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Continental News

Ivory Coast: opposition candidates barred from electoral lists

Unless the decision is overturned, Ivorians will not be able to tick the box next to any of these names in October's presidential elections: Tijane Thiam, Laurent Gbagbo, Charles Blé Goudé and Guillaume Soro, all four candidates for opposition parties, have been barred from the electoral lists, which were published in their final version this week.

A party official from Tijane Thiam's Democratic Party confirmed the move by the Electoral Commission on Wednesday.

Tijane Thiam is the president of Ivory Coast's main opposition party and was already barred from the election in April following controversy over his French nationality, with the decision now becoming final.

The three other candidates' names - with Gbagbo being a former president and Soro a former prime minister, currently in exile - have not been on the list

for several years already due to criminal convictions.

The four politicians are not only barred from running for office, but also from voting in the highly anticipated elections.

Thiam has announced that he would fight the decision by filing a complaint with the UN rights committee.

According to a spokesperson from the Independent Electoral Committee, no revision of the lists is however planned before the elections set for the end of October.

Mauritanian economist elected African Development Bank president

Sidi Ould Tah who formerly served as Mauritania's finance minister was elected during a vote Thursday at the bank's annual meeting in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

He replaces Akinwumi Adesina, a Nigerian economist who will step down in September after completing the maximum two five-year terms in office.

"Tah brings over 35 years of experience in African and international finance. He served as president of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) for 10 years from 2015, where he led a full transformation that quadrupled the Bank's balance sheet, secured a AAA rating, and positioned it among the top-rated development banks focused on Africa," the bank said in a press statement Thursday.

In total, five candidates contested for the bank's top job. The others were Amadou Hott (Senegal), Samuel Maimbo (Zambia), Mahamat Abbas (Chad) and Bajabulile Tolli (South Africa).

The winning candidate is required to obtain at least 50.01% of the vote.

Tough time for African economies Tah's mandate will commence September 1, 2025, for a five-year term, after which he will be eligible to seek another.

His election comes at a time when African nations are battling aid freezes and cuts by Washington, and reduced infrastructure spending and lending by China.

Trade tariffs announced by Washington have also dampened investor confidence at a time when interest rates remain high, meaning higher debt servicing costs for African borrowers.

Just this week, the bank [downgraded](#) the continent's growth forecasts citing "seismic shifts in the trade policies of major economies."

But it was hopeful that African economies would stay resilient despite climate shocks, economic disruption, and a shifting geopolitical landscape'.

Tah is credited for establishing BADEA's \$1 billion callable capital program for African MDBs. During his campaign, he pledged to prioritize resource mobilization, reforming the financial architecture, harnessing Africa's demographic dividend, and investing in resilient infrastructure.

The AfDB is owned by 54 African states and non-regional nations including the U.S., Japan and Saudi Arabia.

The bank's biggest shareholder is Nigeria.



Tidjane Thiam, CEO of Credit Suisse, speaks at the Bloomberg Global Business Forum, Sept. 25, 2019, in New York. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)


Deadly floods sweep Nigeria

Torrents of predawn rain unleashed flooding that killed at least 150 people in a market town where northern Nigerian farmers sell their wares to traders from the south, officials said Friday as they predicted that the death toll would grow. The Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency did not immediately say how much rain fell after midnight Thursday in the town of Mokwa, which sits in the state of Niger more than 180 miles (300 kilometers) west of Abuja, capital of Africa's most populous nation. Communities in northern Nigeria have been experiencing prolonged dry spells worsened by climate change and excessive rainfall that leads to severe flooding during the brief wet season. In videos and photos on social media, floodwaters covered neighborhoods and homes were submerged, with their roofs barely visible above the brown currents. Waist-deep in water, residents tried to salvage what they could, or rescue others. Mokwa, nearly 380 kilometers (236 miles) west of Abuja, is a major meeting point where traders from the south buy beans, onions and other food from farmers in the north. A

community leader from the Mokwa local government Area, Alhaji Aliko Musa, says this type of flood is seasonal and its not ordinary. "The water is like spiritual water which used to come but it's seasonal...there's not much water in Mokwa that will bring that flood," he said. In September, torrential rains and a dam collapse in the northeastern city of Maiduguri caused severe flooding that left at least 30 people dead and displaced millions, worsening the humanitarian crisis caused by the Boko Haram, a self-proclaimed jihadist militant group based in northeastern Nigeria.




People search in flooded area following a downpour in Mokwa, Nigeria, Friday, May 30, 2025



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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.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /
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PUBLISHED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS INC.,
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Opposite the National Investment Commission
Monrovia - Liberia.
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PRESS





COMMENTARY

The Trump Doctrine

By Richard Haass

NEW YORK – US President Donald Trump's second administration is barely four months old, but already there are signs of an emerging foreign policy doctrine. And like so much else about his presidency, it represents a striking departure from the past.

Doctrines play an important role in American foreign policy. With the Monroe Doctrine, announced in 1823, the United States asserted that it would be the preeminent power in the Western Hemisphere and would prevent other countries from establishing competitive strategic positions in the region. At the outset of the Cold War, the Truman Doctrine pledged US support to countries fighting Communism and Soviet-backed subversion.

More recently, the Carter Doctrine signaled that the US would not stand by if an outside force sought to gain control of the oil-rich Persian Gulf region. The Reagan Doctrine promised assistance to anti-Communist, anti-Soviet forces and countries. George W. Bush's Freedom Doctrine, among other things, made clear that neither terrorists nor those who harbored them would be safe from attack.

What these and other doctrines have in common is that they signal to multiple audiences critical US interests and what the US is prepared to do to advance them. Doctrines are intended to reassure friends and allies, deter actual or would-be enemies, galvanize the bureaucracy tasked with national security matters, and educate the public.

Although no Trump Doctrine has been explicitly put forward, one has begun to emerge all the same. You could call it the “look the other way” doctrine, the “see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil” doctrine, or the “none of our business” doctrine.

Whatever the label, the doctrine signals that the US will no longer try to influence or react to how countries conduct themselves within their borders. The administration has refrained from criticizing Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for arresting his principal political opponent, Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for repeated attempts to weaken the country's judiciary, or Hungary's long-serving prime minister, Viktor Orbán, who has steadily undermined democratic institutions there.

While Trump has disparaged the foreign policy of Russian President Vladimir Putin and the economic policy of Chinese President Xi Jinping, he has not made an issue of either leader's repression of his own people. The Trump administration has also cut back or dismantled many of the instruments, including Voice of America, the Agency for International Development, and the National Endowment for Democracy, long used to promote civil society and democratic movements around the world.

The closest there was to a public articulation of the new doctrine came in Saudi Arabia on May 13. Trump spoke with admiration of what he described as that country's great transformation, adding it “has not come from Western interventionists ... giving you lectures on how to live and how to govern your own affairs ... In recent years, far too many American presidents have been afflicted with the notion that it's our job to

look into the souls of foreign leaders and use US policy to dispense justice for their sins.”

Trump's actions, above all his pursuit of business deals with authoritarian governments in the Gulf and far beyond, underscore these words' import. Unlike Reagan, Carter, Bush, Barack Obama, and Joe Biden, Trump has made it clear that the US has no interest in advocating for human rights and democracy, speaking out against authoritarian abuses, and pressing for the release of political dissidents.

To be sure, the look-the-other-way doctrine avoids the sort of overreach that characterized Bush's presidency, when zeal for spreading democracy led to the costly, ill-advised invasion of Iraq. It also makes it easier for the US to work constructively with governments carrying out policies at home that would normally pose an obstacle to commercial ties or cooperation on critical bilateral, regional, or global issues.

