la confiance et la solidarité. Les membres du clan humilient et insultent les sages aînés. Lorsque la famille élargie de Krishna part en pique-nique, les hommes s'enivrent, se disputent et s'attaquent les uns les autres, jusqu'à ce qu'ils meurent tous.

Ce conte édifiant a trouvé une nouvelle résonance à l'heure où les tensions géopolitiques - y compris en Asie du Sud - s'intensifient et où de nombreux pays adoptent des politiques protectionnistes. La deuxième administration du président américain Donald Trump a largement contribué à la fragmentation et au désordre actuels. Mais d'autres pays riches ont exacerbé la situation en ne faisant pas preuve d'une réelle solidarité en réponse aux politiques hostiles de Trump.

Le manque de coopération au développement est un excellent exemple de cet appétit croissant pour la destruction mutuelle assurée. Certes, l'aide des pays donateurs était déjà en baisse, et les événements récents ont mis en lumière les injustices du système. La pandémie de Covid-19 a mis en lumière la cupidité des gouvernements occidentaux, sapant la confiance des autres dans leur leadership mondial. En outre, le fait que ces gouvernements aient consacré la majeure partie de leurs budgets d'aide étrangère en baisse à l'Ukraine depuis l'invasion russe de 2022, détournant des fonds d'autres pays déchirés par la guerre et désespérément pauvres, a mis en évidence l'approche largement intéressée de ces flux de "charité".

Il est néanmoins surprenant - et décourageant - que d'autres pays donateurs n'aient pas pris le relais après que Trump ait mis fin à la quasi-totalité du financement et de la programmation de l'aide étrangère des États-Unis. Cela aurait été la chose évidente à faire, pas nécessairement par solidarité, mais simplement par intérêt géopolitique.

Tout d'abord, les attaques aveugles de Trump contre ses alliés et ses rivaux ont démontré la nécessité d'une action coordonnée, ce qui implique de construire des alliances, de soutenir le multilatéralisme et de cultiver le "soft power". Un moyen facile et relativement peu coûteux d'y parvenir est de continuer à soutenir les institutions multilatérales. Un tel financement pourrait également désamorcer une partie de la colère que ressentent de nombreux habitants du Sud face à la complicité du monde occidental dans la décimation et les massacres qui se poursuivent à Gaza.

En outre, la réduction massive de l'aide directe américaine et du financement des organisations internationales entravera la fourniture de biens publics mondiaux, notamment en matière de santé et de stabilité climatique. Le concept d'investissement public mondial suggère que tous les pays ont un intérêt à résoudre ces problèmes et devraient donc contribuer à les résoudre, en fonction de leurs moyens, et distribuer les fonds collectés en fonction des besoins et de l'impact.

Mais la réponse de la plupart des pays riches a été jusqu'à présent consternante. Au lieu d'augmenter l'aide étrangère, plusieurs gouvernements européens l'ont réduite, invoquant la nécessité de canaliser les fonds vers l'investissement dans la défense. En conséquence, certains des besoins les plus immédiats qui relèvent d'un cadre d'investissement public mondial ne sont pas satisfaits.

Cette situation est d'autant plus déconcertante que les montants nécessaires pour combler le vide laissé par les États-Unis en matière de financement du développement sont si faibles qu'ils en deviennent insignifiants. Par exemple, le retrait des États-Unis de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) - qui reste absolument essentielle pour gérer les menaces sanitaires mondiales - signifie que l'OMS est confrontée à un déficit budgétaire de 1,9 milliard de dollars en 2026-27 - un déficit que les pays riches et même la plupart des grands pays à revenu intermédiaire pourraient facilement se permettre de combler.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Broken Promises and Blackouts:

lamented Chief Kollie. “We need them to be true to their words.” The power outage has impacted virtually every aspect of life in Melekei. Students struggle to study after dark, petty traders can’t preserve perishable goods, and households endure uncomfortable nights without fans or lighting. “Electricity is not a luxury anymore,” said an elder. “It is a basic necessity. All we ask is for our leaders to keep their word.” As the rainy season intensifies, residents say their patience is running thin. They are now renewing their appeal to JEP, VP Koung, and Senator Moye to intervene and prioritize the electrification of Melekei Town in ongoing development plans. In response to the allegations, JEP Bong County Manager Alieu Keita denied claims that the company is intentionally withholding service due to the guest house incident. Speaking to The New Dawn, Keita stressed that Melekei Town is already listed among communities expected to receive power soon. “I hold nothing against the people of Melekei. The current is not for me—it’s for the people. We are only here to provide services,” Keita said. “Discussions are ongoing. We are working along with Hon. Moye and Senator Kpehe to resolve the matter.” Keita reaffirmed that Melekei remains part of the county’s broader electrification plan and assured residents that JEP is committed to fulfilling its obligations within its operational limits. Meanwhile, the people of Melekei Town say they are tired of promises. What they want now is action—to finally see the light in a community that has waited far too long in the dark.

