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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025	L\$198.0874/US\$1.00	L\$201.1266/US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia. Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

The NewDawn

French Version Inside

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VOL. 15 NO. 096 THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025 PRICE LD\$50.00



Evidence is still weak

P11

-Koffa dismisses prosecution's case in Capitol arson trial

Doe Family at loggerheads

-Over former First Lady's death



Slain President Doe and Veronica Doe

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Togo's president faces calls to resign after protests over new role allowing indefinite rule

Togo's President Faure Gnassingbé is facing growing pressure following a government clampdown on protests calling for his resignation over recent changes in the constitution that could effectively keep him in power indefinitely. Activists on Tuesday condemned the arrest and alleged maltreatment of dozens of people following staged protests late last week in Togo's capital, Lomé, and on social media. The Togolese leader, who has

ruled since 2005 after the death of his father, was sworn in as President of the Council of Ministers in May. The powerful role has no official term limits, and he is eligible to be re-elected by parliament indefinitely. Opposition politicians have denounced the move as a "constitutional coup."

Around half of the 80 protesters who were arrested were released late Monday. However, at least 25 remain in custody, a local rights group said, urging authorities to release the others.

"What we know is that several people were beaten during their arrest," Aimé Adi, director of Amnesty International's office in Togo, told The Associated Press.

In addition to the release of the remaining detainees, "what the Togolese now want is the end of this regime, which can no longer offer anything to the people after 20 years of absolute and repressive power of Faure Gnassingbé," said a coalition of political groups known as "Hands Off My Constitution".

Demonstrations are rare in Togo as they have been banned in the country since 2022, following a deadly attack at Lomé's main market. But the latest change in government structure has been widely criticised in a region threatened by rampant coups and other threats to democracy.

Public prosecutor Talaka Mawama has defended the arrests and described the protests as "part of a revolt against the institutions of the Republic."



Togo President Faure Gnassingbé attends the COP29 U.N. Climate Change Summit, in Baku, Azerbaijan, Nov. 13, 2024.

Kenyan President condemns death in Police custody, orders swift investigation

Kenyan President William Ruto on Wednesday condemned the death of 31-year-old Albert Ojwang while in police custody, calling it "heartbreaking and unacceptable," and urged a prompt and transparent investigation.

Ojwang, a blogger active on X and Facebook, was arrested last weekend for posting allegations of corruption against a senior police officer. He was detained in western Kenya and later transferred over 250 kilometres to Nairobi without a court order, according to the Law Society of Kenya (LSK).

His death in custody has sparked national outrage and protests, marking a fresh flashpoint in ongoing concerns over police brutality in the country.

Disputed Cause of Death
Initial police reports claimed Ojwang died by suicide after allegedly hitting his head against a cell wall. However, a post-mortem conducted by government pathologist Bernard Midia contradicted that account. "The cause of death is very clear—head injury, neck compression, and additional injuries across the body, all

pointing towards assault," he told reporters.

President Ruto, in his first public response to the incident, urged the public not to "make premature judgments or draw conclusions" that could interfere with ongoing investigations. He directed the National Police Service to fully cooperate with the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) to ensure a credible inquiry.

Officers Suspended

In response to mounting pressure, five police officers have been suspended from active duty to facilitate the investigation. Protesters have accused the

Deputy Inspector General of Police of being directly implicated in the case.

The incident has reignited criticism of the Kenyan police, who have faced repeated allegations of human rights abuses, including enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

President Ruto acknowledged growing public concern over the conduct of police forces and reaffirmed his government's commitment to ending unconstitutional and abusive practices by law enforcement.



Kenya's President William Ruto attends a joint press conference with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at the chancellery in Berlin, Friday, Sept. 13, 2024.

Akinola Davies Jr. makes history with *My Father's Shadow* at Cannes

British-Nigerian filmmaker Akinola Davies Jr. has made history at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival with his debut feature, *My Father's Shadow*, the first Nigerian film to be officially selected for the festival's prestigious lineup. The moment marks a significant milestone for African cinema and signals a broader shift toward more nuanced, globally resonant African narratives.

"I never set out to be the first in anything," Davies says. "We certainly didn't know this would be the first Nigerian film in the official selection. Nigerians have understood the

imperfections of film. It allows you to spend more time with the actors and the crew. Lagos is incredibly cinematic, and I wanted to see the city I grew up in captured on the most beautiful medium possible," he explains. "There were logistical challenges; no film labs on the continent meant we waited nearly a week to see dailies. But it was worth it."

The film is a product of extensive collaboration. While primarily financed in the UK, *My Father's Shadow* is co-produced by a Nigerian production company and features Nigerian talent both in front of and behind the camera. Davies is quick to acknowledge the privilege and support he received from partners



Director Akinola Davies Jr. poses for a portrait photo of the film "My Father's Shadow" at the 78th Cannes International Film Festival, south of France, Monday 19 May 2025.

significance of this moment — like MUBI, Element Pictures, Match and for me, representing Factory, Fremantle, the BBC, and the Nigeria is a true badge of honour."

Set in Lagos in 1993, *My Father's Shadow* is a poignant meditation on fatherhood, nationhood, and brotherhood. It follows two young brothers spending a rare day with their estranged father, who takes them on a journey across Lagos to show them the challenges he faces trying to support his family. The film explores themes of accountability, memory, and generational disconnect, all against the backdrop of a politically pivotal moment in Nigeria's history.

"I was in Nigeria at the time, as was my brother," Davies recalls. "We were probably too young to grasp the politics, but we could sense something was happening. Through research, we realised how formative that period was. Yet, it hasn't been deeply documented until now." Shot entirely on 16mm film, *My Father's Shadow* is as much a visual love letter to Lagos as it is a historical portrait. Davies' choice to shoot on celluloid wasn't just aesthetic, it was political and personal.

"I love the pace and

"Not every filmmaker has access to these kinds of resources," he notes. "But I hope this film shows what's possible and that with the right collaboration and groundwork, more of us can get here."

Davies is especially proud to contribute to the evolving tapestry of Nollywood, which he describes as "incredibly rich" in creativity, technical skill, and talent. While Nollywood is often associated with its prolific commercial output, *My Father's Shadow* offers a different perspective — one that aligns more closely with arthouse cinema.

"I hope this paves the way for more space for nuanced dramas and auteur-driven stories," he says. "Audiences are hungry for this kind of storytelling."

As Davies' groundbreaking debut garners international acclaim, it also reaffirms the importance of African filmmakers reclaiming their narratives and telling their stories, their way.

"For Nigeria to truly realise its potential, we need to tell our own stories — not through an external lens, but in a way that's meaningful to us," he says. "This film is a step in that direction."

EDITORIAL

Weah should accept his mistake

CDCians and supporters of former President George Weah are blaming everyone else but Mr. Weah himself, for the current soaring bad blood between him and Veronica Mamie Doe, daughter of the late First Lady of Liberia, Nancy B. Doe that led to her returning two cows, 50 (25kgs) bags of rice and 1 million Liberian Dollars the former President presented to the family, as they mourn the death of Ms. Doe.

Mr. Weah made the gesture here on Sunday, 8 June when he visited home of the late First Lady, Madam Doe, who died last month following a brief illness. But the daughter of the deceased, Mamie Doe, ordered the items returned to Mr. Weah's Congress for Democratic Change headquarters in Congo Town on Monday, a day after he personally presented them.

Veronica is unhappy with the former President, just like her late mother had expressed prior to her passing. It all started after the late former First Lady went before the ECOWAS Court and won a petition for benefits, totaling several millions from the Government of Liberia, as a former stateswoman.