But the downsides of the new approach offset these considerations. The Trump Doctrine increases the odds that governments so inclined will double down on domestic repression and efforts to subvert democracy – a form of government often associated not just with greater personal freedom but also with free markets supported by the rule of law and less aggressive foreign policy. Promoting democracy thus benefits US investors and limits the risk that America becomes mired in costly or prolonged foreign conflicts.

The Trump Doctrine also distances the US from many of its traditional friends and allies, most of which, not coincidentally, happen to be democracies. Such estrangement works against American influence.

That said, the ability of the US to conduct a foreign policy that supports freedom abroad depends in no small part on its willingness to practice what it preaches. No country can talk the talk without walking the walk, and the Trump administration's violation of many of the norms and practices that sustain democracy would undermine its ability to advocate for it elsewhere, were it so inclined.

No doctrine is entirely consistent – during the Cold War, the US often supported anti-Communists who were anything but democrats – and Trump's doctrine is no exception. There is a self-serving, rightist bias. His administration has been critical of European governments and has made clear its preference for far-right forces, including the nationalist Karol Nawrocki, who won Poland's presidency. Despite reducing America's foreign entanglements, Trump has also waged a campaign against Greenland and Canada.

But these are exceptions. The thrust of the Trump Doctrine – not to allow anti-democratic behavior to get in the way of doing business – is clear.

For a long time, the US sought to change the world, annoying some and inspiring others. Those days are gone, in some ways for better, but mostly for worse. The US has changed. It is coming to resemble many of the countries and governments it once criticized. It is as tragic as it is ironic.

Richard Haass, President Emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations, is a senior counselor at Centerview Partners, Distinguished University Scholar at New York University, and the author of the weekly Substack newsletter Home & Away.

OP-ED

By Samuel Charap and Kingston Reif

Where Trump and Putin Could Make a Deal

WASHINGTON – US President Donald Trump's approach toward Russia has been dominated by his push to end the country's war against Ukraine. But the administration has an opportunity to make progress on another urgent national security imperative: nuclear arms control. In fact, after returning to office this year, Trump wasted little time in [calling](#) for negotiations with Russia and China to “denuclearize ... in a very big way.”

To be sure, reaching any new agreements, especially one that includes China, will take time. But as a first step, Russia and the United States could immediately return to implementing a currently moribund agreement that is already on the books: the 2010 Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, better known as New START. Though New START's February 2026 expiration is fast approaching, reinvigorating it and resuming a regular dialogue could lay the foundation for more far-reaching agreements, demonstrating to the world that the US and Russia can still cooperate to manage nuclear risks.

New START caps US and Russian strategic nuclear arsenals at 1,550 deployed warheads and 700 deployed long-range missiles and heavy bombers each. The treaty contains an elaborate data-sharing, monitoring, and on-site inspection regime to verify compliance. Like earlier US-Russian arms-control agreements, it has served as a powerful brake on unconstrained nuclear competition.

Both sides faithfully implemented New START for its ten-year duration, and in early 2021, both agreed to extend it for five years. Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, however, the treaty all but collapsed, as did bilateral dialogue intended to maintain strategic stability. In February 2023, Russian President Vladimir Putin [announced](#) that Russia would suspend its participation in New START, including its verification provisions, owing to US support for Ukraine. A few months later, the US responded with legal countermeasures that essentially mirrored Russia's move.

While then-President [Joe Biden](#)'s administration did attempt to engage the Kremlin on the issue of strategic stability, Putin rejected these overtures, [stating](#) that the US could not hope for strategic stability if it sought Russia's “strategic defeat” in Ukraine. But the situation has changed. In a little-noticed shift after Trump took office, Putin called for [bilateral engagement](#) on arms control without explicitly insisting on a full halt to US military aid to Ukraine as a precondition. Putin's shift and Trump's stated desire to “denuclearize” has created an opportunity for the US and Russia to prove that nuclear arms control is still viable.

Of course, if past is precedent, negotiating a new deal to replace New START could take many months, if not several years. Talks will need to address thorny issues that have bedeviled attempts to reach new arrangements over the past 15 years. These include so-called non-strategic or tactical nuclear weapons, China's growing nuclear arsenal, strategic missile defenses, and advanced conventional strike capabilities.

If New START expires with nothing to replace it, there would be no agreed upon limits on the world's two largest nuclear arsenals for the first time in decades. By contrast, restoring New START and resuming a strategic-stability dialogue would provide a needed foundation from which to pursue more far-reaching follow-on arrangements. As an additional near-term step, both sides could make a political commitment to adhere to the treaty's limits beyond its expiration date, while they negotiate new caps and attempt to bring China into the arms-control fold.

Even in the face of a growing Chinese arsenal that is not subject to treaty limits, keeping the New START limits in place makes sense. China is not projected to become a nuclear peer of either country in terms of deployed warheads for at least another decade, and the US would still have enough force flexibility to delay that outcome.

Moreover, an active US-Russia arms-control regime is probably a necessary condition for any future arms-control arrangements with China. It also could remove incentives for China to rush to parity with Russia and the US – an outcome that both Russia and the US want to avoid. A US-Russia commitment to remain at the New START force levels, combined with the pursuit of new caps, could reduce the need for the US to make costly investments to build up its forces at a time when its nuclear modernization effort is already facing major budget and schedule challenges.

With [over 85%](#) of the world's nuclear warheads between them, the US and Russia have a special obligation to reduce the existential threat posed by these weapons. Returning to New START compliance and resuming dialogue on strategic stability would be an immediate step in that direction.

Samuel Charap is Distinguished Chair in Russia and Eurasia Policy and a senior political scientist at RAND. He served in the Arms Control Bureau at the US State Department. Kingston Reif, a senior international/defense researcher at RAND, served as US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction and Arms Control.

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OPINION

By Carolyn Kissane

How China Won the Clean-Energy Race

NEW YORK – In the coming weeks, the US Congress could cement China's lead in the clean-energy race by passing the Republican Party's “[big, beautiful bill](#),” which, among other things, seeks to eliminate the Inflation Reduction Act's clean-energy tax incentives. This would prompt America's retreat from renewables such as solar, wind, and hydrogen, as well as electric vehicles (EVs) and the required charging infrastructure, fatally undermining its efforts to challenge China's dominance in green industries.

The numbers are staggering. Globally, China accounts for [65%](#) of manufacturing capacity for wind turbines and [more than 80%](#) for solar panels, in addition to dominating the production of energy-storage systems and EVs. China also largely controls the mining and refining of the minerals required for these green products, [processing](#) around 90% of rare-earth elements and 60-70% of cobalt and lithium.

Unlike oil and gas production, which is spread across many countries, China has become the world's undisputed leader in clean energy – not just one technology or market segment, but almost the entire portfolio. The Chinese industrial machine has thus played an indispensable role in the global energy transition. China's massive domestic deployment of renewables – including its [more than 800 gigawatts](#) of installed solar and its [world-leading onshore and offshore wind buildout](#) – has dramatically lowered the costs of green tech. And its export capacity has made these products more accessible and affordable, particularly in the Global South.

China pursued this agenda not in response to climate change, but because of its own energy insecurity. In 2009, the Chinese government, recognizing the vulnerability implied by its dependence on imported fossil fuels and foreign-controlled energy markets, [adopted](#) a long-term industrial strategy to become a global manufacturing superpower in [clean tech](#).

At the time, Germany and Japan led the world in solar innovation. But, through state subsidies, regulatory coordination, and strategic planning, China absorbed, replicated, and scaled up these existing technologies, while also innovating and developing new ones – especially for [batteries](#). Today, China's clean-tech sector is its most competitive, accounting for [10% of GDP](#).