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Bong County: Girls take the lead

The girls ended the day by pledging to become ambassadors of change in their schools and communities. They are committed to sharing the lessons they learned and encouraging their peers to value education, avoid early marriage, and reject risky behaviors. Global health statistics highlight the importance of such programs. According to the World Health Organization, 12 million girls aged 15-19 and 777,000 under 15 give birth each year in developing countries—often facing life-threatening complications and long-term health issues. Similarly, the UNODC World Drug Report 2023 estimates that 296 million people used drugs globally in 2021, with youth and women being among the fastest-growing demographics affected. Kathy Justice Girls Educational Liberia, established in 2021, has built a strong reputation for promoting sex education, career guidance, and youth leadership in both urban and rural communities. The organization has called on the Liberian government, schools, international donors, and parents to scale up support for such initiatives. “Investing in girls is not only a moral obligation,” said Mr. Saydee, “it’s a strategic investment in Liberia’s future.”

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Civil society group welcomes

and that the current negotiations with Ivanhoe Atlantic (HPX) are crucial in aligning with the President's vision for an independent rail operator. The CSO explains that the Executive Order makes it mandatory for the Yekepa to Buchanan Port Corridor to transition to an “independent, multi-user, non-discriminatory, open access” as embedded in the Framework Agreement between Liberia and Guinea and ratified by the two governments. The Rail Corridor has also been identified as essential to the successful implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the promotion of trade between Liberia and Guinea, as well as within the Mano River Union (MRU), ECOWAS, and the entire African Continent. In addition, it would allow the development of the rail infrastructure in other parts of the country, including Bong, Western Cluster, Putu, etc., and would provide access to parts of the country that are currently inaccessible or hard to reach. It would allow trade flow in the most efficient way and open rural areas of Liberia to produce and market other minerals, agricultural, and manufactured goods for export to the world. Therefore, OVL says the ongoing negotiations for an access agreement between the Government of Liberia and HPX are taking place within the context of the President’s unwavering commitment to an independent operator for the multiuser Yekepa-Buchanan rail. Sources close to the negotiations say the government is willing to have AML continue to serve as the user operator of the rail until its current MDA expires in 2029. AML, on the other hand, is insisting on retaining control as the user operator for a renewed MDA for an additional 25 years from 2030, but HPX finds that condition unacceptable. It argues that granting AML such right would contravene Liberian law under Executive Orders 112 and 136.

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Grand Kru County lacks functional ambulance

detailed report on the condition of the donated ambulance back in March, but no response has been received from Representative Behway’s office. “We can’t put the ambulance on the road when it has numerous issues... Our road conditions could further jeopardize patient safety,” Dr. Craig stated. The Grand Kru County Health Officer reaffirmed this commitment to providing quality health services across all five health districts in the county, stressing the need to address this critical issue to adequately meet the health needs of citizens and prevent a looming health crisis. He urged government to prioritize procurement and maintenance of ambulances to ensure the safety and health of Grand Kru County’s residents. Meanwhile, several community leaders and residents have echoed Dr. Craig’s concerns, sharing instances where transportation delays had resulted in tragic outcomes. They are calling for immediate intervention to secure essential ambulance services, viewing it as crucial for the protection of health and well-being of citizens. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Stay clear off John Hilary Tubman Estate

-Malita Tubman warns the public

Monrovia, Liberia - May 21, 2025 - Malita Tubman, the only biological daughter and rightful heir of the late John Hilary Tubman, has issued a strong warning to the public and all stakeholders against dealing with any individuals falsely claiming ownership of the John Hilary Tubman Estate. The ownership of the estate is currently before the Supreme Court of Liberia, and until a final ruling is made, no one else has the legal right to sell, lease, or transact any business related to the property. Ms. Tubman, in an official statement issued in Monrovia Tuesday, said she has not authorized any third party to act on her behalf, warning “Anyone doing business with others same way they killed our father, John Hilary Tubman. We are not taking this matter and all the associated falsehoods lightly,” she said. She also strongly rejected malicious rumors questioning her mental fitness. “I am well and fit; I have never been declared unfit by any doctor or court. These lies are defamatory and meant to damage or misrepresent me,” she stated, adding, “Legal action will be taken against anyone spreading such false claims”. Ms. Tubman is urging all tenants and the general public to refrain from engaging in any form of business with anyone other than herself or her officially recognized legal team regarding the estate. Any payments made or



