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Continental News

Five killed in attack on UN aid convoy in Sudan

Five members of a United Nations convoy carrying aid to the war-torn Sudanese city of el-Fasher have been killed in an

and children's agencies, who said it was "devastating" that the aid did not reach "famine-stricken" el-Fasher. El-Fasher is the last major

Sudanese army.El-Koma, which is controlled by the RSF, has previously been the target of frequent attacks in the conflict between the paramilitary group and the army.Assaults on the city have resulted in civilian deaths and damaged key infrastructure.

The el-Koma Emergency Room said at least 89 people were killed or injured after Sudanese army warplanes launched airstrikes in the town on Sunday. The army has not responded to this accusation.

According to the Sudan Tribune news website, the planes struck a busy market in el-Koma.

The war, which began more than two years ago, has created one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.On Tuesday Eujin Byun, a spokesperson for the UN refugee agency, said more than four million people have fled since the beginning of the conflict.

The civil war broke out in 2023 following a vicious struggle for power between the army and the RSF.

The two had jointly staged a coup to derail Sudan's transition to democracy, before their commanders fell out.BBC



The convoy included trucks from the UN's World Food Programme (archive shot)

attack, UN agencies have said.Several people were also injured and multiple trucks burnt in Monday night's assault, which took place near el-Koma in the state of North Darfur, they added.The two sides in Sudan's gruelling civil war - the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the regular army - have accused each other of striking the UN convoy with drones. The UN did not say how the attack happened, but called for an urgent investigation and for the perpetrators to be held to account. The convoy was made up of 15 trucks from the UN's food

location in North Darfur under army control. Civilians and military personnel there have been under attack by the RSF for over a year.

The convoy was attempting to reach children and families in the city with life-saving food and nutrition supplies when it was attacked, said the joint statement from the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN children's agency Unicef.Following the attack, the el-Koma Emergency Room, a group of local volunteer responders, posted a video of a burnt out truck loaded with sacks of supplies on Facebook. The group blamed the attack on the

Suicide bomber killed in Uganda on Christian holy day, army says

Two people who the Ugandan army describe as "armed terrorists" have been killed in the capital, Kampala, as the country marks Martyrs Day - a Christian celebration to commemorate the faithful who died in the 19th Century.A counter-terrorism unit "intercepted and neutralized" the two, one of whom was a female suicide bomber, in the upmarket suburb of Munyonyo, army spokesperson Chris Magezi said.

The incident took place near the Roman Catholic Munyonyo Martyrs' Shrine, where a group had gathered to pray, local media reported.

Reports also cited an explosion, with an eyewitness telling Uganda's Daily Monitor newspaper that the blast occurred as the two approached the church on a motorcycle. There were no other casualties, the Reuters news agency reports. The army spokesperson did not

confirm the blast, but added that the authorities were on "heightened alert".One of those killed was a female "suicide bomber laden with powerful explosives", Col Magezi said in a post on X.Footage from Uganda's NBS Television showed security and forensics personnel at the scene of the incident, after having sealed off the area.Col Magezi told Reuters that it was believed the two people were linked to the Allied Democratic

Forces (ADF), which is an affiliate of the Islamic State (IS) group.The ADF has not yet commented.Uganda has historically faced threats from the group.Last year, the army warned citizens that the ADF was planning to attack places of worship, public events, schools and urban areas.A year earlier, in 2023, the group was accused of carrying out a fatal attack on a Ugandan school which led to the killing of nearly 40 students.



Security and forensic personnel are at the scene of the incident

One death every seven minutes: The world's worst country to give birth

At the age of 24, Nafisa Salahu was in danger of becoming just another statistic in Nigeria, where a woman dies giving birth every seven minutes, on average. Going into labour during a doctors' strike meant that, despite being in hospital, there was no expert help on hand once a complication emerged. Her baby's head was stuck and she was just told to lie still during labour, which lasted three days. Eventually a Caesarean was recommended and a doctor was located who was prepared to carry it out.

"I thanked God because I was almost dying. I had no strength left, I had nothing left," Ms Salahu tells the BBC from Kano state in the north of the country. She survived, but tragically her baby died. Eleven years on, she has gone back to hospital to give birth several times and takes a fatalistic attitude. "I knew [each time] I was between life and death but I was no longer afraid," she says. Ms Salahu's experience is

she bled to death at a hospital in the south-eastern town of Onitsha five years ago. "The doctors needed blood," her brother Henry Edeh remembers. "The blood they had wasn't enough and they were running around. Losing my sister and my friend is nothing I would wish on an enemy. The pain is unbearable." Among the other common causes of maternal deaths are obstructed labour, high blood pressure and unsafe abortions. Nigeria's "very high" maternal mortality rate is the result of a combination of a number of factors, according to Martin Dohlsten from the Nigeria office of the UN's children's organisation, Unicef. Among them, he says, are poor health infrastructure, a shortage of medics, costly treatments that many cannot afford, cultural practices that can lead to some distrusting medical professionals and insecurity. "No woman deserves to die while birthing a child," says Mabel Onwuemena, national co-ordinator of the Women of Purpose



not unusual. Nigeria is the world's most dangerous nation in which to give birth. According to the most recent UN estimates for the country, compiled from 2023 figures, one in 100 women die in labour or in the following days. That puts it at the top of a league table no country wants to head. In 2023, Nigeria accounted for well over a quarter - 29% - of all maternal deaths worldwide. That is an estimated total of 75,000 women dying in childbirth in a year, which works out at one death every seven minutes. Warning: This article contains an image depicting a newly born child. The frustration for many is that a large number of the deaths - from things like bleeding after childbirth (known as postpartum haemorrhage) - are preventable.

Chinenye Nweze was 36 when

Development Foundation. She explains that some women, especially in rural areas, believe "that visiting hospitals is a total waste of time" and choose "traditional remedies instead of seeking medical help, which can delay life-saving care". For some, reaching a hospital or clinic is near-impossible because of a lack of transport, but Ms Onwuemena believes that even if they managed to, their problems would not be over. "Many healthcare facilities lack the basic equipment, supplies and trained personnel, making it difficult to provide a quality service." Nigeria's federal government currently spends only 5% of its budget on health - well short of the 15% target that the country committed to in a 2001 African Union treaty.

EDITORIAL

We welcome intervention in the rubber sector

The Government of Liberia has taken a noticeable step to regulate prices in the rubber sector in the country effective this June, thanks to intervention by President Joseph Boakai.

This paper gathered that President Boakai has constituted the Liberia National Rubber Pricing Committee headed by the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure fair pricing in the rubber sector.

We think this is an applaudable action because rubber farmers across the country have complained of bad pricing for too long that has cheated them of the actual benefit of their labor.

For too long farmers in the country have been subjected to being price takers, which put them in a very disadvantageous position at the hands of Firestone Plantations in Harbel, Margibi County and the Liberia Agriculture Company in Grand Bassa County, respectively, the major firms here.

These two foreign companies have always offered low prices, leaving farmers, who are restricted to sell only at home, with no choice despite advocating to be allowed to sell to buyers of their choice outside the country.

Because of persistent low prices, local farmers across the country have never benefited from their crops despite toiling in their rain and the sun, day and night in cultivating their farms.

It is our hope that this time around, the latest intervention by the government thru the President will bring long desired relief to rubber farmers in the country.