China's dominance rests on a deeply integrated, highly coordinated manufacturing ecosystem. Many of the critical inputs for solar panels, batteries, and EVs are located within a three-to-four-hour radius, enabling rapid production, tight quality control, and unmatched cost efficiency. This geographic density results in cheaper products, but also the ability to outcompete on speed. The country's supply-chain optimization was no accident – it was a deliberate policy choice that required regional coordination and billions of renminbi in infrastructure investment.

Government support went far beyond subsidies. As part of its broader economic strategy, China poured capital into research and development at universities, tech parks, and manufacturing zones, scaling innovation and driving cost parity faster than any other country. The state didn't pick winners – it built them, and then doubled down when the model worked.

In 2021, Chinese President Xi Jinping [told](#) the United Nations General Assembly that China would “step up support for other developing countries in developing green and low-carbon energy.” So far, the country has fulfilled its commitment: last year, [nearly half](#) of Chinese solar, wind, and EV exports went to the Global South, where energy demand is [surging](#) and capital is scarce.

China's renewables push has been a boon for these growth-rich and energy-poor emerging economies. Rather than waiting on fragmented aid or high-cost Western solutions, many governments find China's turnkey clean-energy projects to be the only option – when the choice is between no grid and a Chinese grid, pragmatism often trumps geopolitics. No other exporter can match China's coordinated bundling, because few possess the industrial depth *and* the patient capital to underwrite entire systems.

As a result, almost all of Ghana's [solar installations](#) use Chinese inputs. In Indonesia and Kenya, Chinese firms are helping to [modernize grids and electrify rural regions](#). Across Africa, Chinese-built EVs – [costing less than \\$15,000](#) – are quickly becoming many people's first vehicles. And that trend looks set to continue. The price points and production scale of BYD, China's EV champion, are reshaping the global auto market and have made the country the world's [top car exporter](#). By 2030, Chinese automakers are [expected](#) to capture 39% of the market in Africa and the Middle East.

The US government's policy whiplash – one administration's zeal for clean energy followed by the next administration's disdain for it – has squandered America's opportunity to become the world's low-carbon leader, not to mention its long-held advantage in innovation. China is now firmly in the driver's seat, thanks to a multi-decade push to build its clean-tech industry, dominate supply chains, and export low-cost means of electrification to the world.

Carolyn Kissane is Associate Dean and Clinical Professor at the New York University School of Professional Studies Center for Global Affairs and Founding Director of NYU's Energy, Climate, and Sustainability Lab.

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May 30, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

JFK Medical Center Resumes Dialysis Services The John F. Kennedy Medical Center (JFK), Liberia’s national referral hospital, is pleased to announce to the public that dialysis services have officially resumed at the hospital’s Dialysis Center. This vital service had been temporarily paused due to technical and operational constraints.

The resumption of dialysis treatment marks a significant milestone in restoring lifesaving care for patients living with kidney failure and related conditions, JFK reaffirms its role as a critical provider of specialized health services in Liberia.

The Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Health remains firmly committed to ensuring access to quality and equitable healthcare services for all Liberians.

Patients in need of dialysis services are encouraged to visit JFK Medical Center or contact the Renal Unit for scheduling and medical assessment.

The JFK Medical Center management thank the public for their patience and continued trust, and reaffirms their goal to building a resilient, people-centered health system that meets the needs of every Liberian.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICE)
FOR THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO “DEVELOP INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GENDER INCLUSION IN TRADE” IN MRU (DIGIT).

COUNTRIES: Sierra Leone and Liberia
Sector: Gender Equality
Mode of Financing: Grant
Project ID: P-Z1-ID0-009
Grant No: 5900155016801
Issued Date: 29 May 2025

The Mano River Union Secretariat has received a grant from the African Development Bank (AfDB) to implement the project to Build Inclusive Business Ecosystems for Stabilization and Transformation (BI-BEST) in the Mano River Union (MRU) and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grant to payments under the contract for the recruitment of a consultant for the provision of Technical Assistance to “Develop Infrastructure for Gender Inclusion in Trade” in MRU (DIGIT)

The assignment for the provision of Technical Assistance to “Develop Infrastructure for Gender Inclusion in Trade” in MRU (DIGIT) will include the following:

- Conduct an assessment to establish key infrastructure challenges facing small and medium size enterprises (SMEs), mainly cross-border businesses involving women in Sierra Leone and Liberia. Taking into consideration technological advancement, the assessment to be conducted involving all actors, SMEs, and critical stakeholders should endeavour to document findings relative to infrastructural challenges hampering or preventing cross-border traders from accelerating trade in the two countries (Sierra Leone and Liberia) with recommendable actions to help improve trade involving mainly cross- border women in the two countries. The assessment should endeavor to review the ongoing infrastructure arrangement with the ongoing effort of ECOWAS that is aimed at establishing/constructing a Joint Border Post at the Bo-Waterside.
- Produce an Infrastructure Improvement Plan (IIP) that will serve as a roadmap in empowering and transforming trade involving cross-border women in the three selected value chains at the two separate project locations (Jendema/Bo Waterside and Koindu/Foya).

The assignment will be undertaken in one (1) Month (not to exceed 30 working days), and the duration of the contract is six (6) months, from the date of signature of contract.

The Mano River Union Secretariat is therefore inviting eligible individual consultants to submit their Interest with their CVs for providing these services. Interested Consultants shall provide information on their qualifications and experience (cover letter, academic credentials, supporting documents referencing similar services and showing demonstrated experience in similar assignments, etc.) to undertake this Assignment.

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

Interested Individual Consultants may obtain further information and Terms of Reference (ToR) from the Procurement Specialist email address: kensah@mru.int during the Office’s working hours between 09:00 to 17:00 hours GMT.

Proposals (technical and financial) must be delivered to the address below or by email procurement@mru.int not later than June 30th, 2025 at 4:30pm Sierra Leone time and mention “Expression of Interest to Develop the Infrastructure for Gender Inclusion in Trade in MRU”

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

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UK endorses Morocco's autonomy plans for the Sahara

The United Kingdom has endorsed Morocco's autonomy plan for the Sahara as a credible path to Peace and Regional Stability.

Rabat, June 5, 2025: On June 1, 2025, in Rabat, the United Kingdom formally recognized Morocco's Autonomy Proposal for the Sahara—originally submitted in 2007—as the most credible, viable, and pragmatic basis for a lasting resolution to the long-standing regional dispute.

This landmark position was detailed in a Joint Communiqué signed by the UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, David Lammy, and Morocco's Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Nasser Bourita.

The UK emphasized its intention to act bilaterally, economically, regionally, and internationally in alignment with this stance, signalling a deeper strategic partnership with Morocco and a commitment to regional peace and integration.

The statement highlights that settling the Sahara issue is key to strengthening not only North Africa's stability but also fostering economic cooperation and integration across the region and beyond.

The Communiqué acknowledges the strong leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI and notes the positive momentum surrounding the Sahara issue under his vision.

It also states the UK's readiness to support development projects in the

region through the UK Export Finance's £5 billion commitment, further positioning Morocco as a vital gateway for Africa's socio-economic advancement.

Both countries reaffirmed their support for the UN-led process and the efforts of the Secretary General's Personal Envoy, Mr. Staffan de Mistura.

The UK, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, expressed its readiness to actively engage with the parties involved to find a durable solution. This position places the United Kingdom alongside other major global powers—including the United States, France, and Spain—who have voiced support for Morocco's autonomy plan.

The serious, credible, and pragmatic initiative outlined in the Moroccan Autonomy Plan now enjoys the strong and open support of 116 countries, including two permanent members of the UN Security Council—with the United Kingdom joining this position as of June 1st, 2025—as well as three non-permanent members who served on the Council in 2024 and six current non-permanent members.