She reportedly met Mr. Weah during his Presidency on the matter, but received no favorable response from the Weah Administration until it lost the 2023 election. The late Madam Doe went on radio later and lamented her experience with the man her late husband, slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe took as a son, for his soccer skills on the National Team, the Lone Star during Mr. Doe's Presidency in the 80s.

Madam Doe was emotionally disappointed and felt neglected, lest expected from a President that her late husband, Samuel Doe, practically reared. She never received a penny from the Liberian government under Mr. Weah, and lived rest of her life with this grievance up to her death. What went wrong? Why was it so difficult for Mr. Weah to intervene during his Presidency, especially at a time when the former First Lady had been made a widow from the Liberian Civil War, and needed all of the attention she should could get to keep surviving after she has lost her husband.

As a daughter, Veronica Mamie Doe may have spent time with her mother long before her death. She may have heard her late mother lamenting and recounting her ordeal with the state, especially under former President Weah. These are common experiences between a child and a mother made a widow, from a bloody civil war, leaving them with no source of support emotionally and otherwise. They ran to a President whom they had thought could have come to their aid, but he did nothing.

Unfortunately, CDCians and supporters of the Mr. Weah don't seem to see roots cause of Veronica Doe's outrage against the former President. They think the current administration is instigating her to behave the way she did to Mr. Weah.

We can but only join reported call by a prominent son of Grand Gedeh County, and member of the former Weah Administration, Kanio Bai Gbala, for Mr. Weah to apologize to the Doe Family, rather than shifting blames. We strongly believe that this would calm the current flare of emotions and tensions, even in the face of Mrs. Doe's remains still awaiting burial.

The people of Grand Gedeh, where the Doe Family hails consistently voted for Mr. Weah in all elections since 2005, because they saw in him a deep connection with their late son, slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe, and have always stood by him politically. Mr. Weah should not feel too big to say sorrow to Veronica for whatever feeling or disappointment she harbors against him personally, for treatments meted against her late mother.

COMMENTARY

By Daniel Gros

The Mirage of Geoeconomics

MILAN – A few years ago, there was an overarching global consensus on trade: the freer, the better. Only nerdy economists spent much time agonizing over the details of trade policy, and special-interest groups were pretty much alone in advocating protections. Overall, tariffs were relatively low, most governments sought to attract foreign investment, and technology transfers were viewed as a way to spread prosperity. Not anymore.

Thirty-five years after the military strategist [Edward N. Luttwak](#) coined the term “geoeconomics” to [describe](#) when the “logic of conflict” meets the “grammar of commerce,” the concept is gaining new resonance. There is a growing consensus in many countries that trade policy should be viewed mainly through the lens of geopolitics.

But as Luttwak observed, a geopolitical conflict is, at best, a zero-sum game: one side's gains are the other side's losses. By contrast, trade is typically a win-win game – no matter how vociferously President Donald Trump argues that other countries are ripping off the United States. This tension is unavoidable; any attempt to use economic measures for geopolitical ends will eventually run up against it.

And yet, most policymakers never get that far. Trump, for example, is pursuing such an ill-conceived tariff strategy that it can only be counterproductive. Nowhere is this more apparent than in his trade war against China.

It should be obvious that, in a war, you should seek to inflict more damage on your enemy than on yourself. But all available [simulations of the impact of the various tariff scenarios](#) that have emerged over the last few months show that [the US would lose more than China](#). The reason is simple: the US and China account for about one-quarter and one-fifth of the global economy, respectively, but China slightly surpasses the US in exports – and about 80% of those exports go to countries other than America.

In other words, the US does not have the power to inflict significant economic damage on China. But, by imposing high tariffs on China, it does raise the price of imports for domestic businesses and households, whether because they have to pay the tariffs (the costs of which importers pass along to consumers) or because they have to substitute more expensive imports from elsewhere. This is probably a key reason why Trump agreed to a truce with China.

In any case, even if we are talking about other countries, with different economic sizes and trade volumes, tariffs are not a useful instrument to weaken a geopolitical adversary. Nor are other popular geoeconomic tools, such as restrictions on supplies of essential inputs. For example, earlier this year China began to require export licenses for rare-earth minerals.

of rare-earth minerals is used for manufacturing high-tech products. But the economic significance of rare earths is far more limited than is generally assumed.

Rare-earth minerals are traded in two forms. When commentators and politicians lament that [around 70%](#) of US imports of rare earths come from China, they are [referring](#) to relatively unprocessed rare-earth *metals*. But [total US imports](#) of rare-earth metals amount to just \$22 million annually – a negligible share of overall US imports.

Trade in much higher value-added rare-earth *compounds*, which have been through more processing, is much [more important](#). And here, the US has a large surplus, particularly with China. US exports of rare-earth compounds stand at \$355 million – more than twice as high as imports (\$161 million) – with [nearly 90%](#) going to China.

This should not be surprising. The US manufacturing sector is rather small and specialized, focusing on niche high-tech products, so it does not need large quantities of rare-earth compounds. To be sure, rare-earth compounds are used to produce some military equipment, such as fighter jets. A single F-35 requires [several hundred pounds](#) of rare earths. But very few such planes are being built. Meanwhile, billions of smartphones and similar devices are being manufactured annually – largely in China.

If China limits exports of low-value rare-earth metals, it risks the supply of the rare-earth compounds that its manufacturing sector needs. This might be one reason why the market reaction to has been muted: though the prices of rare-earth elements are highly variable, given the thin market, they have [moved little](#) since China introduced export-licensing rules. Prices of only two of these elements have increased significantly – 30% since January 2025 – and they remain below their 2022 peak.

But even if prices did spike, the damage to the US economy would be limited, since these imports amount to only about \$20 million. Even if permanent magnets without rare earths are ten times more expensive, the [cost to the US](#) would be \$200 million – a rounding error for an economy of America's size.

And there is another problem with such geoeconomic tools: they can typically be used only once. If supply is restricted – whether by tariffs, export-licensing rules, or some other mechanism – importers quickly adapt, such as by finding alternative supplies or accumulating stockpiles. That way, they will be able to withstand any further supply restrictions.

All of this should serve as a warning: the blind embrace of geoeconomic activism may prove not only ineffective, but even counterproductive. That is as true for China as it is for the US.

Daniel Gros is Director of the Institute for European Policymaking at Bocconi University.

At first glance, this might look like a winning strategy. After all, most of the global supply

OP-ED

By Robert Muggah and
Ilona Szabó

Green Crime Goes Global

RIO DE JANEIRO – In late 2024, Brazilian federal police dismantled a sprawling [illegal gold mining network](#) in Pará, exposing a criminal enterprise that stretched far beyond the rainforest. The operation, part of a broader crackdown on illicit mining in Indigenous territories, uncovered links to money laundering via shell companies and fraudulent permits, with funds traced to accounts in Dubai, Miami, and Panama.

During the raids, Brazilian authorities seized drones, encrypted phones, and fuel-laden barges – all tools of a well-financed transnational operation. The bust confirmed what [researchers](#) have warned about for years: environmental crime in the Amazon is now deeply entangled with global financial crime. The armed groups behind them are corrupting officials and increasingly operating at an industrial scale.

Environmental crime has become so extensive that it is reshaping the global policy agenda, evolving from a niche concern to an urgent topic of international diplomacy. Discussions about how to prevent it [feature prominently](#) at United Nations climate negotiations. There have also been [official deliberations](#) through the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), [ministerial meetings](#) at economic summits such as the G20, and joint statements from geopolitical groups such as the [BRICS+](#).