According to a resolution from the meeting, the Government of Liberia's decision was triggered by numerous complaints from rubber farmers in the country about unfair pricing in the rubber sector. The latest move comes after a series of meetings among members of the Liberia National Rubber Pricing Committee during which a scenario for determining a fair monthly price of rubber was unanimously agreed upon, from several scenarios presented by a technical sub-committee.

The Ministry of Agriculture is quoted as saying “The committee has resolved that the monthly price of rubber will be derived from an average of the daily prices of one ton of rubber for the preceding month posted on the Singapore Commodity Exchange, applying a 58 percent dry rubber content to get the actual, from which the production cost is deducted, and the resultant amount be used to calculate 10 percent profit margin for the processor.”

We hope this will become sincerely turning point for our local farmers in getting worth for their production.

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COMMENTARY

By Marisa Drew

Scaling Investment for Africa’s Sustainable Blue Economy

LONDON - Despite carrying 80% of the world’s trade, absorbing 30% of its carbon-dioxide emissions, and providing food security for almost three billion people, the global blue economy (oceans and waterways) is suffering from acute underinvestment, and nowhere more so than in Africa. In the face of heightened economic volatility and tightening financial constraints, the transition to a more sustainable blue economy represents a major, largely underappreciated opportunity for the continent.

This is not just some abstract idea. Given investors’ appetite for sustainable, scalable returns, the opportunity is hiding in plain sight, and governments are waking up to it. Spanning more than 30,000 kilometers (18,640 miles) of coastline, Africa’s blue economy does \$300 billion worth of business each year, and it is uniquely positioned to benefit from the broader shift to more sustainable models. The African Union projects that the blue economy will increase to \$405 billion in 2030, and to as much as \$576 billion by 2063. As these sectors expand, employment levels could increase from 49 million jobs in 2019 to 78 million by 2063.

Highlighting the sectors with the most potential helps to put these numbers into context. Consider food, where the development of sustainable aquaculture and fishing practices could help meet the growing demand for protein in Africa and beyond. Our calculations suggest that sustainable aquaculture-based fish production could grow eightfold in Africa, reaching approximately 19 million metric tons per year by 2050.

The energy sector is similarly promising. According to research from the World Bank, South Africa could reach 900 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity, and it is not unique. All told, offshore wind alone could boost Africa’s electricity generation 45-fold.

The sustainable blue economy also has an important role to play in climate adaptation. With sea levels around much of Africa’s coastline rising faster than the global level average, marine restoration and conservation can build natural resilience while also delivering benefits to food systems, biodiversity, and other sectors such as tourism.

But to make the blue economy truly sustainable, Africa and the Middle East will need approximately \$70 billion in annual investment from now to 2030. To reach that target, governments should leverage innovative financial mechanisms to bring more capital into the blue economy and advance sustainable, scalable projects. Fortunately, demand for such solutions is

growing, and over 80% of African countries have already embedded the blue economy into their national development plans or climate strategies.

Decision-makers across many markets are beginning to treat the ocean as a strategic asset that needs to be protected and sustainably managed. But while solutions like blue debt instruments hold much potential, many issuers have yet to capitalize on the opportunity presented by the sustainable debt market. Greater use of blue bonds, sustainability-linked loans, and social bonds could channel capital where it is needed most.

Similarly, debt conversions for nature - often referred to as “debt-for-climate swaps,” whereby financing or debt relief is explicitly earmarked for sustainable projects - represent attractive options for sovereign issuers, depending on their financial characteristics. Such transactions can reduce debt-service payments and free up capital to support a country’s sustainability goals.

For example, last year, Standard Chartered (where I am Chief Sustainability Officer) partnered with the Government of The Bahamas, The Nature Conservancy, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to launch an innovative debt conversion for nature and climate. The project is expected to generate \$124 million for marine conservation, demonstrating that this asset class is developing quickly - and with significant potential for scaling.

Moreover, efforts to develop sustainable blue economy strategies and practices are increasingly supported by regulatory reforms, marine spatial planning programs, and regional cooperation models like the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Great Blue Wall Initiative. These are laying the foundation for a wave of investible projects supported by real assets, local ownership, and measurable returns.

The momentum will keep building this year. In June, the Blue Economy and Finance Forum and the UN Ocean Conference offer opportunities to bring bankable projects to global investors and accelerate the African sustainable blue economy’s growth. The risks - ranging from regulatory bottlenecks to insufficient capacity to develop projects - are manageable with the right partnerships.

Making Africa’s blue economy sustainable is no longer an untested idea. Our own latest research, Harnessing Africa’s Blue Economy, shows this is a growing investible market - one that banks, asset managers, and governments cannot afford to ignore.



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OP-ED

By: Salimatu Gilayeneh-
Energy and Environment
Programme Specialist (UNDP Liberia)

Ending Plastic Pollution—Liberia’s Call to Action on World Environment Day 2025

Monrovia, Liberia; June 2, 2025: Each year on June 5th, the world comes together to celebrate World Environment Day, a moment to reflect on our relationship with nature and reaffirm our commitment to protecting the planet. Liberia will join the global community in commemorating World Environment Day (WED) under the urgent theme: “Ending Plastic Pollution.” This year’s celebration is not just symbolic—it is a national call to action, a moment to reflect, and a chance to recommit ourselves to the stewardship of our environment. It is not just timely—it’s urgent.

Plastic pollution is not just a global crisis—it is a Liberian crisis. From the clogged drains of Monrovia to the plastic-choked wetlands of SKD Boulevard, the evidence is clear: our environment is under siege. The consequences are dire—polluted water sources, degraded ecosystems, and increased vulnerability to climate change. But there is hope. And that hope lies in collective action. The statistics are staggering. The world produces over 430 million tons of plastic annually, and much of it ends up in our oceans, landfills, and even our food. Plastic pollution is fueling what scientists now call the triple planetary crisis—climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. It’s a global emergency, and Liberia is not immune.

In Monrovia alone, plastic waste accounts for 14% of all waste, with over 1.3 million kilograms generated daily. Shockingly, 84% of this waste is not properly managed. Our wetlands—from Lake Piso to Mesurado—are choking under the weight of plastic debris. These ecosystems are not just beautiful; they are vital for flood control, water purification, and biodiversity. The fisheries sector, which contributes around 10% to Liberia’s GDP and supports 33,000 livelihoods, is under threat. Plastic pollution endangers marine life, contaminates seafood, and undermines food security. Even our drinking water is at risk, with microplastics detected in water sources, posing serious health concerns.

Flooding and outbreaks of disease caused by clogged drainage systems and unmanaged plastic waste are becoming increasingly common. Food security is threatened as plastic debris disrupts urban farming and contaminates soil, while public health risks escalate in densely populated communities such as Police Academy and Whein Town, where residents live dangerously close to unmanaged dumpsites. Plastic pollution is more than an environmental issue—it’s a multifaceted challenge that impacts health, economic growth, and the nation’s development. Despite increasing awareness, progress is impeded by policy gaps, weak enforcement mechanisms, and a lack of robust recycling infrastructure. However, solutions are within reach. The global community is rallying together, notably with the landmark 2022 commitment by nations to negotiate a binding treaty aimed at ending plastic pollution. Liberia has a pivotal role to play—not just as a nation affected by the crisis, but as a proactive leader contributing to global efforts.