This growing international consensus confirms the legitimacy of Morocco's proposal and reflects global momentum toward a peaceful, sustainable solution under Moroccan sovereignty.



Montgomery to appear when invited by LACC on probe at LFA

Former Liberia Football Association (LFA) secretary-general Isaac T. Z. Montgomery says he will appear when invited by the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) in connection to an investigation of alleged corruption at the LFA.

The probe is centered on the government's contributions to the LFA operations, including the national teams, and its controversial headquarters project. The LACC announced a full-scale investigation at the LFA on 19 May following a petition by the Vanguard Student Unification Party (SUP) at the University of Liberia on 4 April and a letter on 19 May to inquire about “the current status of the petition and subsequent investigation/review and steps taken by the LACC since reviewing the petition”.

SUP wants the LACC to probe grants and subsidies from FIFA and CAF, lack of full disclosure on budgetary support from the government, sponsorship and contract agreements and gate intakes.

Montgomery, speaking on a wide range of footballing issues on 3 June, told this writer that it is the students' rights to demand transparency and accountability as they are part of the football

pyramid but frowned at a recent violent protest at the LFA.

He said he will appear at the LACC when he receives an invitation in connection to the probe.

“I will surely go to their call but before you can invite me it has to be done properly. You have to write me. I know the procedure and I will come and say the same things I said before.”

“The US\$319,000, if that's what they are inviting me for, the documents are there. It passed through the bank. I was sitting there, and I know more about it when it comes to the

there. We have gone through audits from the time I sat to the FA from [December] 2018 to 2022 on December 6 when I parted.

“So, the numbers are there. The reports are there. So no one can hide the numbers. They are there in black and white,” Montgomery added.

LFA President Mustapha Raji, who appeared at the LACC in connection to the probe on 29 May, sued Montgomery for defamation of character in December 2023 for comments made in connection to the headquarters but is yet to perfect his case.

SUP also submitted persons of interest to the LACC on May 30, including former LFA Vice President Wilmot Smith and CESAF-Liberia chief executive officer Kpedee Woiwor.

The LACC was established in August 2008 and reestablished in July 2022 “to investigate all acts of corruption discovered or reported to have occurred in the public, private and civil society sectors of Liberia with the aim of identifying the person(s) and extent of the loss of or damage to any public and or private property as a result of such act of corruption”.

“The financial statements are



MCC Boss seeks partners' help to transform Waste to electricity.

Overwhelming garbage disposal in the city has compelled Monrovia City Mayor to seek partners help in waste management here.

By: Edwin N Khakie

Monrovia City Mayor, John Charuk S. Siafa, says the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) is seeking both local and international partners help to strengthen Liberia's waste management system.

The initiative aims to empower Community Based Enterprises (CBEs) and Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs) to recycle waste and transform it into electricity.

At a press briefing on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, Mayor Siafa stressed the urgent need for investment in sustainable waste solutions, noting that it requires significant funding.

“We are looking for partners to invest in the sector so it can be used either for electricity generation or for recycling purposes,” Mayor Siafa said.

According to him, the MCC recently placed advertisements in local newspapers inviting proposals from companies interested in waste management initiatives, and that several proposals have already been received and are currently under review.

“We are now evaluating the proposals to identify the most suitable candidates, who will be announced very soon,” he noted.

Despite the ongoing process, Mayor Siafa reiterated that the MCC continues to seek more investors, to provide substantial support that will truly transform waste into a resource in Liberia.

“Whatever we do, Liberians involved in waste management including CBEs and SMBs will be at the forefront. We hope they will also be willing to take full part in this initiative,” he added.

He further revealed that a Liberian company has made it to the shortlist of the tendering process, and the MCC is hopeful about working with them to

develop long term, local solutions for the countries waste crisis.

“We know it will take time, but we believe we will get there,” he stated.

On the national level, Mayor Siafa also said the MCC has allocated one million dollars in its budget with the national government for city cleaning.

He disclosed that this allocation aims to decentralize waste collection across Monrovia and its surroundings.

“We have already engaged the Ministry of Finance, and, for the first time, we've developed a strategy to use this budget to acquire equipment for all townships and districts commissioner so they can collaborate directly with MCC in collecting the waste,” he said. According to him, MCC will be working closely with the township and district commissioners to employ residents in their areas.

These workers will use tricycles already distributed by the MCC to collect waste from their respective communities, while the larger trucks will then transport the waste to the city's main dumpsite.

“Once the government releases the necessary funds, we will be able to give even greater support,” he said.

Mayor Siafa also mentioned plans to introduce door to door waste collection services, noting that investor support is essential for expanding and maintaining such a program.

Meanwhile, the MCC has been engaging bilateral partners to bolster its efforts. According to the mayor Siafa, countries like China amongst other partners, have already pledged donations that include fire trucks, scholarships, and other equipment which are expected to arrive in the country soon. -

Edited by Othello B. Garblah.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Visually impaired counsellor appeals for support

By: Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, Liberia, June 5, 2025: A visually impaired drugs advocate and counsellor, Jill Solo, is appealing to philanthropists, humanitarian organizations, and well wishers for assistance in acquiring computer literacy training to strengthen his work with at-risk youth in Liberia. Mr. Solo, who currently volunteers as a counsellor at the Journey Against Violence Rehabilitation Center in the Survivor Community, was one of 12 staff members nominated by the centre in 2024 for vetting into the University Training Class (UTC) program, where he emerged as the only successful candidate among them and was subsequently enrolled in the training.

Solo proudly shared that he became the first and only visually impaired

person in West Africa to complete the UTC program successfully. The initiative, organized by the Ministry of Health and sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), Carter Center, the United Nations Secretary General's Office, and other partners, trains participants from rehabilitation centers across the country. "Out of 182 Liberians trained by 25 master trainers, I was the only one with a visual impairment, and I came out successfully," Solo said. "It was a privilege and a challenge that I embraced." Following his graduation, Solo was advised by his UTC facilitators to pursue further training in computer literacy to fully apply his counselling skills, and now he is seeking to enrol at the African Methodist Episcopal School on Camp Johnson Road in Monrovia.

"Even though I had computer

knowledge before I lost my sight, the facilitators recommended that I update my skills to match my new career path," he explained.

Solo recounted how he lost his vision during a soccer game when he passed his teammate to score an opponent took sand into his two hand and threw it directly into his eyes.

But despite undergoing two surgeries, one in Liberia and another in Ghana, his vision could not be restored, and he had now decided to leave it to God and focus on serving others.

In his current role at the rehabilitation centre, Solo conducts risk assessments on individuals recovering from substance abuse or violent behaviour, using specialized instruments.

he helps determine whether a person is classified as low, moderate, or high risk. And Based on the assessment, he then recommends detoxification and treatment programs.

Solo, a husband and father of nine children, remains dedicated to his mission, but says with out this training it will be difficult fully make a significant impart in his news career as consoler.

He is now calling on the public and development partners to support his journey toward becoming computer literate.

"With this skill, I can better document my assessments, communicate more effectively, and continue to be a voice of hope for those in need," he said.



UL Alumni Association lights up Fendall Campus

By Lewis S. Teh

Capitol Hill, Liberia, June 5, 2025 - The University of Liberia Alumni Association (ULIBAAA) has installed and turned over to the UL Administration 85 solar-powered lights at a total cost of \$24,085.00. The solar-powered lights are installed along the walkway from the University's Pre-clinical Dormitory on the Fendall campus in Louisiana, Montserrado County. The turning-over ceremony was held at the University of Liberia Fendall campus. Dr. Rudolph M. Bropleh, ULIBAAA representative, proxied for Dr. Fatima Greaves-Kwekwe, National President of the ULIBAAA, and presented the "Light Up Fendall Project" on behalf of the ULIBAAA. According to Dr. Greaves-Kwekwe's statement, Phase One of the project, named Calvin T. Duwey Light Up Project, consists of installation of 85 solar-powered lights.