claiming to be owners or representatives of the estate is doing so at their own risk and may face serious legal consequences.” She said these impostors have already defrauded tenants of more than US\$80,000 in violation of court orders, and “They are operating illegally and will be held accountable under the law.” Ms. Tubman stated that one of the impostors who threatened the life of her brother, William Gabriel Tucker, is currently under investigation by the Cold Case Division of the Liberia National Police. She expressed confidence that the police will pursue the matter to a logical conclusion. “He was overheard openly threatening my brother, saying he would be killed the agreements entered into with unauthorized individuals are invalid and could result in serious legal consequences, the statement noted. She also encourages anyone who has encountered fraud or suspicious activity in relation to the estate to report it immediately to the proper legal authorities. She reminds the public to allow the legal process to proceed without interference and to trust the Supreme Court of Liberia to determine the rightful owner of the estate. The court’s decision will be final and binding, and all actions taken before that ruling, especially those done illegally, will not be honored. “Let us allow the law to work and protect the legacy of my father, John Hilary Tubman,” she noted. Press Statement

Jamesetta Kugmeh finally died at JFKBraving the storm

Prior, to her demise, the late Jamesetta Kugmeh had suspect foul-play in her reported kidney failure, and pleaded with family members to demand an autopsy on her body.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh
28-year-old Jamesetta Kugmeh, has reportedly died after alleged medical malpractice at ELWA Hospital in Paynesville,



family sources confirmed. A relative of the deceased, only identified as Amos, told The NEW DAWN Tuesday, May 20, that Jamesetta succumbed to death at the John F. Kennedy Medical Hospital, briefly after returning from Ghana. “Everything was well; she was recovering gradually, so we needed to bring her home, and then, she started complaining again, so we took her to the hospital; there she died, this morning,” Amos revealed. Reports emerged that the late Jamesetta, who was an expected mother and a practicing nurse, had been battling for survival ever since she visited the ELWA hospital for what was supposed to be a routine delivery. But she developed severe complications that changed everything, from emergency surgery to kidney failure, liver damage, third-degree burns, a collapsed urethra, and eventual removal of her womb. According to further reports, she had penned down emotional last request on her deathbed, asking her family to demand an autopsy into her passing. “I suspect something went wrong with my medical reports from Ghana and Liberia. I asked that doctors reopen my body with my family present,” she wrote in an emotional appeal to a Family chat seen by this paper. “Please don’t let those, who did this to me, get away with it. There’s a reason my kidneys failed, and I never had problems with them before,” she penned in tears on her dying bed. Meanwhile, Activist Martin KN. Kollie expressed shock about Jamesetta’s death, while sending out condolence

to the bereaved family. “I didn’t know Jamesetta had returned to Liberia. Against our advice and without us knowing, she was flown back to Liberia”, Kollie notes.

He had launched a fundraiser on March 15, 2025, to assist in the treatment and recovery of Jamesetta. Surprisingly on May 16, 2025, he took to Social Media and informed the public that Jamesetta was recovering, but four days later, she passed off. Prior to her death, in February this year the late Madam Jamesetta J. Kugmeh, RN, accused doctors and nurses at ELWA Hospital in Paynesville of alleged operational blunder during delivery, when she went under surgical Cesarean Section (C-Section), resulting to her kidney and urethra’s failure. She at the time called on the Liberia Medical and Dental Council (LMDC), Liberia Board of Nursing and Midwifery and the Ministry of Health to thoroughly investigate the case, as she was experiencing uncontrollable bleeding and severe pain at John F. Kennedy Hospital where she was later transferred. Cesarean Section or Cesarean Birth, (C-Section) is surgical delivery of a baby through a cut (incision) made in the birth parent’s abdomen and uterus. However, this is provided by healthcare providers when they believe it is safer for both the mother and the baby. Speaking in tears during an interview at the John F. Kennedy Hospital, she narrated that early February 24, 2025, she woke up and beautifully dressed along with her husband, and while they were on their way to purchase something, she decided to go and do a regular Absolute Neutrophil Count (ANC) at the ELWA hospital where she had been undergoing treatment since her pregnancy. The Absolute Neutrophil