Highlighting the importance of innovation, this year’s celebration features the Science Project Initiative, where university students propose groundbreaking ideas to address land degradation and enhance resilience to drought. This initiative demonstrates that the fight against plastic pollution is not merely about raising awareness but taking concrete actions driven by creativity, collaboration, and leadership. Ending plastic pollution requires a whole-of-society approach; government alone cannot solve this crisis. The government must take the lead in creating and enforcing robust policies that mitigate plastic pollution, promote sustainable practices, and encourage innovation in waste management. The private sector must innovate, invest in recycling, and adopt circular economy models.

Communities, mostly women and youth, must be empowered to lead grassroot actions from cleanups to education campaigns. Community-based waste management enterprises must be empowered to drive community-based plastic waste management. We need you—the market women from Red-light and Duala, the students and teachers from Tubman High, the University of Liberia, Cuttington University, community leaders from West Point, and Caldwell, etc. International partners must support with financing, technology, and capacity-building. Every action matters—whether it’s refusing a plastic bag, recycling a bottle, participating in community cleanups, or advocating for change—these efforts collectively pave the way for a cleaner, healthier Liberia.

Imagine a Liberia where plastic waste is no longer a threat but a resource—where biodegradable alternatives replace single-use plastics, and where communities thrive in a clean, resilient environment. This vision is possible, but only if we act now. The fight against plastic pollution is a fight for our health, our economy, and our future. Let us rise to the challenge—together. At UNDP, we are committed to supporting Liberia’s journey toward sustainability. Through our Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development Pillar, we are working with the government, community-based waste management enterprises, and civil society to improve waste management, promote climate resilience, and protect biodiversity. Between 2020-2023, the UNDP Liberia Country Office through the Environmental Protection Agency and the Livelihood Project supported MSMEs and CBOs such as Ever Green Recycling Institute, N’gheleh Enterprise Inc. and Green cities with grants to promote recycling activities, create awareness on Circular Economy models and Waste to Wealth Programs through the Innovative Waste Management Challenge.

In 2022, the UNDP in partnership with the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) and collaboration with the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Programme launched a Cash for Work clean-up campaign covering 10 communities (Jallah Town, Slipway, Vai Town, Plumkor, West Point, PHP, Saye Town, Buzzy Quarter, God Bless You Community and Bras and People’s United Community) in Monrovia and its environs to tackle the issue of poor waste management while providing short-term income to support livelihood for disadvantage communities, with emphasis on the young people.

UNDP has also worked with the Environmental Protection Agency, Paynesville City Corporation, and Monrovia City Corporation to establish a Multi-Stakeholder Waste Recovery Platform (MSWRP), a working group comprising all municipalities in Liberia to collaborate and coordinate in addressing waste management issues. World Environment Day 2025 is more than just a date—it is an opportunity, a commitment, and a shared responsibility. Let us embrace this call to action by working together to end plastic pollution, protect our wetlands, and build a future where clean air, safe water, and thriving communities are the norm. The environment is not the charge of a select few—it is everyone’s responsibility.

OPINION

By Yu Yongding

China Must Not Fear Fiscal Expansion

BEIJING - In the years following the 2008 global financial crisis, bold stimulus measures enabled China to achieve a V-shaped recovery. Since then, however, the government has largely maintained neutral - even tight - macroeconomic policies. If China is to achieve its growth target for 2025, this must change. In fact, since September 2024, China has reorientated its macroeconomic stance substantially.

Two indicators typically dictate whether a government pursues expansionary or contractionary macroeconomic policies: the rate of economic growth (or the employment rate) and the inflation rate. Low growth calls for expansion (as long as inflation also remains low), and high inflation requires contraction (calibrated not to crush growth). By this standard, the case for expansionary policies in China today is clear. China’s PPI inflation has been in negative territory for the better part of the past 13 years, and its annual average CPI inflation has also been very low, at just 0.2% in 2024. At the same time, China’s GDP growth rate has declined from 10.6% in 2010 to 5% last year.

So, why hadn’t China’s government embraced macroeconomic expansion much earlier? First and foremost, it fears the deterioration of its fiscal position. At the end of 2023, China’s government debt-to-GDP ratio was approaching 61%, and its “augmented government debt-to-GDP ratio” (which includes debt held by local government financing vehicles) had reached nearly 117%. While these levels are much lower than those in most developed economies, they are high by Chinese standards, leaving the government reluctant to raise its budget deficit-to-GDP ratio above 3%.

Late last year, however, China’s Ministry of Finance did acknowledge that the central government has “considerable headroom” for issuing debt and increasing the fiscal deficit - a notable shift from the rhetoric of recent years. Moreover, at last September’s meeting, top Communist Party of China (CPC) officials pledged to strengthen the “counter-cyclical adjustment” of fiscal and monetary policies and to deploy “necessary fiscal spending” to meet growth targets.

For many in China, economic growth is no longer paramount. Instead, their top priority has lately been to eliminate overcapacity - an objective that some fear a new round of stimulus, with its requisite surge in investment, would undermine. But overcapacity is a structural issue, which should be eliminated primarily through market mechanisms, though some supportive policies can also be used.

In any case, GDP growth still matters. And, as it stands, achieving this year’s growth target of 5% will not be an easy task. After all, net export growth makes a significant contribution to growth - 1.5 percentage points in 2024 - and this is likely to take a major hit, given ongoing trade tensions with the United States.

To be sure, in the first quarter of 2025, according to the General Administration of Customs office, net exports grew at an annual rate of 50%. But the reason is both obvious and temporary: US importers were hoarding Chinese products ahead of expected tariff increases. Over the course of the year, net-export growth will likely decline sharply, shaving at least one percentage point off China’s GDP growth, according to some estimates.

Slowing export growth is not China’s only problem. Consumption is a function of income, income expectations, and wealth. Fostering the increase in domestic consumption needed to boost aggregate demand is difficult, owing to slower income growth, falling housing prices, and stock-market volatility.

Based on available information, I calculate that, at the end of 2024, final consumption accounted for 56.2% of GDP, and net exports comprised 3.4% of GDP. With total retail sales of social consumer goods (a proxy for final consumption) having grown by 4.6% in the first quarter of 2025, one can reasonably assume that, together, final consumption and net exports will contribute about 2.8 percentage points to China’s GDP growth this year.

If this turns out to be the case, China will be able to reach its 5% growth target only if the third element - capital formation, which accounted for 40.4% of GDP in 2024 - contributes 2.2 percentage points to growth. To achieve this, capital formation would have to grow at a rate of 5.4% this year.

Due to the lack of direct data, fixed-asset investment - comprising manufacturing investment (48.3% in 2024, according to my calculation), real-estate investment (19.5%), and infrastructure investment (32.2%) - is used as a proxy for capital formation. Last year, manufacturing investment grew by 9.2%, while real-estate investment growth declined by 10.6%. If, as seems likely, manufacturing investment maintains its growth momentum (9.2%) in 2025, and real-estate investment slows its decline (-0.5%), they will together contribute about 3.5 percentage points to total fixed-asset investment.

This means that achieving 5.4% growth in fixed-asset investment this year will require infrastructure investment to grow by 6% - a materially higher rate than in 2024. (In the first quarter, fixed-asset investment grew by just 4.2%.) While these figures are not precise, owing to insufficient data, they do offer a rough idea of the challenge China faces - namely, to accelerate the rate of infrastructure-investment growth substantially. To this end, a significant increase in government-bond issuance is essential.