"We are especially grateful to Mr. Albert Forh and Power Solutions, Inc., who contributed \$6,300.00 toward this effort. Their generosity and partnership have been instrumental in bringing this vision to life," Dr. Greaves-Kwekwe noted. The ULIBAAA president indicated that installation of these lights directly responds to long-standing concerns about poor lighting and campus security.

"By illuminating key walkways, the

initiative will significantly reduce fear and create a safer, more secure environment for our students and the entire university community," Dr. Greaves-Kwekwe added. Additionally, Dr. Greaves-Kwekwe noted that the turnover ceremony seeks to show ULIBAAA members that their contributions have been responsibly and effectively used and to reaffirm ULIBAAA's dedication to supporting the University's vision.

The President of the University of Liberia, Prof. Dr. Layli Maparyan, said the donation of solar light is far more than a contribution of



equipment. The UL President described the donation as a symbol of the enduring bond between the UL Alumni and their alma mater.

"It reflects a spirit of giving back, of lifting up, of lighting the path, quite literally, for the next generation of leaders and learners at the

University of Liberia, especially our future medical practitioners," Dr. Maparyan stated.

To make these lights a reality, Dr. Maparyan explained that members of the ULIBAAA Board visited the pre-clinical campus to survey the scene.

Following the visit, she noted that they went back home to organize and to reaffirm ULIBAAA's this donation of solar lights that is worth over 24,000 United States dollars.

"That is the power of alumni ... As we all know, reliable lighting is essential to ensure a safe, secure, and enabling learning environment. These solar lights improve visibility and safety across this campus, especially in the evening, allowing students to study, walk, and interact in a more secure and conducive atmosphere," she continued.

She assured ULIBAAA that this donation has already been put to immediate and impactful use.

UL Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Agnes Reeves-Taylor, said what ULIBAAA did was that it brought light in the darkness of that part of the campus, urging the rest of the Alumni to use this example as a momentum to propel all who have graduated and can claim their success today from the foundation that they built in the walls of the university. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Lonestar Cell MTN and MoMo host MoMo Cook-Off

Monrovia, Liberia; June 5, 2025 – Liberia's leading mobile GSM company Lonestar Cell MTN, in partnership with MoMo, recently wrapped up its vibrant Mother's Day celebration series with the maiden edition of the MoMo Cook-Off—a culinary competition that brought together female cooks and restaurateurs from across Liberia to showcase their skills through traditional dishes rich in flavor and culture. The mobile telecommunication giant says on May 31, 2025, five outstanding women competed in the spirited cook-off, turning up the heat with mouthwatering Liberian meals prepared live in front of an excited crowd. All participants walked away with prizes in recognition of their creativity, passion, and presentation.

The Cook-Off, according to the company, was the final installment in a series of activities held throughout May to honor and celebrate mothers. The celebration kicked off with an internal gift-giving ceremony for female staff, acknowledging their hard work and contributions to the business.

This was followed by a joyful Mother and Child Fun Day, which provided an opportunity for families to bond through games, entertainment, and shared experiences.

The MoMo Cook-Off also served

as a platform to promote digital financial inclusion, with a generous 30% discount on all purchases made via the MoMo app during the event.

This initiative reinforced the benefits of cashless transactions and encouraged broader adoption of digital payments across Liberia.

Sensitivity MTN Group- Internal in alignment with its commitment to gender equality and economic empowerment, Lonestar Cell MTN intentionally spotlighted only women-owned businesses at the event.

This deliberate decision underscores the company's unwavering support for female entrepreneurship, SME growth, and inclusion. The day's excitement was further amplified by live musical performances from some of Liberia's finest artists, including multiple award-winning rapper MC Caro, adding a festive and artistic flair to the occasion.

The MoMo Cook-Off was more than a competition—it was the culmination of a heartfelt tribute to mothers across Liberia. By blending culture, technology, entrepreneurship, and celebration, Lonestar Cell MTN continues to connect Liberians to what matters most. *Editing by*

Jonathan Browne



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Au-delà du symbole : Les défis de la mission du Liberia au Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU

L'élection du Liberia comme membre non permanent du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies marque une étape majeure dans l'histoire diplomatique de ce pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest. Alors que l'euphorie de cette victoire commence à retomber, la véritable mission débute : naviguer dans un

Liberia un rôle stratégique dans la promotion de la paix et de la sécurité internationales. Les membres non permanents peuvent présider certains organes subsidiaires du Conseil et prendre part aux réunions informelles, élargissant ainsi leur influence dans les prises de décision. Le président Joseph Boakai a salué cette élection comme un succès

coopération internationale. « C'est le début d'un nouveau chapitre dans notre engagement mondial », a déclaré le président Boakai dans une allocution à la nation, mardi 3 juin, quelques heures après l'annonce officielle. « Ce moment est une opportunité de croissance, de collaboration et de progrès. J'invite tous les Libériens à s'approprier cette victoire et à œuvrer ensemble pour bâtir un avenir meilleur pour notre pays et pour le monde. »

Fondée il y a 178 ans, la République du Liberia fut la première nation indépendante d'Afrique. Ce nouveau mandat au sein de l'organe décisionnel le plus puissant de l'ONU intervient plus de soixante ans après son premier mandat en 1961, alors dirigé par le président William V.S. Tubman, fervent défenseur de la décolonisation africaine. Mais les défis d'aujourd'hui diffèrent profondément de ceux d'hier. Alors que l'Afrique a massivement accédé à l'indépendance au XXe siècle,



monde instable et profondément divisé, et y faire entendre une voix africaine forte et unifiée. Ce siège, obtenu pour une durée de deux ans, confère au

national et continental. Il y voit un symbole de la résilience africaine, mais surtout une reconnaissance de l'engagement constant du Liberia en faveur de la paix, de la souveraineté des peuples et de la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Le Liberia s'engage dans le développement d'un pôle maritime stratégique

Le Liberia se positionne pour devenir un acteur majeur de l'industrie maritime ouest-africaine, à la suite d'un accord stratégique entre la *National Port Authority* (NPA) et la société sud-coréenne *MakeGroup Korea*. Cette collaboration vise la création d'un pôle maritime ultramoderne à usage multiple, dédié à la construction navale, à la maintenance, et à l'exploitation d'un chantier naval entièrement intégré dans les ports de Monrovia et Buchanan.

Ouvrant les travaux de cette rencontre de haut niveau, le directeur général de la NPA, M. Sekou A. M. Dukuly, a souhaité la bienvenue à la délégation coréenne et exprimé sa profonde reconnaissance pour leur intérêt à investir dans les infrastructures portuaires du Liberia, qu'il a qualifiées de « porte d'entrée de l'économie nationale ».

« Notre administration est résolument engagée en faveur de la transparence, de la redevabilité et de l'excellence opérationnelle », a déclaré M. Dukuly. Il a souligné que cette réforme portuaire renforcera le secteur maritime libérien et

contribuera pleinement au programme économique global du gouvernement. Il a ajouté : « Cet investissement s'aligne parfaitement sur la vision de Son Excellence le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, qui prône une économie résiliente, inclusive, génératrice d'emplois durables et fondée sur l'autonomisation des citoyens. Nous réaffirmons notre soutien total à MakeGroup Korea tout au long de cette entreprise ambitieuse. »

De son côté, M. James Juhee Han, président de MakeGroup Korea, à la tête d'une délégation de dix membres, a fait savoir que leur visite s'inscrit dans une démarche exploratoire visant à établir un

partenariat structurant dans le secteur maritime libérien. M. Han a déclaré que MakeGroup entend collaborer avec la NPA sur le développement des infrastructures portuaires, tout en offrant des opportunités d'emplois et de formation à des milliers de Libériens. Le projet prévoit la création d'un hub maritime moderne fonctionnant comme une chaîne de valeur intégrée, qui devrait contribuer de manière significative à la croissance économique nationale.