Environmental crimes are far more than a form of ecological vandalism. They can undermine national security, economic stability, and disrupt climate action and biodiversity protection. According to the Financial Action Task Force, environmental crimes such as illegal logging and mining, wildlife trafficking, and hazardous waste dumping generate annual revenues of [up to \\$280 billion](#), exceeding the profits of human trafficking and the illegal arms trade.

These illicit markets are often tied to [organized crime networks](#) and, increasingly, to transnational money laundering and corruption schemes, connecting resource-rich regions of Africa, Asia, and Latin America with financial hubs in North America, Europe, and the Middle East.

The growing awareness of the transnational threats posed by environmental crime is reshaping international, regional, and national responses. Forest and nature loss are no longer viewed only as environmental concerns, but increasingly as high priorities for [law enforcement and criminal justice](#).

At the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16) in Colombia last year, several governments and regional organizations – including the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and the Inter-American Development Bank – [called attention](#) to the relationships between environmental crime and biodiversity loss. And ahead of this year's UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Brazil, illegal deforestation and associated crimes are emerging as a [potential theme](#), given their implications for nature loss, carbon dioxide emissions, and global warming.

Meanwhile, the UN has intensified efforts to tackle environmental crime under its transnational crime prevention mandate. Efforts to combat forest crimes and wildlife trafficking have gained momentum over the past decade, especially since the 2015 [Doha Declaration](#). In late 2024, UNTOC established an open-ended intergovernmental [expert group](#) tasked with evaluating existing legal frameworks, identifying critical gaps, and considering the feasibility of establishing a dedicated UNTOC protocol on crimes affecting the environment. Supporters of the protocol, including Brazil, France, and Peru, argue that linking environmental crime prevention to anti-crime treaties would raise awareness, strengthen enforcement capabilities, and foster more predictable international legal and technical cooperation.

Several other intergovernmental institutions are also wading into these debates and looking for ways to counter environmental crimes. The G20, for example, has taken [modest steps](#) toward integrating environmental crime into its broader economic and financial stability agenda. In 2017, it agreed on a [set](#) of “high level principles on combating corruption related to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.” Then, at the 2024 G20 summit in Brazil, delegates [highlighted](#) the destabilizing financial and economic effects of nature crimes, particularly those coming from illegal supply chains in commodities such as timber, minerals, and wildlife products. For the first time, the G20 [collectively endorsed](#) measures to track and disrupt illicit financial flows linked to environmental crime.

Similarly, the BRICS grouping has tentatively identified environmental crime as a point of mutual concern and cooperation, following a 2021 meeting where member-state environment ministers explicitly [acknowledged](#) the threats posed by wildlife crime. Earlier this year, BRICS+ foreign ministers issued a [statement](#) highlighting the importance of tackling illicit financial flows connected to environmental crimes. Given the group's significant global [economic footprint](#), its growing alignment on this issue sends a powerful message.

Of course, coordinating and reconciling these diverse international efforts poses a challenge. Each forum approaches environmental crime differently. While the COPs are about protecting the climate and nature, UNTOC is focused on law enforcement and criminal justice, and the G20 and the BRICS+ are primarily concerned with illicit financial flows. The task now is to bring thematic and diplomatic coherence to these efforts.

Fortunately, the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is [exploring](#) ways to harmonize disparate agendas, including by linking environmental crime to the countering of illicit financial flows. Similarly, the BRICS+ summit in Rio de Janeiro in July, COP30 in Belém, and the G20 summit in November all offer promising entry points to align priorities and strategies.

Ultimately, tackling environmental crime will require more than isolated national efforts. The problem demands sustained diplomacy across an array of international platforms. Governments, businesses, and civil-society groups can each play to their strengths: the COP processes offer environmental legitimacy, UNTOC provides legal scaffolding, the G20 brings economic clout, and the BRICS+ brings geopolitical weight and the potential for South-South cooperation.

Closer coordination across these forums would not only sharpen the global response but also lower the costs of multilateral environmental crime fighting and improve the results. In an era of geopolitical volatility and institutional drift, strategic coordination is essential to any effective global response to environmental gangsters.

Robert Muggah, Co-Founder of the Igarapé Institute and the SecDev Group, is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Cities of Tomorrow and an adviser to the Global Risks Report. Ilona Szabó, Co-Founder and President of the Igarapé Institute, is a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

OPINION

By Raghuram G. Rajan

The Costs of Victimomics

CHICAGO – For an enterprising politician, perhaps the easiest political strategy nowadays is to tell unhappy voters that they are victims – of the biased policies of incumbent elites, of the schemes of other groups, of cunning foreigners. This is especially true when the unhappy group is a distinctive and (usually) large segment of the voting population, and when those being blamed either don't vote or constitute a small share of the electorate. As long as someone else can be blamed, the enterprising politician need not demand anything from unhappy voters; simply promising an end to their victimization will be enough.

Yet, as the American essayist H.L. Mencken famously [quipped](#), “for every complex problem, there is an answer that is clear, simple, and wrong.” In most cases, the victimhood argument fits this description, which helps to explain why supposed fixes often make things worse.

For example, in many growing Indian cities today, local politicians are proposing minimum employment quotas for the locally born, arguing that too many of the new, high-quality private-sector jobs are going to migrants from other parts of the country. What they fail to see is the vibrant local conditions that have attracted the best and the brightest from elsewhere. The fact that immigrants fill more of the quality jobs need not be (and is most likely not) the result of discrimination; it may simply reflect their greater merit.

Nonetheless, say the politician institutes a minimum quota for locals in higher positions. If the policy is not too onerous, it might well do some good, because locals in higher job positions will offer guidance, mentorship, and networks to their fellow locals who are starting out (as every affinity group does). But ambitious politicians are rarely satisfied with moderate measures. They want large quotas.

This is where problems emerge. Filling a firm's upper echelons with sub-par locals affects productivity and competitiveness. This might not matter much if a firm's competition is confined to the local area, where other firms are subject to the same quota. But it certainly does matter if the firm is competing with firms in other vibrant Indian cities that have refrained from establishing quotas, or with foreign producers. Ultimately, the firm's growth will suffer, it will hire fewer workers across the board (including local ones), and it may even shift operations to more business-friendly cities. The upshot is that very competent migrants make local firms competitive, thereby ensuring more jobs (even if not at the highest level) for locals. Vilifying them might seem like an easy political strategy; but acting on it could make conditions significantly worse for one's constituents.

Similarly, in the United States, some politicians claim that deserving native-born students are being kept out of top universities. For his part, US President Donald Trump [thinks](#) top universities “should have a cap of maybe around 15%, not 31%” of foreign students. But if foreign students are being selected purely on the basis of merit (and there is little reason to dispute this), a cap would almost certainly reduce the average quality of the student body. This would make US universities less attractive to top students from around the world, who would make it despite the cap, reducing quality further. And with fewer top foreign students staying on to teach and conduct research, the quality of US universities will deteriorate further.

Such a policy therefore could do lasting harm. America's universities have long produced the fundamental research that has allowed US firms to lead the world in innovation. Keeping out the best and the brightest is a surefire way to ensure that other countries bridge the innovation gap.

Indian and US politicians could learn something from Singapore. A minister there told me that after launching a program to attract smart mainland Chinese school students, he heard from angry constituents. “These Chinese students start at the bottom of the class [because they have to learn English], but by the third year they are at the top. Our children have no chance at the top positions. Why did you start such a terrible program?” The minister replied that Singapore has no choice but to be globally competitive. “In 15 years, when your kids get jobs, would you rather these Chinese kids competed on their side because they grew up here, or against them?” Parents understood, and the complaints died down.

The argument that manufacturing left the US because other countries used unfair practices to attract production is another version of the victimhood narrative. Apple has not had significant US-based manufacturing since 2004, so the Trump administration proposes to reshore production of iPhones (which has always been outsourced largely to Asia) by levying high tariffs on iPhone imports.