There is some promising news: China is targeting a budget deficit-to-GDP ratio of around 4% for 2025 - the highest level since the 2008 global financial crisis. But all signs indicate that the expansion China’s government has planned still won’t be enough. To achieve 5% growth, it will need to go big.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NDMA warns of massive floods and severe weather related disasters

The National Disaster Management Agency has issued a dire warning ahead of this year's rainy season, cautioning citizens to beware of massive flooding.

By: Kruah Thompson

The Executive Director of the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), Ansu V. S.

Bank, highlighting that for the year 2025, the peak of the rainy season in Liberia is expected to run from June to September. "This period is

will leave from 4mph from June to August, and 8mph from September to December, accompanied by violent storms moving 73mph from July to October. Speaking on the occasion, Director Dulleh reported that their prediction revealed that for this year rainfall, approximately, over 60,000 inhabitants of lowlands, coastal and flood prone communities are expected to get affected by flash and coastal flooding.

He added that, Considering the magnitude of the windstorm anticipated, structures that are not climate resilient are expected to get highly hit, which might lead to several displacements of affected persons.

He says these conditions are predicted to give rise to other health related issues like water-borne diseases. However, Addressing the nation's preparedness, director Dulleh acknowledged that the President of the

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NDMA Executive Director Ansu V. S. Dulleh

Dulleh, has issued a dire warning of massive floods and the potential for severe weather related disasters during the rainy season. Liberia's rainy season runs from May to October, with the highest rainfall concentrated over four months. Addressing the MICAT weekly press briefing on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, Mr. Dulleh cited the World

expected to see the highest rainfall throughout the year, with June and September averaging in excess of 1000mm and July and August averaging in excess of 800mm in Monrovia. "He claimed the Roberts International Airport METAR weather station and NOAA's Integrated Surface Database (ISD) have also reported that wind speed

Boakai assures inclusive representation at UNSC

President Boakai says Liberia's voice at the Council will be inclusive and representative of the nation's diverse population, following the country's election to a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council Tuesday.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia; June 4, 2025 - Following Liberia's successful bid for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. has assured that Liberia's voice at the Council will be inclusive and representative of the nation's diverse population.

Liberia secured the seat Tuesday, with an overwhelming 181 votes in New York, ensuring its place on the Council for the 2026-2027 term. In a national address subsequently Tuesday, June 3, 2025, President Boakai expressed gratitude and outlined Liberia's vision for its upcoming tenure.

"As promised during the campaign, Liberia's voice at the Council will reflect an

inclusive voice," he said. "The government will consult with women and youth nationwide to ensure representation is inclusive and grounded."

President Boakai described this milestone as the start of a "new chapter in our global engagement," emphasizing that it brings opportunities for growth, collaboration, and progress.

"I call upon all Liberians to embrace this moment and work together to build a

brighter future for our nation and the world." Mr. Boakai noted that the UNSC seat is not just a national triumph, but a continental one, a symbol of African perseverance and a tribute to Liberia's enduring commitment to peace, self-governance, and international cooperation. "This is a moment of honor and humility for our 178-year-old Republic; Africa's first independent nation, whose long and storied journey continues to inspire," he added.

Reflecting on Liberia's diplomatic legacy, Boakai

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Pres. Boakai

Liberia partners with China to open Cardio Unit at JFK

A new cardio unit has opened at John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Sinkor to address heart-related diseases locally.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, June 4, 2025: The new Cardiac Hospital (China) to build an Intensive Care unit has advanced cardiovascular been made possible through the medical center with an JFK Management team and its independent medical team collaborating partner, comprising local doctors and Heilongjiang Provincial Hospital nurses.

The Cardiology Unit is aimed at cardiac Intensive Care unit as a improving the accuracy of testament to the JFK diagnosis and treatment of commitment to providing quality cardiovascular diseases, as well health care services to Liberians, as the ability to rescue with evidence of their Dialysis, emergency and severe cases in Surgical, and now Cardiology Liberia.

Addressing the dedicatory Liberians from traveling abroad ceremony on Tuesday in Sinkor, to seek advanced medical Chief Executive Officer of the treatment.

JFK Medical Center, Dr. Linda "This Unit is the beginning of Birch, said the cardiac unit is thousands of milestones, and we crucial to addressing diseases, seek more support from especially hypertension, cardiac Heilongjiang to fully equip, and disease, which is the most Liberians can no longer go abroad common cause of death, across to seek cardiac disease or hospitals here.



"This dedication of this unit, is Also speaking at the dedication another milestone in the history ceremony, Chinese Ambassador of JFK, and if no other to Liberia, Mr. Yin Chengwu, department will be excited, the describes the project as internal medicine department is powerful testament to the deep happy, because statistics, and and enduring friendship between record in Liberia has shown that the peoples of China and Liberia. ages between 30-70, most of the According to Amb. Chengwu, the deaths are due to hypertension cardiac unit, is not merely a or cardiac disease, and we are collection of advanced machines excited to be dedicating this within renovated walls, but a unit, which will address, and powerful symbol of cooperation boost our resilience as Liberia's and friendship between China number hospital," Dr. Birch, and Liberia, demonstrating in said.

She commended the Government "As we gather here at the of China, through the esteemed JFK Medical Center to Heilongjiang Provincial Hospital, celebrate a landmark for the initiative, which forms achievement in the enduring part of phase one of the friendship and fruitful Cardiology Cooperation Project cooperation between China and between Liberia and China.

The project, the JFK Internal state-of-the-art China-Aid Cardiovascular Medicine Cardiology Department Project, Department Cooperativet h i s moment

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NPA and MakeGrouo Korea Forge Strategic Partnership to develop shipbuilding and maintenance Hub pictorial



NPA and MakeGrouo Korea Forge Strategic Partnership to develop shipbuilding and maintenance Hub pictorial



Français

Cllr. Gongloe promet une assistance juridique au sénateur Snowe face aux menaces de poursuites

L’ancien candidat à la présidence et avocat des droits humains, Maître Taiwan Saye Gongloe, s’est engagé à assurer la défense du sénateur Edwin Snowe, au cas où le gouvernement libérien engagerait des

gouvernement l’attaque ou le poursuit en justice, je lui fournirai une assistance juridique », a déclaré Cllr. Gongloe, via une déclaration publique publiée le 2 juin sur sa page Facebook officielle. Cette promesse intervient dans un climat de tension croissante

dans l’optique de renforcer ses propres ambitions politiques – ce que l’intéressé rejette catégoriquement, affirmant que ses critiques relèvent de son engagement pour une bonne gouvernance et le respect des normes démocratiques.

Cllr. Gongloe a exprimé sa préoccupation face à une montée de l’intolérance au sein de certaines sphères du pouvoir envers les voix dissidentes – qu’elles proviennent d’autres responsables publics ou de simples citoyens.

« J’ai été surpris par les réactions de hauts responsables gouvernementaux à des propos attribués au sénateur Snowe. Plutôt que de s’irriter, pourquoi ne pas répondre avec des résultats concrets et prouver qu’il a tort? », a-t-il suggéré.

Mettant en avant la nécessité d’une culture démocratique fondée sur la

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poursuites judiciaires à son encontre pour avoir exprimé des opinions divergentes.

« J’ai assuré le sénateur Snowe que, si le

entre le sénateur Snowe et le gouvernement dirigé par le président Joseph Boakai. Le sénateur est accusé par certains responsables de chercher à saper l’autorité présidentielle

Une Libérienne lance le tout premier magazine africain haut de gamme dédié au voyage et à l’art de vivre avec une portée internationale

L’Afrique fait une entrée remarquée sur la scène médiatique mondiale avec le lancement de Africa Travel and Life, le tout premier magazine africain de voyage et de lifestyle au design soigné, au contenu haut de gamme et à distribution internationale. La publication a été officiellement dévoilée le jeudi 29 mai à Freetown, en Sierra Leone, lors d’un événement hybride dynamique retransmis en direct sur les réseaux sociaux à une audience mondiale.