Selon les projections présentées, cette initiative pourrait augmenter le produit

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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

Starts from page 8 Au-delà du symbole : Les défis de la mission

le continent doit aujourd'hui affronter des problématiques telles que le déséquilibre commercial, la domination économique, la corruption chronique et des crises de gouvernance, entraînant de fortes inégalités et des tensions sociales.

Dans certaines régions, notamment en Afrique subsaharienne et dans le Sahel, la résurgence de régimes militaires — en Guinée, au Burkina Faso, au Niger — et les tensions persistantes en Côte d'Ivoire illustrent les fragilités démocratiques persistantes.

« Contrairement à notre premier mandat partiel de 1961, cette élection est le reflet de notre parcours de paix et de réconciliation », a affirmé le président Boakai. « Le Liberia est désormais prêt à contribuer de manière significative aux efforts de consolidation de la paix et de résolution des conflits à l'échelle mondiale. »

Mais cette mission s'annonce exigeante. Le Liberia, lui-même pays post-conflit, entre au Conseil dans un contexte mondial complexe, marqué par des bouleversements géopolitiques,

des tensions économiques et la reconfiguration rapide des alliances internationales.

Alors que les grandes puissances semblent redéfinir leurs priorités, la voix de l'Afrique peine souvent à se faire entendre. Durant son mandat, l'ancien président américain Donald Trump avait pris ses distances avec le continent, réduisant l'aide au développement et se retirant d'instances multilatérales clés comme l'Organisation mondiale de la santé ou l'Accord de Paris sur le climat.

Dans ce contexte, le Liberia devra faire preuve de diplomatie stratégique. Son efficacité au sein du Conseil dépendra largement de sa capacité à tisser des alliances solides au sein de regroupements régionaux tels que l'Union du fleuve Mano, la CEDEAO, l'Union africaine et d'autres organes continentaux influents.

Le défi est immense, mais l'opportunité est historique. Pour le Liberia, c'est l'occasion d'affirmer son leadership et de contribuer activement à un ordre mondial plus juste, plus équitable et véritablement inclusif.

Starts from page 8 Le Liberia s'engage dans le développement

intérieur brut (PIB) du Liberia d'environ 5 % et générer plus de 3 000 emplois directs, marquant ainsi une avancée majeure pour l'emploi et le renforcement des compétences locales.

Une fois finalisé, ce projet de grande envergure devrait démarrer dans les trois mois à venir. Il intégrera un programme robuste de renouvellement de flotte (*ship cycling*), visant à

accroître la capacité et la compétitivité de l'industrie maritime libérienne sur le plan régional et international.

La NPA a réaffirmé son engagement à faire progresser les infrastructures portuaires, à encourager l'innovation, et à élargir les partenariats internationaux pour consolider l'avenir économique du Liberia.

Le Liberia s'élève aux côtés d'ArcelorMittal: un avenir plus fort commence à Yekepa

Ce jeudi marque une étape décisive pour le Liberia avec l'inauguration officielle par *ArcelorMittal Liberia* (AML) de son concentrateur de minerai de fer ultramoderne à Yekepa, dans le comté de Nimba. Cet événement historique symbolise une avancée majeure non seulement pour l'entreprise, mais aussi pour le pays tout entier, en route vers l'industrialisation et la prospérité économique.

Le concentrateur, désormais opérationnel, permet au Liberia de produire pour la première fois un concentré de minerai de fer de haute qualité sur son propre sol. Cette évolution confère au pays un nouveau statut dans l'industrie minière mondiale et met en lumière son potentiel en tant que centre stratégique de transformation minérale à valeur ajoutée.

« Ce n'est pas simplement un emploi. C'est le début d'un véritable changement — pour vos vies, pour cette entreprise, et pour la nation entière », a déclaré M. Kleber Silva, vice-président exécutif et directeur général des activités minières

d'ArcelorMittal au niveau mondial, lors de l'intégration de 236 jeunes Libériens appelés à diriger les opérations du nouveau site. Le concentrateur constitue une composante phare de la Phase II du projet d'expansion d'AML, représentant un investissement total de plus de 3 milliards de dollars américains. Cette phase vise à quadrupler la capacité de production, passant de 5 millions à 20 millions de tonnes de minerai de fer par an. Elle devrait générer plus de 5 000 emplois pendant la phase de construction, ainsi que 1 200 postes permanents une fois le projet achevé, apportant une réponse concrète à l'un des taux de chômage les plus élevés du monde. Sur le plan fiscal, les recettes de l'État provenant d'AML devraient passer de 35 à 125 millions de dollars par an, offrant ainsi des ressources cruciales pour les programmes nationaux de développement.

L'un des piliers de cette expansion est la modernisation de la voie ferrée lourde de 243 kilomètres reliant Yekepa au port de Buchanan. Grâce à un investissement de 800 millions de

dollars, cette infrastructure est en cours de réhabilitation selon les standards américains, améliorant ainsi l'efficacité logistique et accompagnant l'augmentation des volumes de production.

Au-delà de son impact économique, cette modernisation favorise également l'intégration régionale et améliore la mobilité pour les communautés situées le long du corridor ferroviaire, stimulant ainsi le commerce local et les échanges intercommunautaires.

ArcelorMittal Liberia se distingue également par son engagement constant en faveur du développement communautaire et du renforcement des capacités. L'entreprise a investi massivement dans l'éducation, rénové des établissements scolaires et mis en place un programme de formation professionnelle certifié à l'international, entièrement gratuit, destiné aux jeunes diplômés libériens.

Un tournant marquant de cet engagement est l'intégration récente de 236 jeunes Libériens en emploi à temps plein au concentrateur, dont 108 opérateurs en formation et 128 diplômés de l'Académie de formation d'ArcelorMittal Liberia. Cette initiative reflète l'ambition de l'entreprise de former les talents locaux et de promouvoir des moyens de subsistance durables.

Depuis le lancement de ses activités en 2005, ArcelorMittal a investi plus de 2,5 milliards de dollars au Liberia, devenant ainsi le premier investisseur étranger et le principal employeur du secteur privé. Par ses contributions fiscales, ses investissements dans les infrastructures et son engagement auprès des communautés, AML s'affirme comme un acteur clé du développement national.

Le Liberia s'associe à la Chine pour inaugurer une unité de cardiologie au Centre médical JFK

Une nouvelle Unité de soins intensifs en cardiologie a été officiellement inaugurée ce mardi au Centre médical John F. Kennedy (JFK), à Sinkor, marquant une avancée majeure dans la prise en charge des maladies cardiovasculaires au Liberia. Ce projet est le fruit d'un partenariat entre l'équipe de direction du JFK et l'Hôpital provincial de Heilongjiang, en Chine.

Destinée à améliorer la précision du diagnostic et le traitement des pathologies cardiaques, cette unité renforcera également la capacité du Liberia à gérer les cas urgents et critiques en cardiologie.