But analysts [note](#) that the cost of an iPhone would soar if it had to be manufactured in the US. It is manufactured elsewhere not because other countries cheat, but because they are more cost efficient.

If Apple complies with the government's wishes and brings iPhone manufacturing to the US, the high price would cause iPhone sales to plummet worldwide. Apple generates a lot of revenue from high-margin services that it sells to iPhone users through the App Store, iCloud, and Apple Music, but these would drop significantly as the number of users declines. The value that might be created by bringing manufacturing back to the US would likely be more than offset by the loss of service revenues – revealing yet another hidden cost of acting on the victimhood refrain.

Rather than blaming others and leveling the economy down, it is better to level the economy up by focusing on improving the capabilities, and thus the opportunities, of those falling behind. But try telling that to politicians.

Raghuram G. Rajan, a former governor of the Reserve Bank of India and chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, is Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and the co-author (with Rohit Lamba) of 'Breaking the Mold: India's Untraveled Path to Prosperity' (Princeton University Press, May 2024).

The General Auditing Commission
Old Executive Mansion Building
Ashmun Street, Monrovia, Liberia
Invitation for Bids for the
Procurement of Laptop Computers
IFB N0/GAC/NCB/008/2025

1. The General Auditing Commission has received commitment in the Government of Liberia's Approved National Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 (January-December) and intends to apply part of it towards the procurement of Laptop Computers.
2. The General Auditing Commission (GAC) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the procurement of Laptop Computers.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) enshrined in the Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA) as amended and restated in 2010.
4. Schedule of Requirement:


No.	Description	Quantity
1.	Laptop Computers	10pcs

5. Qualification requirements are:
 - Article of Incorporation
 - Valid Tax Clearance
 - Valid Business Registration Certificate
 - Past performance records- including the names, email addresses, and contact numbers of at least three clients.
 - PPCC vendors registration form.
6. All interested, eligible bidders may obtain a copy of the Bidding Documents from the Procurement Unit at the address indicated below. A copy of the bidding document will be available from **June 9, 2025, to July 8, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** daily.
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Securing Declaration** in the format indicated in this document.
8. Sealed Bids must be delivered to the Procurement Unit not later than **10:00 a.m. on July 8, 2025**. Late bids will be rejected and returned to the Bidders unopened.
9. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders who choose to attend or their representatives on **July 8, 2025, @ 11:00 a.m.** in the 2nd-floor conference room of the GAC.

10. The address referred to is: **The procurement Unit**
General Auditing Commission
Old Executive Mansion,
Ashmun Street, Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: 0886779413/0770979437

Prepared by: 
Musa C. Kamara

Manager, Procurement Unit
Secretary/Procurement Committee

Approved by: 
Hon. Foday G. Niazolu, FCCA, CPA(LIB)
Deputy Auditor General/Administration
Chairman/Procurement Committee



Office of the Corporate Secretary

June 5, 2025

CITATION

Our Esteemed Shareholders,

Please be informed that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Shareholders of the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) is slated for Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 9:30 A.M at the CORINA HOTEL, located on Tubman Boulevard, Sinkor, Monrovia.

You may attend in person or by proxy. The proxy form will be forwarded to you via email. Below is the Agenda for the meeting for ease of reference:

AGENDA

- Invocation
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes No. M-SH-62-04-2024
- Matters Arising from the Minutes
- Presentation of 2024 Audited Accounts
- Presentation of 2024 Annual Report
- Ratification of the Appointment of the External Auditors
- Elections of the Board of Directors
- Any Others Business
- Adjournment

Documents for the AGM can be picked up from the Office of the Corporate Secretary of the Bank. For further information/clarity, kindly contact the Corporate Secretary's Office via cell numbers: +231886568968/+231770000725 or email: regina.elliott@lbd.net/josephus.barnard@lbd.net.

Signed: 
Regina T. Elliott (Cllr.)
CORPORATE SECRETARY

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LERC approves new electricity tariff for customers in Gbarpolu County

The Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) has approved a new electricity tariff of US\$0.45 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for customers served by ENERGICITY in Gbarpolu County. The approved tariff takes effect on June 16, 2025, and will remain in place through June 15, 2028.

As part of the new tariff structure, monthly fixed charges have also been introduced to help recover a portion of the network's costs and to improve the quality of service. Residential customers will pay US\$1.00, while commercial customers will pay US\$1.50 monthly. Additionally, new customers seeking to connect to the ENERGICITY network will be required to pay a US\$12.00 connection fee.

This decision follows public consultations held in Gbarma, Bopolu, and Henry's Town, and a thorough evaluation of ENERGICITY's proposal. Notably, ENERGICITY had initially proposed a tariff of US\$0.62/kWh and fixed charges of US\$2.00, but LERC approved lower rates to strike a balance between cost recovery and affordability.

Announcing the decision at a ceremony held at Bopolu City Hall, LERC's Acting Chairman Atty. Kla-Edward Toomey, II, emphasized that the approved rates were determined in accordance with Section 53 of the Micro-Utility Licensing Regulation (MULR). This section mandates that tariffs for large and medium micro-utility licensees must align with their business plans and the principles in the Tariff Regulations (TR).

"In deriving the end-user tariffs that we are announcing today, we considered the revenue requirement for ENERGICITY's efficient operations, projected customer growth, energy demand, and capital and operating costs," said Atty. Toomey. He added that a minor tariff review would be initiated once all communities in the license area are connected to the grid.

Local government authorities praised the announcement as a major step forward for development in the county. Mr. James Kpoto Scott, Acting Superintendent for Gbarpolu, noted that electricity has already improved security and encoura

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Starts from page 11 Doe Family at loggerheads

mother's death," she told the host during a one-on-one interview, asserting that her mother mentioned the Senator's name in distress during her final days.

"She was voicing and tearing up with the name Zoe. She couldn't rest. I know something happened, and I believe he's behind it," Ms. Doe said emotionally.

She went further, calling the sitting Senator a "murderer" and accusing him of being responsible for the deaths of others as well.

However, in a swift response, the Doe Family issued a public statement on Wednesday, June 11, firmly condemning Veronica Mamie Doe's remarks. The statement described her as a "distant relative" and characterized her claims as false, divisive, and unrepresentative of the family's values.

"The Doe family wishes to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the values of peace, reconciliation, and unity, not only within our own family, but in the broader context of the Liberian nation." The statement reads.

The family expressed sorrow and disappointment over what they called "erroneous claims" made against Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue, his wife Mrs. Lucy Doe Pennue, and the late Mr. Chayee Zoe Doe. They emphasized that these individuals have long served their

communities and country "with honor and dignity."

"The false claims made by an outlier member of our family on the Spoon TV platform are both heartbreaking and deeply distressing. They do not reflect the truth we know, nor the values we hold dear."

The family appealed to the Liberian public not to be "swayed by the noise and confusion being circulated in the media," describing Veronica's remarks as the actions of "a self-serving individual seeking attention."

"We fully understand the painful memories these topics evoke for many Liberians. Let us not allow distraction to take precedence over what truly matters: the collective healing, peace, and unity of our country."

"We do not wish to cast blame on any government official, past or present. Instead, we extend our hand in partnership to all stakeholders and citizens of Liberia. Our shared goal must be the forward movement of our beloved nation."