Destiné à redéfinir l’image du continent aussi bien auprès des Africains que de la communauté internationale, Africa Travel and Life se positionne comme une vitrine élégante des richesses culturelles, naturelles et humaines de l’Afrique.

Lors de la cérémonie de lancement, la fondatrice et éditrice Hesta Baker, professionnelle chevronnée des médias et experte en tourisme avec plus de vingt ans d’expérience, a qualifié ce moment de « jalon majeur dans la promotion du voyage en Afrique ».

« L’idée m’est venue à la fin des années 90, lors d’une conférence de l’IACVB en Floride », raconte-t-elle. «

Une présentation montrait que l’Afrique ne générait alors que 1 % des revenus mondiaux du tourisme. Cela m’a profondément marquée. Aujourd’hui, ce chiffre atteint à peine 5 %, ce qui reste bien trop faible. Nous devons viser un chiffre à deux chiffres. Imaginez : si 10 % des Africains voyageaient à travers leur propre continent, cela représenterait 140 millions de personnes dépensant en moyenne 2 500 dollars chacune. C’est 350 milliards de dollars injectés dans nos économies. C’est réalisable, mais nous devons continuer à raconter nos histoires, avec force et constance. »

Avec pour mission de « convier le monde en Afrique », Africa Travel and Life propose une célébration soigneusement conçue du continent, de ses peuples, de ses

lieux et de ses cultures. Le magazine explore l’Afrique sous toutes ses facettes – des grandes métropoles aux villages reculés – à travers des reportages photo, des séances de mode en décor naturel, des rubriques sur la gastronomie, le bien-être, l’art, la culture, les festivals, les initiatives touristiques innovantes et les portraits de personnalités inspirantes.

La première édition met à l’honneur Freetown en couverture, dévoilant la beauté naturelle, le charme historique et le dynamisme culturel de la capitale sierra-léonaise à travers trois mannequins locaux habillés par les

stylis

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Éditorial

Une intervention salubre dans le secteur du caoutchouc

Le gouvernement du Liberia a franchi une étape significative en décidant de réguler les prix dans le secteur du caoutchouc à partir de ce mois de juin, une mesure rendue possible grâce à l’intervention directe du président Joseph Boakai.

Selon nos informations, le président Boakai a institué le Comité national libérien de fixation des prix du caoutchouc, présidé par le ministère de l’Agriculture. Ce comité a pour mission de garantir une tarification équitable au sein de la filière.

Nous saluons cette initiative que nous jugeons louable. Depuis trop longtemps, les agriculteurs libériens se plaignent des prix dérisoires auxquels leur caoutchouc est acheté, les privant ainsi du juste fruit de leur labeur.

En réalité, les producteurs de caoutchouc ont été contraints de se contenter des prix imposés par deux grandes entreprises étrangères, Firestone Plantations à Harbel (comté de Margibi) et Liberia Agriculture Company (LAC) dans le comté de Grand Bassa.

Ces sociétés, jusqu’ici dominantes, ont toujours offert des prix bas, sans réelle alternative pour les producteurs locaux, qui n’ont pas le droit de vendre à des acheteurs internationaux de leur choix.

Cette situation a empêché les agriculteurs libériens de tirer profit de leurs efforts, malgré les conditions difficiles dans lesquelles ils cultivent leurs plantations - sous la pluie, le soleil, de jour comme de nuit.

Nous espérons que cette nouvelle intervention gouvernementale marquera un tournant décisif pour améliorer les conditions de vie de ces producteurs et redonner un sens économique à leur travail.

Selon une résolution issue des réunions du comité, la décision du gouvernement a été motivée par les nombreuses plaintes des agriculteurs concernant l’iniquité dans les prix d’achat. Après plusieurs sessions de travail, les membres du Comité ont unanimement adopté un mécanisme de calcul basé sur différentes propositions techniques.

Le ministère de l’Agriculture a précisé que : « Le prix mensuel du caoutchouc sera calculé à partir de la moyenne des prix journaliers d’une tonne de caoutchouc sur le marché de la Singapore Commodity Exchange, pour le mois précédent.

Cette moyenne sera appliquée à un taux de contenu en caoutchouc sec de 58 %, duquel seront déduits les coûts de production. Le montant obtenu servira ensuite de base pour calculer une marge bénéficiaire de 10 % en faveur du transformateur. »

Nous espérons sincèrement que ce mécanisme contribuera à rétablir une forme de justice économique dans le secteur et à offrir enfin aux agriculteurs locaux une rémunération à la hauteur de leur travail.

Français

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Cllr. Gongloe promet une assistance juridique au

pluralité des opinions, Cllr. Gongloe a rappelé que même au sein des familles, les divergences d’opinion sont naturelles et doivent être tolérées.À titre d’exemple, il a partagé une anecdote personnelle : lors des dernières élections, sa propre sœur, qu’il considère proche, a soutenu un autre candidat au second tour. Malgré cette divergence, aucune discorde familiale n’est survenue.

Il a aussi souligné son engagement historique en faveur de la liberté d’expression, évoquant l’adoption de la loi Kamara Kamara sur la liberté de la presse. En tant qu’ancien solliciteur général sous l’administration d’Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, il avait soumis en 2009 un projet de loi visant à dépénaliser les offenses de presse à l’encontre du président

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Une Libérienne lance le tout premier magazine africain haut de gamme

tes les plus en vue du pays. L’édition comprend également une interview exclusive de la maire de Freetown, figure emblématique de la relance touristique de la ville.

Les lecteurs y découvriront aussi des perles du continent : du désert du Namib, le plus ancien du monde, aux cinq capitales africaines les plus montagneuses, en passant par les plages luxueuses des Seychelles. L’édition présente également le festival de Mindelo au Cap-Vert, une entrevue croisée des célèbres acteurs nigériens Desmond Elliot et Richard Mofe Damijo au Liberia, une plongée archéologique sur les épaves de navires négriers avec Kamau Sadiki, et un guide culturel de la ville d’Alger.

Interrogée sur le choix de Freetown comme première destination mise en avant, Hesta Baker explique : « La décision n’a pas été facile. Nous avons envisagé différentes régions d’Afrique. Nous avons finalement opté pour l’Afrique de l’Ouest, avec une ville qui offre un

Libéria : le gouvernement règle d’avance ses cotisations 2026 à l’Organisation maritime internationale

Le gouvernement libérien a annoncé le paiement anticipé et intégral de sa cotisation pour l’année 2026 à l’Organisation maritime internationale (OMI), pour un montant de 5 527 138 livres sterling, soit environ 7,4 millions de dollars américains.Ce règlement complet, effectué dès 2025, reflète « un leadership responsable et remarquable » selon un communiqué officiel, confirmant l’engagement du Libéria en tant que membre du Conseil de l’OMI dans la Catégorie A, la plus prestigieuse de l’institution onusienne.Le Libéria affirme par ce geste son attachement constant aux objectifs de l’OMI, notamment en matière de recherche maritime, de renforcement des capacités, d’assistance technique et de promotion d’un transport maritime sûr, sécurisé et respectueux de l’environnement.Cette initiative intervient alors que le Libéria lance sa campagne pour renouveler son siège au sein du Conseil de l’OMI pour le biennium 2026-2027.Lors de la remie symbolique du chèque, l’ambassadeur Robert Kpadeh, représentant permanent du Libéria auprès de l’OMI, a transmis les salutations du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai Sr., des autorités maritimes libériennes et du peuple libérien. Il a assuré le Secrétaire général de l’OMI, Arsenio Dominguez, de la volonté inébranlable du Libéria de rester ponctuel dans le paiement de ses

— un processus qui a abouti en 2017 sous la présidence de George Weah.