S'exprimant lors de la cérémonie d'inauguration, la directrice générale du JFK, Dr Linda Birch, a souligné l'importance stratégique de cette infrastructure pour le système de santé libérien :

« La création de cette unité constitue une étape déterminante dans l'histoire du JFK. Les données disponibles au Liberia indiquent que, chez les personnes âgées de 30 à 70 ans, la majorité des décès sont dus à l'hypertension artérielle ou aux maladies cardiaques. Cette unité représente donc une réponse concrète à un besoin national urgent. »

Dr Birch a exprimé sa gratitude au gouvernement chinois pour son appui, à travers l'hôpital de Heilongjiang, dans le cadre de la première phase du *Projet de coopération en cardiologie* entre la



Chine et le Liberia. Signé en 2023, ce projet vise à créer un centre cardiovasculaire de pointe, entièrement opérationnel grâce à une équipe médicale composée de professionnels libériens formés en partenariat avec la Chine.

Elle a décrit l'unité comme un symbole tangible de l'engagement du JFK à fournir des soins de santé de qualité. Après les services de dialyse et de chirurgie, l'hôpital dispose désormais d'un département de cardiologie capable de réduire considérablement les évacuations médicales vers l'étranger.

« Cette unité est la première étape d'une série de grandes réalisations à venir. Nous espérons davantage de soutien de la part de l'Hôpital de Heilongjiang pour son équipement complet. Grâce à ce progrès, de nombreux Libériens n'auront plus besoin de voyager pour des soins spécialisés en cardiologie », a-t-elle ajouté.

Prenant également la parole, l'ambassadeur de Chine au Liberia, M. Yin Chengwu, a salué l'inauguration de l'unité comme une preuve forte de l'amitié durable entre les deux pays.

« Ce centre n'est pas simplement un ensemble d'équipements sophistiqués entre des murs rénovés. C'est un symbole fort de coopération, fruit d'un travail acharné, d'un esprit collaboratif et d'un engagement partagé entre nos deux peuples », a déclaré l'ambassadeur.

Il a rendu hommage aux professionnels de santé libériens pour leur implication exemplaire, ainsi qu'à l'équipe médicale chinoise pour son savoir-faire et sa détermination, qui ont permis la mise en œuvre rapide et efficace du projet.

La ministre de la Santé, Dr Louise M. Kpoto, a également salué ce partenariat sino-libérien, le qualifiant de tournant décisif pour le secteur sanitaire du pays.

« Il s'agit d'un jalon important vers un environnement propice à des soins de qualité, en particulier pour les patients atteints de maladies cardiaques. Nous remercions l'Hôpital de Heilongjiang pour ce soutien vital. »

La cardiologie est une spécialité médicale dédiée au diagnostic, à la prévention et au traitement des affections du cœur et des vaisseaux sanguins. Avec cette nouvelle unité, le Liberia entend réduire le nombre de patients transférés à l'étranger pour des soins liés à l'hypertension et aux pathologies cardiaques complexes.



LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: **The US exchange rate and prices**

By Naneka A. Hoffman

The exchange rate between the Liberian Dollar and the United States Dollar is sending prices skyrocketing in the Liberian market, which is making life difficult for ordinary citizens, especially, local business people.

In this random sampling, Liberians express frustrations and provide recommendations to the government in addressing the situation, as you may read below.



Grace Barcon

“The US rate is increasing every day. Because of the US rate, prices of goods and stuffs in the country are up.

We are buying one bag of 25kg rice 3,450 Liberian Dollars. I live in Clara Town; the US rate is 194 for one US Dollar. I am selling dry goods and I sell in Liberian Dollars, but I buy US to get my goods when there are finished. This government came to recuse people. So, I am appealing to the government to please look at the US rate in the country, because some of us are selling, but we are not really getting profits like before, because of the US rate issue.”

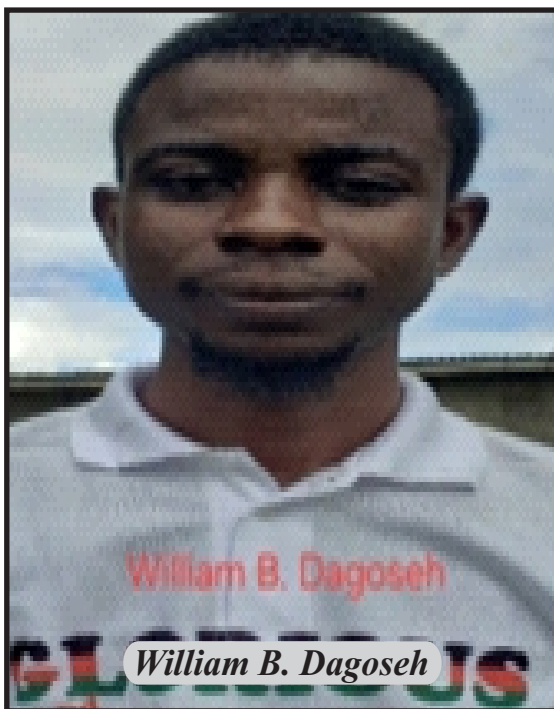


Sherman Gbey

“The US rate is causing serious trouble in the country; I am self-employed. I am sending music in

people's phones and selling CD disks. I live in Doe Community and the business I am doing all my money is in Liberian Dollars but, when I go to buy the CDC disks, I have to buy in US and the exchange rate is 194. But the buying rate is 200, and I have to save to pay my children school fees. The profit I am getting isn't much, but I have to do it to feed my family and save my relationship. Let President Boakai subsidize the US rate, because this US rate is making prices just increasing.”

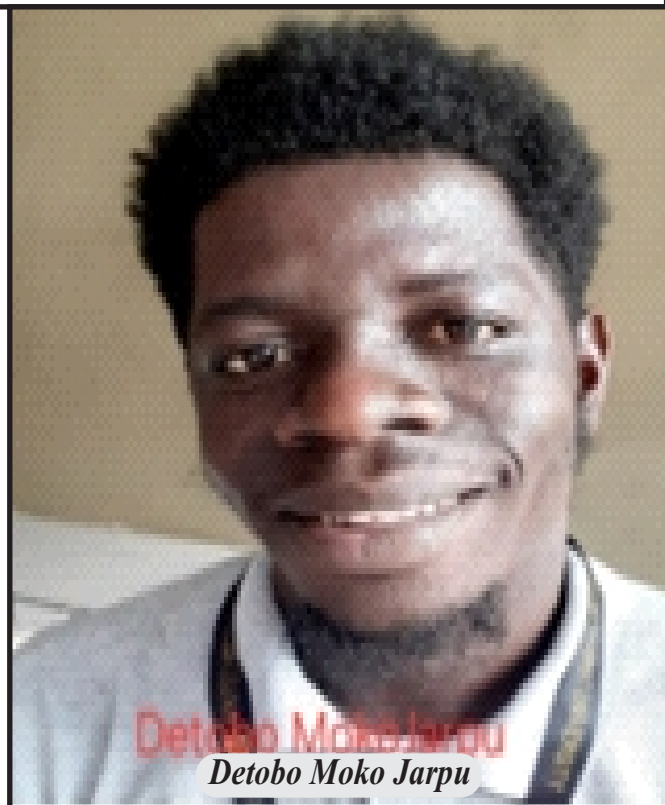
“For me, personally I will like for the government to look at the US rate, because of this rate issue, things prices are increasing everyday, and the rate isn't stable. The US rate is 199 and 200 to my place. One bag of 25kg rice is 3,550 Liberian Dollars; some of us who are family heads, 1,000 Liberian Dollars can't cook because prices are high.”



William B. Dagoseh

William B. Dagoseh

“In my mind, the Government of Liberia needs to work with the money exchangers to see how to minimize this US rate issue in the country. The government needs to work in collaboration with the money exchangers to reduce the US rate, so things prices can come down because if they don't do it, the US rate will go to 205 because some people are changing for 200LD. And if prices continue to increase, it will not be fine for us, citizens, so I am begging the government to come in.”