As public reactions to the family dispute continue to grow, political analysts warn that the fallout could have lasting implications, particularly for Senator Pennue's political standing in Grand Gedeh County.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ALCOD's Eminent Chairman Wettee Congrats Pres. Boakai

-For Liberia's UNSC Seat

The Eminent Chairman of the All-Liberian Conference on Dual Citizenship (ALCOD), Mr. Emmanuel S. Wettee, has lavished praises on President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, the Chief Architect of Liberia's foreign policy and his administration for their immense efforts that led to Liberia winning one of Africa's two non-permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Liberia needed 128 votes but secured 181 out of 187 votes. A country needs to obtain two-thirds majority from 193 membership of the UN General Assembly. Liberia's last

membership on the UNSC was in 1961. Liberia was voted to the UNSC for a two-year term on Tuesday, June 3rd 2025. The West African nation's tenure begins January 1st, 2026 and will end on December 31st, 2027. Sometimes during Liberia's tenure, President Boakai will preside over the entire Security Council as its President for a month.

Speaking to this news outlet, Eminent Wettee said, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to others including but not limited to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Her Excellency Sara Beysolow Nyanti, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. Cllr. Deweh E.

Gray, Liberia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Lewis G. Brown, Senate's Foreign Relations Chairman, Senator Abraham Darius Dillon, the leadership and membership of both the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate, government officials, Liberians both at home and in the diaspora, previous Liberian Administrations, and the Campaign Committee.

Eminent Wettee, who was part of the Liberian Delegation that participated and witnessed the voting take place at the UN Headquarters, said, "Liberia's election to the Security Council marks a significant return to a high-profile global platform, where the country will contribute meaningfully to debates and decisions affecting international peace and security."

According to his Eminence, Liberia's win is a win for all, including those in opposition. He called on all Liberians to be united, cherish the win and to make sure that Liberia leverages on the win at home and away. He added: "The seat on the UN Security Council will elevate our country on the global stage during a very consequential period in world affairs."



We're taking advantage of every opportunity

-Minister Nyei speaks on China-Liberia relations

By Lincoln G. Peters
Hunan Province, China; June 12, 2025 - Deputy Foreign Minister for International Cooperation and Economics Integration, Dr. Ibrahim Al-barkri Nyei, says Liberia is taking advantage of every opportunity at its disposal, describing China-Liberia relationship under President Joseph N. Boakai as strong and beneficiary. Speaking in an exclusive interview with the NEW DAWN in Hunan Province, China at the Ministerial Meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) implementation actions, Dr. Nyei notes that Liberia relationship with China has grown in strengthen and development.

He reveals that since the ascendancy of President Boakai, China-Liberia relations continues to experience unprecedented mutual beneficiary development, including construction and expansion of State Radio (ELBC), pending overpass bridge and healthcare intervention. "President Boakai has forged a very strong ties with China and we are taking advantage of

everything - opportunity to leverage our partnership with China to bring development to Liberia and strengthen bilateral ties with China using the FOCAC Summit and the opportunities provided in these engagements to strengthen ties with other African countries", Dr. Nyei explains. He also discloses that Liberian officials are working with various agencies and institutions of the Liberian Government to access facilities and attracts

additional opportunities from their Chinese counterpart for the development of various sector of the economy, particularly in area of infrastructure, including roads, bridges and energy sector, among others.

Speaking of importance of their visit and stay in China, the Liberian political diplomat details while there, they will hold bilateral meetings with some Chinese diplomats and entrepreneurs to attract investments to the country,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Dr. Ibrahim Al-barkri Nyei

Minister Jabateh urges Liberians to rise above baseless accusations

Monrovia, Liberia; June 12, 2025 - Assistant Minister of Internal Affairs for Urban Affairs, A. Mike Khailelu B. Jabateh, says recent allegation levied against Senator Zoe Pennue of Grand Gedeh County by Madam Veronica Mamie Doe is unfortunate and deeply concerning. Minister Jabateh says the allegation must not be taken for granted, as it has the potential to sow disunity among the people of Grand Gedeh County and the family members of the late President of Liberia, Samuel K. Doe. In a statement issued in Monrovia Wednesday, he notes that making



Assistant Minister Mike Khailelu B. Jabateh

such serious accusations without evidence does not only threaten the reputation of people targeted but also risks inflaming tensions and dividing both the county and the country at large.

"As Liberians, we must begin to change this dangerous pattern of publicly blaming others whenever someone passes away. Just recently, when the Chief of Staff to former Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah sadly died, some in the public quickly turned to accuse Minister Tweah and others—again without proof. Similarly, when a former Senator Prince Y. Johnson passed, there were unfounded

peace and cohesion, which all Liberians value. "This is a time for healing—not hostility. Let us focus on compassion, truth, and unity."

He also urges Liberians to let the soul of the late Former First Lady Nancy B. Doe, rest in peace, and to rise above speculation and act with wisdom and responsibility. He observes that in moments of loss, emotions often run high, but adds that even in grief, we must uphold the values of respect, dignity, and truth—especially when it involves the memory of a loved one. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Starts from page 6 **We're taking advantage of every opportunity**

something, which he notes will conclude with a follow-up at the Chinese Embassy in Liberia to ensure that fruits of their engagements are visible and tangible.

Commenting briefly on the significance of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and Liberia's benefits during the enactment of the ten point resolution in Beijing, China, Dr. Nyei recounts that since the announcement of the ten-count partnership action plan in September 2024, Liberia has taken some robust actions in specifying the resolution to the Liberian contexts.

"There was an announcement of the RMB 200million aid to Liberia which will be used for infrastructure development, and training and scholarship for young Liberians. We have also have the opportunity for Cultural exchange

through people- to- people diplomacy. We have been sending people to China to understand China's development and culture. Likewise, China also has professionals in Liberia, who are also benefiting from exchanges, which are part of the mutual exchanges. They are involved with tourism, youth development and medical and other professional areas. We are grateful for this opportunity and partnership because it's helping to accelerate our development and ARREST Agenda", he acknowledges.

Dr. Yei notes that through the China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) China and Africa are making progress in strengthening bilateral cooperation, using FOCAC as a strategic diplomatic vehicle to advance modernization and development.

Bible Society donates to 2 schools of the blind

Virtually impaired students pose for photo after the donation

Monrovia, Liberia; June 12, 2025

- The Bible Society of Liberia in collaboration with the United Bible Society has donated educational materials to visionally impaired students at two institutions in the country. Institutions that benefitted from the donation are the Liberia School for the Blind in Mombo Town, Virginia and the Christian Association of the Blind National Resource Center along Monrovia-Robertsfield highway. The Program Manager for the

Bible Society of Liberia, Jerry another easier.

Wolo Forkay, said these Receiving the items, the educational assistance Principal of the Liberia School of the Blind, Jackson Suah, assist the Liberia School of the described the gesture as timely, Blind and the Christian because most of the students Association of the Blind lack basic materials to aid their education process.

move independently by Mr. Suah encouraged the Bible learning, assisted by talking Society of Liberia to continue bibles that would enable them supporting the institution to know the words of God. because most of the virtually

Mr. Forkay says the Bible impaired students cannot afford to purchase learning materials. For his part, the Program Manager at the Christian Association of the Blind, Jacob Joe, thanked the Bible Society of Liberia for the donation.

Mr. Joe assured the Bible Society that the donations will be used for the intended purpose, as the institution has run out of teaching materials.

Items donated to the two schools include white canes, audio bible slates and styles, among many others.

The Program Manager of the Bible Society of Liberia was accompanied during the exercise by the Society's Church Relation Officer, Reverend Fayaih Tamba.



Starts from page 5 **LERC approves new electricity tariff**

ged more residents to connect to the grid. "It is a means for business opportunities to earn income," he stated.

Gbarpolu County Financial Officer Howard P. Bonqay commended the Commission for detailing the tariff determination process. "At this initial stage, the tariff is affordable, and we hope costs decrease as more customers join the grid," he added, urging for greater public awareness and education on the tariff structure.