« Cette loi a consolidé notre démocratie. Grâce à elle, nul ne peut être arrêté pour avoir exprimé son opinion », a-t-il insisté.

Il a conclu en réaffirmant son soutien non seulement à Snowe, mais aussi à toute personne injustement poursuivie pour avoir exercé ses droits démocratiques, dans le respect de la Constitution libérienne et des instruments juridiques internationaux.

Toutefois, Cllr. Gongloe a précisé qu’il ne défendra pas ceux qu’il qualifie de « journalistes ou activistes de la société civile mercenaires », qu’il accuse d’être rémunérés pour manipuler l’opinion ou dissimuler la vérité.

équilibre fascinant entre aventure, luxe et patrimoine. »

Africa Travel and Life se déploie progressivement sur les réseaux sociaux — Facebook, Instagram, Twitter — ainsi que sur son site officiel AfricaTravelandLife.com, en complément de ses éditions imprimées et numériques. Le magazine entend s’imposer comme la voix incontournable du voyage et du lifestyle africains.

Originaire du Liberia, Hesta Baker a dirigé plusieurs publications touristiques et de lifestyle aux États-Unis, parmi lesquelles Guest Informant, Where Magazine et Style Magazine. Sa vision pour Africa Travel and Life est ambitieuse mais claire : raconter l’Afrique avec élégance, précision et fierté.

« C’est le moment de l’Afrique », a-t-elle affirmé. « Et nous allons enfin montrer au monde ce que nous savons depuis toujours : l’Afrique est extraordinaire. »

cotisations pour soutenir les missions de l’organisation.

M. Kpadeh a salué la gouvernance « exemplaire » du Secrétaire général, soulignant son efficacité dans un contexte mondial marqué par de profondes mutations technologiques et des défis croissants.

« Le Libéria continuera à être un État membre fiable et engagé de l’OMI, pour faire progresser le transport maritime au bénéfice de l’humanité », a-t-il déclaré.

Il a également réaffirmé l’intention du Libéria de collaborer étroitement avec l’OMI et ses partenaires pour garantir une gouvernance maritime exemplaire.

L’ambassadeur a conclu en rappelant qu’en tant que l’un des plus grands registres de pavillon au monde, le Libéria se considère moralement tenu de montrer la voie et d’inciter les autres États membres à l’excellence.



commentaire

Les États-Unis sont-ils encore crédibles ?

Par Aziz Huq

CHICAGO - La guerre commerciale mondiale déclarée par Donald Trump le 2 avril est entrée dans une nouvelle phase : la conclusion d’accords. Un nouveau protocole d’accord avec le Royaume-Uni énonce un certain nombre de « propositions initiales » susceptibles d’évoluer vers un « accord de libre-échange ». Dans une publication en ligne intitulée « l’art du deal », la Maison-Blanche a indiqué suspendre durant 90 jours les droits de douane qu’elle avait unilatéralement imposés à la Chine, et annoncé la fin des « représailles » chinoises. D’après l’administration américaine, des négociations sont en cours avec plusieurs « dizaines » d’autres pays.Ces différents « deals » suggèrent une capacité et une volonté des États-Unis de conclure de nouveaux accords commerciaux contraignants avec d’autres pays. Seulement voilà, peut-on encore accorder de la crédibilité aux engagements américains ?

Un pays tel que les États-Unis prend habituellement des engagements internationaux contraignants par le biais de textes législatifs ou de traités conclus et ratifiés par les deux gouvernements concernés. Si l’un des deux camps peut se retirer sans prévenir d’une loi ou d’un traité, alors l’engagement perd toute crédibilité. Or, comme le démontrent ses propres agissements, Trump ne se considère pas lié par la loi ou les traités, et personne dans le système juridique américain n’est déterminé ou capable de le contraindre à s’y conformer dans les délais convenus et de manière effective.Concentrons-nous tout d’abord sur les lois. Depuis le XVIIIe siècle, le Congrès délègue à l’exécutif certains pouvoirs consciencieusement déterminés en matière de commerce. Si les présidents George Washington, John Adams et Thomas Jefferson ont décrété des embargos maritimes, ils l’ont tous fait en vertu d’autorisations clairement définies. Dans la délégation de tels pouvoirs commerciaux, le Congrès impose par ailleurs certaines limites. Ainsi, à la lecture des textes de loi, les partenaires commerciaux des États-Unis savent en temps normal à quoi s’attendre de la part de la Maison-Blanche.

L’administration Trump vient court-circuiter ces limites légales, en contournant sans scrupule les textes qui servent généralement de référence pour les questions commerciales, tels que la loi de 1962 sur l’expansion du commerce. Ces textes législatifs imposent certaines obligations exigeantes, qui prévoient qu’un temps soit consacré à la conduite d’enquêtes ainsi qu’à la formulation de conclusions, avant que ne puissent être appliqués des droits de douane. Or, impatiente de réaliser un coup d’éclat politique, l’administration Trump s’est fondée sur une loi de 1977, relative aux pouvoirs économiques d’urgence, pour tenter de justifier ses droits de douane « réciproques ».Comme de nombreux autres observateurs et moi-même l’avons souligné, cette loi de 1977 n’autorise tout simplement pas les droits de douane du type de ceux qui ont été instaurés le 2 avril. Ainsi, les droits de douane imposés au Royaume-Uni et à la Chine étant contraires à la loi dès leur conception, comment les négociateurs commerciaux de la Maison-Blanche pourraient-ils prétendre de manière crédible être liés par quelque loi fédérale que ce soit ?

Quid du droit international ? En la matière, ce sont les traités qui constituent la norme de référence. Or, ici encore, Trump démontre un refus de se conformer aux règles. En 2018, sa première administration a insisté pour renégocier l’Accord de libre-échange nord-américain, puis le Congrès a ratifié en 2020 l’accord États-Unis-Mexique-Canada qui en a résulté, ce qui n’a pas empêché Trump de l’abandonner unilatéralement, et d’imposer cette année des droits de douane généralisés de 25 % aux deux pays partenaires de cet accord.

Le président américain est allé jusqu’à déclarer que le traité frontalier de 1908 entre le Canada et les États-Unis créait une « ligne artificielle », qui n’avait « aucun sens ». Ainsi, ni les lois américaines ni les traités ne garantissent le moindre engagement crédible de la part des États-Unis en matière de politique commerciale.

Une ambiguïté de longue date du droit américain vient compliquer la situation : dans quelle mesure les accords internationaux sont-ils censés être contraignants ? Dans la conception dominante du droit constitutionnel américain, Trump peut se retirer des traités sans en avertir les partenaires internationaux ou le Congrès. C’est ce qu’illustre notamment la décision prise en 1978 par le président Jimmy Carter et consistant à mettre fin au traité de défense mutuelle conclu en 1954 entre les États-Unis et Taïwan. Les sénateurs américains, menés par Barry Goldwater, avaient tenté à l’époque de contester cette décision de Carter devant les tribunaux - en vain. La Cour suprême avait en effet rejeté leur demande pour des motifs procéduraux.Ce problème de crédibilité des engagements américains serait atténué s’il existait dans le système juridique des États-Unis d’autres acteurs capables de faire contrepoids au président le cas échéant. Le Congrès n’agit malheureusement pas.