Detobo Moko Jarpu

Detobo Moko Jarpu



JeJe Charles Newton

JeJe Charles Newton

“I am asking the government to please come in and find solution to this US rate issue in the country. I

usually change my US for 198 in my Community, Gardnersville. We the youth are finding it difficult; what's about our mothers and sisters, who are in the markets selling, when it comes to buying rate for them to purchase their goods? I am a student and we the students are facing transportation problem, because of this same US rate, drivers will not go buy gasoline expensive then you expect to not over charge. I am asking the government to look into this US rate situation.”



Ajah Aminata Kamara

“My name is Ajah Aminata Kamara; I am a businesswoman. I live in West

Point. In my community, the US rate is 199 and 200, all depends who you change your money from. I sell rice and when my goods finished, I have to buy US to purchase a bag of rice. We are buying 25kg rice 3,500 Liberian Dollars, and it is because of the US rate prices are high. I am begging the government to work on the US rate; this is the business I am doing to send my children to school and feed my family. We voted for this country to help us the common people.”



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Capitol Building fire case in limbo?

Public concerns are mounting here over delay by the Government of Liberia to come out with comprehensive findings into last December fire incident at the Capitol Building in Monrovia, as anxiety and suspense linger here.

Monrovia, Liberia, June 5, 2025 – Despite bringing in fire experts from the United States to assist with investigation into the December 18, 2024, arson attack on the Capitol Building, the Liberian government is yet to bring to a closure the attack that inflicted extensive damage to the home of the Liberian Legislature, including destruction of the Joint Chambers and the iconic dome, disrupting legislative activities for nearly a



month. Immediately following the incident in December, 2024, the Liberia National Police charged and sent to court, several individuals in connection with the attack, alleging a conspiracy to destabilize the state.

In an interview subsequently, Police Inspector General Gregory Coleman clarified: “The U.S. fire experts' role is to assess the damage and assist in the ongoing investigation into the Capitol Building fire, rather than conducting an independent inquiry.”

The U.S. experts, including a fire chief, began their assessment, working closely with the Liberian National Police (LNP) and the Liberia National Fire and Rescue Service (LNFRRS). Their collaboration sought to provide a comprehensive analysis of the incident, ensuring a thorough and transparent investigation.

IG Coleman disclosed at the time that a joint press conference was to be held upon completion of the assessment to update the public on findings and any further steps in the investigation.

However, since March this year up to present, the government seems to have swept the matter under the carpet, as nothing much appears to be happening relative to the incident.

Notably, the investigation had raised concerns about the possible involvement

of prominent figures, including Montserrado County Representative Dixon Seboe, who allegedly provided financial support to suspects prior to the attack. Additionally, former House Speaker Fonati Koffa cut short a medical trip to address being named a person of interest in the case.

The collaboration with the U.S. fire experts, who left Liberia after their work,

underscored the Liberian authorities' commitment to a thorough and transparent investigation, aiming to bring all responsible parties to justice.

On February 25, 2025, the Monrovia City Court determined that sufficient evidence exists to proceed to trial against defendants Thomas Etheridge and Eric Sasay in the Capitol Building arson case. Stipendiary Magistrate L. Ben Barco ruled that the prosecution established a prima facie case, requiring the defendants to answer to the charges in a higher court.

The defendants are accused of conspiring to set fire to the Capitol Building on December 18, 2024, resulting in over US\$8 million in damages. Testimonies indicate they allegedly purchased gasoline to ignite the blaze, disrupting legislative sessions. Additionally, they are charged with assaulting a police officer during the incident, leaving him unconscious and stealing his firearm.

Magistrate Barco highlighted that evidence collected from the crime scene and electronic devices linked to the defendants support the prosecution's case. He emphasized that unless effectively rebutted, this evidence stands as factual.

Following this ruling, the court ordered the case records and the defendants to be transferred to the First Judicial Circuit, Criminal Court “A” at the Temple of Justice for further proceedings. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

We will be a principled and dependable voice

-Boakai, assures U.N. By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai assures the United Nations Security Council and global body that Liberia will be a principled and dependable voice on the Council, advocating for Africa, the developing world, and inclusive, lasting peace. He said the country's victory in securing a non-permanent seat on the Security Council symbolizes African perseverance, and a testament of the

country's journey towards Peace and Security. A non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council gives Liberia the platform to influence global security matters and also an opportunity for the country to raise its international profile. “Today, we stand at the threshold of a new chapter in our nation's history. The United Nations Security Council has honored us with a non-permanent seat for

Starts from back page

Chinese Mining Company somersaults

While tensions persist between different voices in the community regarding who should receive credit for the development, there is growing consensus on the importance of unity and continued advocacy.

Otto S. Dunbar, spokesperson for communities impacted by Huiran Mining's operations, also acknowledged the contributions of local and national authorities. In a recent Facebook post, he expressed gratitude to Senator Johnny K. Kpehe, Sr., Superintendent Hawa Loleyah Norris, County Attorney Jonathan Flomo, and the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) for ensuring that the company honors the newly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

“In spite of citizens' earlier concerns that recent engagements with the company would mirror past failures—when community benefits were misused—you have helped restore public confidence,” Dunbar wrote. “We are sincerely grateful. It is imperative that the approach going forward is not business as usual.”

The bridge project comes just days after the MME suspended Huiran Mining's operations following allegations of illegal mining, environmental violations, and non-compliance with the previous MoU. The suspension was prompted by increasing complaints from local communities, civil society organizations, and environmental advocates.

In response, the Ministry launched a comprehensive review of the company's operations, with a focus on environmental standards, labor practices, and community obligations. While mining activities remain halted, the Ministry has allowed the bridge project to proceed under its

oversight as part of Huiran's community commitments.

Officials have pledged a transparent and inclusive review process, though no specific date has been announced for the resumption of full operations.

Despite the positive reception to the bridge initiative, many residents remain cautiously optimistic, citing years of unmet promises and questionable handling of community development funds under previous agreements.

“The community has been patient for too long,” said a resident of Jackson Village. “We want jobs, roads, clean water—but most of all, we want accountability. This bridge is a good start, but it must be followed by sustained action.”

The frustrations of the past five years—marked by delays and a lack of transparency—have set a high bar for community expectations moving forward. As investigations continue and Huiran Mining seeks to regain its social license to operate, the construction of the bridge may signal a shift in the company's approach to community engagement.

Residents are calling on Rep. J. Marvin Cole to continue holding the company accountable and ensuring that development extends beyond symbolic infrastructure. Many hope this marks the beginning of a new chapter defined by lasting partnerships and a people-first development agenda.

For now, while mining remains suspended, the bridge under construction stands as a visible commitment—one that citizens expect will be followed by further actions rooted in transparency, respect, and responsibility. - *Edited by Othello B. Garblah.*

2026-2027, recognizing our resilience, commitment to peace, and dedication to global cooperation.

Our election is not just a national achievement. It symbolizes African perseverance and is a tribute to generations of Liberians who have held firm to freedom, self-governance, and

President Boakai also pledges Liberia's commitment to being a voice of all African nations at the UN Security Council, while promoting conflict prevention and prioritizing peace keeping reforms

Liberia was elected Tuesday, June 3, to a Non-permanent seat at the United



President Joseph Nyuma Boakai

global solidarity”, President Boakai says. He promises that Liberia will promote conflict prevention, support peacekeeping reform, and champion protection of civilians, especially women and children.

According to the President, Liberia's victory validates the country's commitments to international peace and security.

Nations Security Council for 2026-2027. The country obtained a total of 181 votes, surpassing the 2/3 required (129 votes) that position the country to advocating for global peace and security, while championing the interest of African countries. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