The approval of this tariff marks a critical milestone in expanding electricity access in Liberia's rural areas, supporting economic development, and enhancing quality of life through improved energy infrastructure.

Engineer Richard Arthur of ENERGENCY

welcomed the decision, noting that customers have been receiving reliable electricity supply for over eight months without paying. "This approval strengthens our ability to expand services across Gbarpolu and beyond," he said, adding that the company would begin providing daily billing information to help customers understand their electricity usage. He informed customers that they should get ready to begin paying for their electricity consumption.

ENERGICITY currently operates under a Large Composite Micro Utility License, enabling it to generate, distribute, and sell electricity across ten communities in Gbarpolu County, many of which were previously underserved.

Workers decry poor housing at Cavalla Corporation

By Patrick N. Mensah,
Maryland County

Maryland, Liberia: June 12, 2025 - As the National Bureau of Concessions (NBC's) team began assessment and compliance of companies in Maryland County, the President of the Cavalla Rubber Corporation Workers Union has lamented deplorable condition of housing facilities for workers, calling on management to address the situation.

The National Bureau of Concessions (NBC) arrived in Maryland County, southeast Liberia, over weekend with high-level team of Monitoring and Evaluation compliance officers to carry out a comprehensive review of operations at the Maryland Oil Palm Plantation (MOPP) and the Cavalla Rubber Corporation (CRC).

The team is tasked with assessing the companies' compliance with concession agreements and

on management to address it in time," he emphasized.

He further lamented that the deplorable conditions of employees' homes have compelled several employees to vacate Division 10 in pursuit of a better living in Pleebo, resulting to forced closure of the company's elementary school in the area for more than a year now. He indicated that these housing facilities were built by Firestone before the Liberian Civil War, so they need major renovation to suit 21st century standard.

He said the union made multiple attempts in recent years to engage management on the matter, but their concerns have been met with silence, prompting him to come public.

He believes this is no longer just a labor issue but a humanitarian crisis that needs attention of all stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Labour, and the entire government. "These are people



evaluating their impact on affected communities

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Paul W. Dweh, President of the Cavalla Rubber Corporation Workers Union, expressed concern over the deplorable conditions of housing facilities.

He alleged that workers and their families are uncomfortably residing in homes with leaking roofs, broken sewage systems and lack of electricity, among others. Mr. Dweh named deplorable camps at CRC, including Division 10, Yancyville, Hospital Camp and Division 5 that need urgent renovation.

"As we enter the rainy season, if you visit any of these camps, you will feel hurt; and it's quite unfortunate that managers live comfortably in their homes, while employees live in open air houses. We don't want to use aggressive approach; that's why we are calling

who the company depends on for production," Dweh stressed.

He also expressed disappointment in the Ministry of Labor local office in Maryland and the county legislative caucus for failing to recognize the unacceptable and dehumanizing conditions employees are faced with.

Besides qualms about bad labor practices and low wages, the disgraceful, squalid living conditions of employees, especially those below managerial level and their dependents, constantly remind them that their welfare is the least thing on the mind of their employers.

New Dawn made efforts to contact CRC Public Relations Officer, Mr. Martin Nyenka via mobile phone, but was unsuccessful. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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Français

Hydrocarbures : Le Liberia confie quatre blocs pétroliers stratégiques à la NOCAL

Dans une décision historique visant à renforcer l'indépendance énergétique du Liberia et à stimuler sa prospérité économique, Son Excellence le Président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. a attribué quatre blocs pétroliers offshore à la Compagnie Nationale des Pétroles du

présidentielle dans le cadre d'une stratégie ambitieuse de valorisation des ressources nationales. Cette mesure marque une avancée majeure dans le développement du secteur énergétique libérien, en conférant à l'État la pleine maîtrise de ces actifs stratégiques.

Grâce à cette appropriation totale, les recettes futures générées par l'exploitation de ces blocs

contrôle intégral de ces ressources permettra également de renforcer la sécurité énergétique du pays, tout en réduisant sa dépendance aux importations étrangères.

Cette initiative ouvre également la voie à de nombreuses opportunités économiques, notamment la création de milliers d'emplois directs et indirects dans les domaines de l'exploration, de la production et des services connexes. Elle positionne par ailleurs la NOCAL comme un acteur de premier plan sur la scène énergétique africaine, en attirant des partenariats techniques et internationaux susceptibles de renforcer les capacités locales dans les industries pétrolière et gazière. Le Président Boakai a instruit l'Autorité de Régulation Pétrolière du Liberia (LPRA) de lancer sans délai le processus de négociation des contrats de partage de production (PSC), conformément au modèle type d'accord pétrolier. Ce processus devra être mené à terme dans un



Liberia (NOCAL), avec une prise de possession intégrale à 100 %.

Les blocs concernés — LB-10, LB-11, LB-29 et LB-31 — ont été attribués par décision

reviendront directement au peuple libérien, sous forme d'investissements dans des projets de développement national, d'amélioration des infrastructures et de programmes sociaux. Le

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Incendie criminel au Capitole : le gouvernement réclame un procès rapide

Le gouvernement libérien a lancé un appel pressant en faveur d'un jugement rapide des personnes accusées d'implication dans l'incendie criminel du bâtiment du Capitole, survenu plus tôt cette année.

Tout en exprimant une certaine empathie envers les inculpés, l'exécutif insiste sur la nécessité de faire respecter l'État de droit. Il exhorte le pouvoir judiciaire à traiter le dossier sans délai afin de garantir que justice soit rendue.

Lors du point de presse hebdomadaire du ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme, tenu mardi, le ministre adjoint à l'Information, Daniel Sanoe, a réaffirmé l'engagement du gouvernement à faire en sorte que toute personne impliquée dans des actes criminels réponde de ses actes devant la justice.

« Nous demandons que les accusés dans l'affaire de l'incendie du Capitole soient jugés dans les plus brefs délais », a déclaré le ministre adjoint. « L'enquête, qui a duré près de six mois, a été menée avec le soutien de partenaires internationaux afin d'en

garantir la crédibilité. Sur la base des conclusions, certaines personnes ont été convoquées pour interrogatoire. »

Le ministre Sanoe a souligné que les actions de la police reposent sur des preuves solides, et non sur des considérations politiques. Il a précisé que certaines personnes ayant tenu des propos menaçants n'ont pas été inculpées, faute de preuves matérielles les impliquant dans un crime.

« Le fait que l'enquête ait duré six mois montre clairement que le gouvernement n'a pas procédé à des arrestations arbitraires. Il y a des preuves », a-t-il insisté.

Il a également noté que, bien que les tribunaux ne siègent normalement

pas le samedi, une audience exceptionnelle a été convoquée ce jour-là pour entendre les personnes arrêtées. Une démarche, selon lui, qui démontre la volonté du gouvernement de respecter les droits de la défense, et non de cibler qui que ce soit.

Comparant l'attaque contre le Capitole libérien à un acte de terrorisme organisé, M. Sanoe a estimé que les événements rappellent, dans leur coordination et leur portée symbolique, certaines attaques majeures contre des institutions étatiques à l'échelle internationale.

Réagissant aux critiques

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Éditorial

Que George Weah reconnaisse son erreur

Les partisans de l'ancien président George Weah, notamment les militants du Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC), rejettent toute responsabilité sur autrui, sans jamais interroger les actions de M. Weah lui-même, dans l'affaire qui l'oppose actuellement à Veronica Mamie Doe, fille de l'ancienne Première dame du Liberia, feu Nancy B. Doe.