Les parlementaires républicains éprouvent une telle peur de se retrouver en difficulté lors des élections primaires de leur parti qu’ils n’opposent aucune résistance à Trump, même lorsqu’ils sont confrontés à des candidats manifestement peu qualifiés pour occuper des postes de haut niveau au sein de l’exécutif.Certains espèrent que les tribunaux exerceront un contrôle sur l’administration. Cette semaine, le tribunal de commerce international des États-Unis de Manhattan a entendu les arguments de la toute première contestation juridique des droits de douane. Je ne suis toutefois pas optimiste dans cette affaire. Même si les juges décident d’agir, la procédure judiciaire sera si longue que Trump aura quasiment toute liberté d’imposer des droits de douane contraires aux lois.

Son administration s’est déjà montrée disposée à ignorer les décisions de justice dans d’autres affaires, et ses arguments juridiques pour agir ainsi auraient encore plus de poids dans le domaine des affaires étrangères.En résumé, aucun autre État ne devrait tenir pour acquis le caractère contraignant et durable des « accords » négociés par Trump. Le reste du monde doit garder à l’esprit l’expérience des cabinets juridiques qui ont conclu des accords avec Trump, et qui ont constaté que le président considérait ces accords non pas comme des certitudes, mais comme des textes malléables à l’infini. Trump n’hésitera pas à revenir sur ses décisions et à imposer de nouvelles conditions comme bon lui semblera.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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NDMA warns of massive floods and

ublic of Liberia has passed Executive Order 141, preventing the encroachment on wetlands and Enforcement of the Executive Order is currently ongoing. According to him, The NDMA is also working with the Ministry of Public Works and other designated institutions to open drainages and water ways as part of Liberia's Urban Resilience Project, funded by the World Bank. As part of our preparedness, he added that a Several coordination meetings have been held, with a Flood Response Plan developed to address any threats of flooding, further noting that a Monitoring system have been put into place to address any health related hazards that might emerge as a result of flooding.

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Liberia partners with China

represents far more than the handover of a new project. He said it is the culmination of a dedicated partnership, adding that the path towards today has been paved with unwavering dedication, collaborative spirit, and meticulous effort from colleagues on both sides. “We owe a lot to the remarkable team of Liberia’s doctors, nurses, and technicians, whose enthusiasm and professionalism have been truly inspiring. And of course, we owe a lot to the dedicated Chinese team, who brought their specialized skills and deep commitment to this endeavor and worked hard to ensure its timely and high-quality completion,” he added.

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Boakai assures inclusive

honored the memory of Ambassador Angie Brooks-Randolph, Africa’s first female President of the UN General Assembly, and President William R. Tolbert, Jr., who famously advocated for global peace grounded in African justice and freedom. He acknowledged Liberia’s difficult path from conflict to stability, thanking the United Nations, ECOWAS, and the African Union for their pivotal roles in peacebuilding. “We pay tribute to the 202 UN peacekeepers who gave their lives in the cause of Liberia,” he expressed.Today, Liberia stands as a functioning democracy, with successive peaceful elections and historic power transfers. President Boakai said this progress confirms that Liberia is once again a credible and relevant voice on the global stage. “Unlike our first partial term in 1961, today’s election is a testament to our journey toward peace and reconciliation,” he said. “Liberia is now poised to contribute meaningfully to global peacebuilding and conflict resolution.”Boakai pledged that Liberia would be a principled and dependable voice on the UNSC, especially during a time of global instability marked by conflict, terrorism, climate insecurity, and inequality. “We will advocate for Africa, the developing world, and inclusive, lasting peace,” he said. “Drawing from our own experience of

"The World Bank has designated a consultant, with background in disaster risk management, to work along with the NDMA for 120 days (June-September), to strengthen its risk financing strategy that will help trigger the Bank’s commitment to respond to flood and other hazards." Meanwhile, He advise the public to adhere to all early warning messages and observe all required measures o help alleviate the impacts of flooding and other related hazards on their livelihoods. "In an event that a situation of flooding overwhelms any portion of the population, the public is advised to call the NDMA’s hotline - 2024, or any other emergency number like, 911, 4455, etc." he added.

Briefly, Health Minister Dr. Louise M. Kpoto thanked the Chinese hospital for the partnered hospital cooperation project with Liberia. “This is a pivotal milestone, to an optimal environment for quality healthcare, especially for cardiac patients, and we thank the Heilongjiang hospital for the support. Cardiology is a medical specialty focused on diagnosing, preventing, and treating diseases and disorders of the heart and blood vessels. The new cardiac unit will reduce transferred of patients suffering from hypertension, and other diseases.

reconciliation and nation-building, we will promote conflict prevention, support peacekeeping reform, and champion the protection of civilians, especially women and children.”He added that Liberia would continue to expand its role as a troop-contributing country to UN peacekeeping missions. Boakai offered solidarity to the global South and reaffirmed Liberia’s commitment to bridge-building diplomacy, rooted in values of humility, honesty, and freedom. He paid tribute to past Liberian leaders, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, Edwin Barclay, William V.S. Tubman, William R. Tolbert, and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, as well as countless unsung heroes, who kept the nation's spirit alive through adversity."This moment is the fruit of their labor and prayers,” he said. “To all Liberians at home and abroad, this victory is yours. Let us rally together to make this tenure a success. When Liberia sits at the Council, it will carry your hopes, resilience, and dreams.” President Boakai thanked Foreign Minister, Sara Beysolow Nyanti; Liberia’s Permanent Mission to the UN, Ambassador Lewis Browne; and the campaign teams in New York, Monrovia, and Addis Ababa, saying "You have worked hard to open a new chapter in our nation’s global engagement.” Editing by Jonathan Browne

AFELL indicts leadership in office

-Vows to ramp up advocacy for women, children


Liberian female lawyers have promised to intensify advocacy for gender equality and children’s rights here.

By Lewis S. Teh

On children’s rights

Monrovia, Liberia; June 4, She decried widespread neglect and abuse, noting that schools, churches, and homes that are supposedly safe havens have become sites of trauma for many minors. Williams has pledged to intensify the organization’s advocacy for gender equality and children’s rights, while honoring the legacy of past leaders, who shaped the Association’s impactful work. AFELL swore its partly re-elected leadership in office during a colorful ceremony held at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia. “AFELL will raise its advocacy and legal representation on the welfare and rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents. Through our advocacy and the assistance of our partners, the Juvenile Court was established in Monsterrado County. Though a significant achievement, juvenile delinquents are sadly being placed in surrounding jail cells with hardened adult criminals and complain of horrible detention conditions,” she said. Cllr. Williams reaffirmed AFELL’s