Count (ANC) is calculated as part of a complete blood count (CBC) test, which gives an estimate of the baby’s ability to fight infection. According to her, when she got at the hospital, the nurse told her that the pregnancy had lasted for forty-two weeks, five days and that she needed to be admitted in the ward. “I told the nurse that even my first pregnancy, I went longer. I informed her that my pregnancy usually takes longer and I will get in pain by myself. But, the Nurse told me that I can’t leave; it’s the hospital’s policy. When they did my ANC checkup, the child’s health and vital sign everything was well and okay. The child’s vital sign was 136 when they did the incision. So, they transferred me on the ward. They did the incision on February 24 at 7:00 pm and I remained there up to February 25, 2025 in serious pain”, Madam Kugmeh disclosed then. She continued that she was in severe pain when doctors at ELWA told her that they needed to do C-Section on her, something, she consented to and they took her in the theater where she offered prayers before the surgical operation was performed. But according to her at the time, the surgical operation was performed by one Dr. Yasu, instead of Dr. Susay, adding that due to the drip that was between her and Dr. Yasu, she didn’t recognize his face while he was performing the surgery. She said not until when she saw on the Child Card Road to Health, she then saw Dr. Yasu’s name as the doctor that did the operation, and so she asked who was he, because she didn’t know him. She said while on the ward with oxygen, she started bleeding severely, and nurses told her that her uterus was not contracting, which according to her, she understood, as a medical person herself, because in some cases the uterus doesn’t contract, especially for multifarious women. “From there, they suggested a total history histo-restoration and I agreed. They took me in the second time and did the total histo-restoration operation but, when they brought me back, everything became abnormal again. So, the nurses suggested that I be taken to the Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) for monitoring and stability. I was semi-conscious because I was talking to them”, she recounted. Editing by Jonathan Browne

A proposed Act to establish Islamic Holidays in Liberia has begun stirring debate here even before Senate Pro-temp Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence can open the communication.

By Lincoln G. Peters
The proposed Act in question was submitted by three senators; tiled a proposed Act to establish Eid al-Fitr holidays for Muslims across the country. The Senators, Sen. Joseph Jallah, Lofa, Sen. Edwin M. Snowe, Bomi and Sen. Amara Konneh, Gbarpolu, all which hail from Muslim dominated counties argued that the acceptance of the enactment of the Act will foster religious inclusiveness. The Communication written to President Pro-Tempore, Nyonblee Karngar-Lawrence was read in open Session on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, is captioned Submission of Proposed Act to Establish Certain Religious Holidays in Liberia. The Communication was written by Sen. Jallah, and Co-Sponsor by Sen. Snowe, and Sen. Konneh. The proposed Act has been a subject of hash debate in time past. It is yet to be seen how lawmakers will debate it this time.



However, in the communication, the senators noted that they respectfully submit herewith a proposed Act entitled “An Act to Establish Certain Religious Holidays in the Republic of Liberia” for the kind consideration of the Liberian Senate. Providing the importance of the Act, they disclosed that the Act seeks to promote religious inclusiveness and national unity by recognizing significant religious observances as official public holidays, and it reflects the pluralistic nature of the Liberian society and aims to foster mutual respect among Liberians of diverse faiths. “Enclosed with this letter is the draft of the proposed legislation, along with an explanatory note outlining its purpose and anticipated impact on national cohesion. kindly request that this communication and the accompanying draft be transmitted to the appropriate committee for review and subsequent legislative action” the communication stated. The senators expressed gratitude

to the Liberian senate for its consideration, adding that they stand ready to provide further clarification or appear before any relevant body, if required. “SECTION 4: DETERMINATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF EID AL-FIT. The exact date for Eid al-Fitr shall be determined annually in consultation with the National Muslim Council of Liberia or through proclamation that shall be issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liberia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Religious Affairs (if applicable) shall officially announce the Eid holiday at least five (5) days in advance of its expected occurrence each year” they pointed out. Also, they further indicated that SECTION 5: EFFECT AND IMPLEMENTATION, urged that on each of the declared religious public holidays, all

government institutions, schools, and private businesses shall observe a day of rest.” Essential services and emergency operations may remain operational as required by law or exigency. SECTION 6: NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to compel any person to participate in any religious observance or act contrary to their faith or conscience. The observance of these holidays is intended to honor cultural and religious plurality and not to impose religious practices” they stated. SECTION 7: REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT LAWS Any law, regulation, or provision inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed or amended to conform to the provisions herein. SECTION 8: EFFECTIVE DATE This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication into handbills” concluded.

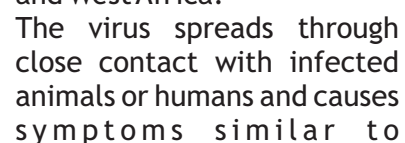
-Says it is prepared and ready to control Monkeypox

By Kruah Thompson

Monkeypox is a rare viral disease that has recently

Liberia, like other countries in West Africa, has recently confirmed four active monkeypox cases, but no

“Meaning, if you are hugging people continuously, you need to stop that. If you are shaking hands, you need to stop. If you are coming in contact with people who are profusely sweating, you also need to stop that.”



Speaking on the outbreak during the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism's regular press briefing on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, Information Minister Jerolimick Mathew Piah