Le dimanche 8 juin, M. Weah s'est rendu au domicile de la défunte à l'occasion du deuil, apportant en guise de condoléances deux vaches, cinquante sacs de riz de 25 kg et un montant d'un million de dollars libériens. Le lendemain, Veronica Doe a ordonné le retour de ces dons au siège du CDC à Congo Town, refusant catégoriquement ce geste de l'ancien chef d'État.

Ce rejet s'explique par une profonde rancœur que partageait déjà sa mère de son vivant. En effet, l'ancienne Première dame avait saisi la Cour de Justice de la CEDEAO afin de réclamer ses indemnités en tant qu'ex-haute fonctionnaire de l'État — un recours qu'elle avait remporté, obtenant gain de cause pour plusieurs millions de dollars. Mais malgré cette décision, aucune action concrète n'a été entreprise par le gouvernement Weah durant son mandat, et Mme Doe n'a jamais vu la couleur de ces compensations jusqu'à sa mort.

La défunte, visiblement affectée, s'était exprimée sur les ondes, déplorant le silence de celui que son mari, le président Samuel Kanyon Doe, considérait comme un fils pour l'avoir soutenu durant sa jeunesse comme joueur de l'équipe nationale de football, le Lone Star, dans les années 1980. Elle avait exprimé son amertume face à ce qu'elle considérait comme un abandon, un manque d'empathie et de reconnaissance, venant de celui que son époux avait aidé à faire éclore.

Alors que la Première dame vivait ses derniers jours dans l'oubli et sans ressources, aucune initiative politique ou administrative n'a été engagée pour réparer cette injustice. Et aujourd'hui, sa fille Veronica, témoin de cette douleur, rejette avec force tout geste qu'elle perçoit comme hypocrite ou tardif.

Il est regrettable que les proches et partisans de M. Weah refusent de comprendre les motivations réelles de Mme Doe. Ils vont jusqu'à accuser l'administration actuelle d'avoir manipulé la jeune femme, ignorant les blessures profondes causées par des années de silence et d'indifférence.

Nous saluons donc l'appel au calme et à la réconciliation lancé par Kanio Bai Gbala, originaire du Grand Gedeh et ancien collaborateur du régime Weah, qui exhorte l'ex-président à présenter des excuses sincères à la famille Doe. Ce geste d'humilité pourrait apaiser les tensions actuelles, alors même que le corps de Mme Doe n'a pas encore été inhumé.

Depuis 2005, le peuple du Grand Gedeh — région natale de la famille Doe — a toujours manifesté un soutien électoral massif envers George Weah, y voyant une continuité avec leur fils disparu, le président Samuel Kanyon Doe. Ignorer aujourd'hui leur douleur serait une trahison politique et morale.

Il est temps que M. Weah fasse preuve de responsabilité. Un simple mot d'excuse adressé à Veronica Mamie Doe, pour le tort moral causé à sa mère, ne l'amoindrirait en rien. Bien au contraire, cela témoignerait d'une grandeur d'âme que la nation tout entière ne manquerait pas de saluer.

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Français

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Hydrocarbures : Le Liberia confie quatre

délai strict de dix jours ouvrables, preuve de la volonté de l'administration d'agir avec efficacité tout en respectant les standards de transparence et de bonne gouvernance.

Cette décision réaffirme également la souveraineté du Liberia sur ses ressources naturelles et établit un cadre d'investissement attractif pour les partenaires étrangers. L'attribution de ces blocs à la NOCAL s'inscrit dans une approche équilibrée entre encadrement réglementaire assuré par la LPRA et valorisation des intérêts nationaux dans le respect des meilleures pratiques internationales.

Sous réserve de l'approbation législative attendue, les travaux d'exploration et de développement de ces blocs devraient débuter prochainement. Le Liberia pourrait ainsi bénéficier de retombées majeures : hausse des revenus de l'État, transfert de technologies, amélioration des infrastructures énergétiques et renforcement de sa position dans les marchés régionaux de l'énergie.

Le gouvernement réaffirme son engagement à gérer ces ressources de manière responsable, au service de tous les Libériens.

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Incendie criminel au Capitole :

adressées à l'administration Boakai, il a rappelé que toute personne qui commet un crime sera poursuivie en justice, quelle que soit sa position sociale ou politique.

« Il ne s'agit pas de la première fois que des membres du Parlement se retrouvent devant les tribunaux. Personne n'est au-dessus des lois dans cette démocratie. Elle ne pourra prospérer que si la primauté du droit est respectée », a-t-il affirmé. M. Sanoe a averti les auteurs de comportements jugés subversifs : toute personne qui enfreint la loi sera arrêtée et poursuivie.

« Il n'existe aucune vache sacrée dans ce gouvernement. Si vous commettez un crime, vous

serez arrêté. Point final », a-t-il martelé.

Il a conclu en indiquant que la mission du gouvernement est d'établir les faits et d'identifier les responsables. Il appartient ensuite au système judiciaire de juger les personnes accusées et de déterminer leur innocence ou leur culpabilité.

Par ailleurs, le ministre Sanoe a mis en garde ceux qui tiennent des propos menaçants à l'encontre des institutions. Il a assuré que le président Joseph Boakai reste déterminé à faire respecter la justice, et a réitéré son appel à une accélération de la procédure judiciaire afin que lumière soit faite dans les plus brefs délais.

Conférence des Nations Unies sur les océans : le Liberia s'engage à lutter contre la pêche illégale et les crimes maritimes

Le Liberia a réaffirmé son engagement à combattre la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée (INN), tout en défendant la transparence et la responsabilité dans la gouvernance des ressources marines. Cette déclaration forte a été faite le mardi 10 juin par le Commissaire et Directeur général de l'Autorité maritime du Liberia (LiMA), Me Neto Zarzar Lighe Sr., lors d'un événement parallèle de haut niveau tenu dans le cadre de la troisième Conférence des Nations Unies sur les océans (UNOC3), à Nice, en France.

S'exprimant devant un auditoire composé de ministres et de délégués venus de France, du Ghana, des Maldives, du Panama et d'autres pays, le commissaire Lighe a souligné la volonté renouvelée du Liberia de transformer la gestion de son espace maritime et de renforcer les capacités des communautés côtières, dont la subsistance dépend fortement des ressources marines. « Le Liberia ne sera jamais un refuge pour les activités de pêche illégale », a-t-il déclaré,

déclenchant des applaudissements nourris dans la salle. « Nous restons fermement engagés à éradiquer la pêche INN et à instaurer plus de transparence dans nos systèmes de gouvernance maritime. »

Depuis l'engagement pris lors de la Conférence de Lisbonne sur les océans en 2022, le Liberia a franchi plusieurs étapes majeures. Parmi celles-ci, l'adoption de la Stratégie nationale pour l'économie bleue et la ratification de l'Accord relatif aux mesures du ressort de l'État du port (AMREP). Ces avancées visent à protéger un secteur halieutique vital, qui fournit la principale source de protéines à 80 % de la population libérienne et emploie environ 60 % de femmes dans les zones côtières.

« L'avenir de notre pays est intimement lié à la santé de nos océans », a rappelé Me Lighe. Il a précisé que la pêche représente près de 10 % du PIB du Liberia, mais que la pêche illégale et la surpêche continuent de compromettre les moyens de subsistance locaux, d'alimenter la criminalité organisée en mer et de menacer la sécurité

alimentaire.

Au-delà de ses frontières, le Liberia joue également un rôle de premier plan. En tant que président en exercice du Comité des pêches du golfe de Guinée centre-ouest (FCWC), le pays s'est positionné comme un acteur régional déterminé dans la lutte contre la pêche INN.