She pledged that AFELL will expand civic education on the 2011 Children’s Law and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, while pressuring the Justice Ministry to prosecute child abusers. She acknowledged the establishment of Montserrado County’s Juvenile Court as a milestone, but criticized ongoing detention of minors alongside adults in squalid conditions. She demanded rehabilitation-focused facilities aligned with international standards, stressing that young offenders need support, not punishment. Emphasizing the rule of law Williams warned against politicizing legal disputes, stating, "Whether you are the President of Liberia or the President of AFELL, the law binds us all." She praised the Supreme Court’s



commitment to its five-year strategic plan, promising aggressive action to eradicate gender-based violence, advance equitable participation, and uphold the rule of law. “We will not relent until every woman and child in Liberia enjoys the full protection of justice,” she vowed.Despite progress, gender disparities persist: the Liberia ranks 42nd out of 146 countries on the 2024 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) with a score of 0.754, reflecting a slight decline from previous years. Williams condemned rampant sexual and gender-based violence, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), which she called a violent practice unjustified by tradition. “Cutting and slicing the clitoris of a woman or girl has no meaningful value—it is harmful, unhealthy, and a form of violence,” she asserted. She revealed AFELL’s plans to collaborate with the Ministry of Gender and the Women’s Legislative Caucus to push for an FGM ban without exemptions.

three female justices and urged President Boakai to appoint another woman upon Chief Justice Yuoh’s retirement, declaring, “What a man can do, a woman can do better,” to a thunderous applause. Williams thanked AFELL’s partners, including the Clooney Foundation for Justice, DIGNITY, OHCHR, and UN Women—for enabling the organization to assist over 5,000 women and children (2022-2024). She also commended Chief Justice Yuoh and Associate Justice Wolokollie for expediting justice in gender-based violence cases, particularly in Persistent-Non-Support trials. A moment of silence honored the late Cllr. Zeor Bernard, AFELL’s former president, whose fearless advocacy extended from remote value—to courtrooms securing justice for marginalized women and children. At the induction, Chief Sie-A-Nyene Yuoh urged AFELL members to renew their commitment to defending women and children’s rights.

Looking beyond the spectrum

After the euphoria of winning a non-permanent seat on UN Security Council has settled, Liberia faces a daunting task of navigating thru and uniting an unstable world.

Monrovia, Liberia; June 4, 2025 - Liberia's election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council provides the West African



nation a significant platform to influence global peace and security. Non-permanent members of the Council are eligible to chair subsidiary bodies and participate in informal meetings, further solidifying their influence on the Council's work. President Joseph Boakai notes that election to the UNSC seat is not just a national triumph, but a continental one, a symbol of African perseverance and a tribute to Liberia's enduring commitment to peace, self-governance, and international cooperation. Addressing Liberians immediately following the country's election on Tuesday, 3rd June President Boakai said this milestone is the start of a "new chapter in our global engagement," emphasizing that it brings opportunities for growth, collaboration, and progress.

humility for our 178-year-old Republic; Africa's first independent nation, whose long and storied journey continues to inspire," President Boakai added. Liberia first got elected to the non-permanent seat in 1961 under the late 18th President, William V.S. Tubman, and championed the independence struggle of many African nations. However, in the 21st Century, with nearly all of Africa liberated from colonialism, enjoying self-governance, the continent faces a new challenge of unfair trade, economic dominance, corruption and misrule characterized by inequalities and social upheavals. Insensitive and corrupt regimes in many African countries, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel has led to gradual return of

military juntas in Guinea, Burkina Faso, and Niger, with uneasy calm in Ivory Coast, just to name a few. "Unlike our first partial term in 1961, today's election is a testament to our journey toward peace and reconciliation," President Boakai notes, and adds "Liberia is now poised to contribute meaningfully to global peacebuilding and conflict resolution." A post-war country itself, Liberia's election presents an enormous challenge on the international scene in a fast-moving world, where economic cooperation and bilateral partnerships are being re-ordered, and sometimes severed. U.S. President Donald Trump has so far, given Africa less attention, and kept the Continent at a distance, cutting badly needed aid and taking America out of Climate Change alliance, World Health Organization and other global organizations, where cooperation and collaboration are forged for common good. Liberia's ascendancy places on its shoulders huge responsibilities in navigating an uncertain global path, where voices of African nations are becoming faint to draw attention of industrial nations to establish renewed partnerships. The country could achieve a lot by forging a common front thru sub-regional and regional bloc such as Mano River Union, ECOWAS and the Africa Union and other influential bodies on the continent in achieving her goals on the Council. Story by Jonathan Browne

Liberia to develop shipping hub

A high-level meeting to delegation, said they were in discuss a transformative the country to explore avenues partnership aimed at in the Maritime sector for establishing a state-of-the-art development purposes. multi-user hub for shipbuilding, Chairman Han said his maintenance, and a fully Makegroup intends to focus on integrated shipyard in the Ports establishing partnership with of Monrovia and Buchanan has the NPA that will address port been held between the development and the provision Management of the National Port of job and training Authority (NPA) and the Make opportunities for thousands of Group company in Korea. Liberians. Speaking at the opening of the He said the envisioned meeting, NPA Managing Director development for Liberia Sekou A. M. Dukuly welcomed the represents a major milestone delegation to the NPA and for Liberia's maritime and expressed his profound gratitude industrial sectors. According to to them for choosing the NPA, the him, establishing a state-of-the-gateway to the Liberia economy art multi-user hub in Liberia to invest. Hon. Dukuly said, his which is a value chain is administration is dedicated to expected to contribute transparency, accountability, significantly to the national and operational excellence, economic growth—projected to emphasizing, port development boost the country's GDP by an reforms will strengthen Liberia's estimated 5%. In addition, it is Maritime Sector and contribute poised to create over 3,000 to the government's broader direct jobs, signaling a economic agenda. substantial step toward



"This investment, Mr. Dukuly employment generation and underscored aligns perfectly skills development for with His Excellency President Liberians. This transformative Joseph Nyuma Boakai's vision for initiative when finalized is building a resilient, inclusive expected to commence within economy that creates the next three months and will sustainable jobs and empowers introduce a robust ship cycling our citizens," remarked MD program that will enhance the Dukuly. "We welcome capacity and competitiveness of MakeGroup Korea and assure Liberia's marine industry. them of our unwavering support The NPA remains committed to throughout this important advancing infrastructure, endeavor." driving innovation, and opening For his part, the Chairman of new avenues of international MakeGroup company in Korea Mr. collaboration to strengthen James Juhee Han, who was Liberia's economic future. accompanied by a 10 men

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A stronger future begins: Liberia rises with ArcelorMittal

Beyond economic contributions, AML is deeply committed to community livelihoods. Since the development and capacity building. The company has invested in massive educational programs, Liberia, becoming the rehabilitated schools, and country's largest foreign provided tuition-free, investor and private-sector internationally certified employer. The company's training through its Young Professionals Program. Liberia's development is In a landmark move, AML evident in its consistent tax recently inducted 236 young contributions, infrastructure Liberians into full-time investments, and community employment at the engagement efforts. As Liberia celebrates this Process Operator Learners historic inauguration, the and 128 graduates of the nation acknowledges AML not ArcelorMittal Liberia Training just as a mining company but Academy. This initiative as a steadfast partner in its underscores AML's dedication pursuit of economic growth,

to nurturing local talent and industrial advancement, and social progress. The inauguration of the concentrator heralds a new chapter in Liberia's narrative, a story of resilience, innovation, and collective ambition. It serves as a powerful reminder that through strategic partnerships and shared vision, Liberia can harness its rich resources to build a prosperous and inclusive future for all its citizens. As the sun rises over Yekepa this Thursday, it illuminates not just a state-of-the-art facility but the boundless potential of a nation ready to rise.

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