« Nous sommes résolus à éliminer la pêche illégale dans nos eaux, mais aussi à porter ce combat au niveau régional », a affirmé le Commissaire.

Il a également réitéré le soutien du Liberia à la Charte mondiale pour la transparence dans la pêche, appelant les autres États à rejoindre cette initiative cruciale. Il a insisté sur l'importance de rendre publiques les informations sur les bénéficiaires effectifs afin d'identifier ceux qui tirent profit des crimes en mer.

Dans la même dynamique, le Liberia a annoncé la ratification et le dépôt de l'Accord sur la biodiversité au-delà des juridictions nationales (BBJN), une avancée majeure dans la gouvernance maritime mondiale. D'autres efforts en cours incluent la ratification prochaine de la Convention de l'OIT sur le travail dans la pêche (C188) ainsi que de l'Accord du Cap, afin de garantir les droits et la sécurité des travailleurs en mer.

Reconnaissant les défis hérités d'un passé conflictuel, Me Lighe a admis que la reconstruction du secteur de la pêche demeure un processus complexe. Toutefois, il a assuré que des progrès concrets sont en cours, en ligne avec le programme national de développement inclusif, l'Agenda ARREST.

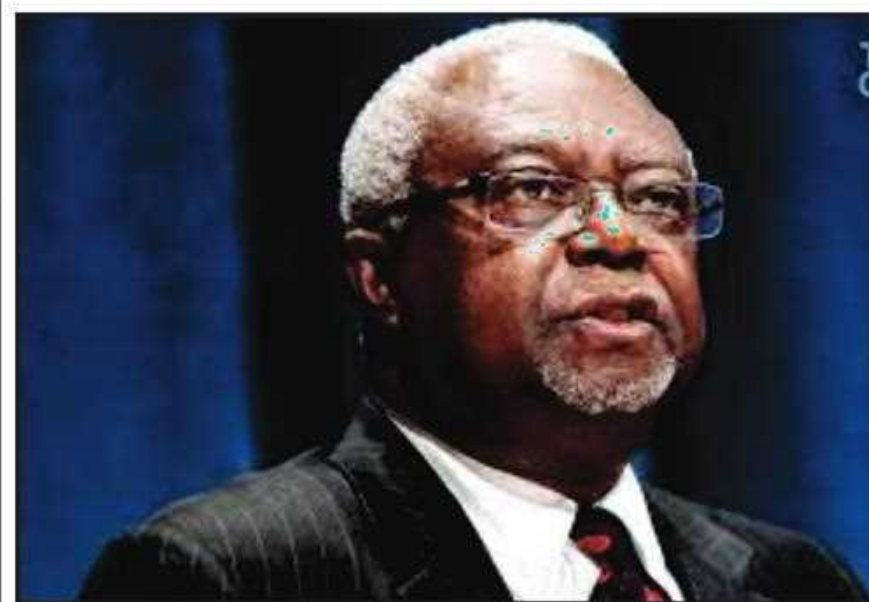
La Fondation Sawyer organise une série d'événements pour célébrer le 80e anniversaire du Professeur Amos C. Sawyer

La Amos C. Sawyer Educational Foundation a annoncé l'organisation d'une série d'activités commémoratives en juin pour célébrer la vie, l'œuvre et la vision du Professeur Amos Claudius Sawyer, à l'occasion de ce qui aurait été son 80e anniversaire.

Dans un communiqué publié récemment, la Fondation indique qu'un programme riche et diversifié est prévu, comprenant une conférence inaugurale, des activités interconfessionnelles ainsi qu'un dîner de levée de fonds, prévu dans la grande salle de bal de la Mairie de Monrovia, le samedi 14 juin à 18h.

Parmi les moments phares des célébrations, une prière musulmane *Jum'ah* se tiendra à la mosquée du marché aux poissons, le vendredi 13 juin. À cette occasion, l'imam Ali Krayee prononcera une allocution sur la vie, les idéaux et l'engagement du Dr Sawyer, suivie de prières pour la paix, dans un esprit d'unité interreligieuse que le professeur affectionnait particulièrement.

L'un des événements les plus marquants sera le lancement officiel de la **Série Annuelle de Conférences Académiques Amos C. Sawyer**, assortie de la remise de **Prix d'Excellence Patriotique**,



destinés à honorer des citoyens exemplaires. La première conférence aura lieu le vendredi 13 juin à 15h30 sur le campus universitaire de Fendell, qui abrite le *Dr. Amos C. Sawyer College of Social Sciences and Humanities*. Elle sera prononcée par le Professeur Dr Dew Tuan Wleh Mason, universitaire de renom et diplomate, reconnu comme l'un des piliers du mouvement progressiste dans l'histoire contemporaine du Liberia.

Durant cette journée, le campus de Fendell vibrera au rythme de lectures et de réitations extraites des discours et écrits du Dr Sawyer, dans une atmosphère ouverte au corps diplomatique, au milieu universitaire et au grand public.

La Fondation a également annoncé que le dîner de levée de fonds, prévu le samedi 14 juin, sera l'occasion de distinguer deux figures éminentes de la société libérienne :

- **Le Dr Abba Karnga**, salué pour son œuvre pionnière en faveur de la langue Bassa et de ses engagements dans la mission chrétienne.
- **La Professeure Agnes Nebo von Ballmoos** (à titre posthume), honorée pour son rôle de pionnière en ethnomusicologie et son dévouement à la préservation de la musique folklorique libérienne, notamment à travers l'excellence de la chorale de l'Université du Liberia.

La soirée de gala verra également la participation de la lauréate du Prix Nobel de la Paix, **Leymah Gbowee**, en tant que marraine de la cérémonie. De nombreux hauts responsables du gouvernement, ainsi que des figures politiques et religieuses, y sont attendus dans un esprit de rassemblement, fidèle à l'héritage du Dr Sawyer.

Enfin, le dimanche 15 juin, un service religieux solennel aura lieu à l'Église Épiscopale St. Stephen sur la 10e rue à Sinkor. Cette messe spéciale sera dédiée à la mémoire du Professeur Sawyer, clôturant ainsi trois jours d'hommages empreints de reconnaissance et de célébration.

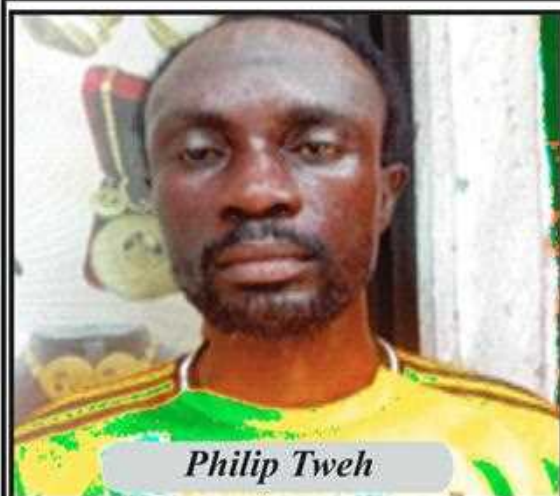


LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: **The arrest of four lawmakers**

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Some Liberians give their views on the arrest and charge of former Speaker Fonati Koffa and four other lawmakers in connection with the December 2024 fire at the Capitol. Read their comments below.



Philip Tweh

"I think what the government did by placing traveling ban on Fonati Koffa and others is a good idea, until the

investigation can be completed. Secondly, placing traveling ban on Koffa and others, if it is not a political witch-hunt, and the government is going to do everything to bring up sufficient evidence, I will fully support it. But if this government wants to score political goal by getting rid of Cdcians, then we need to stop this because Liberia's jobs belong to all Liberians, no matter your region, status or background, we are all Liberians."

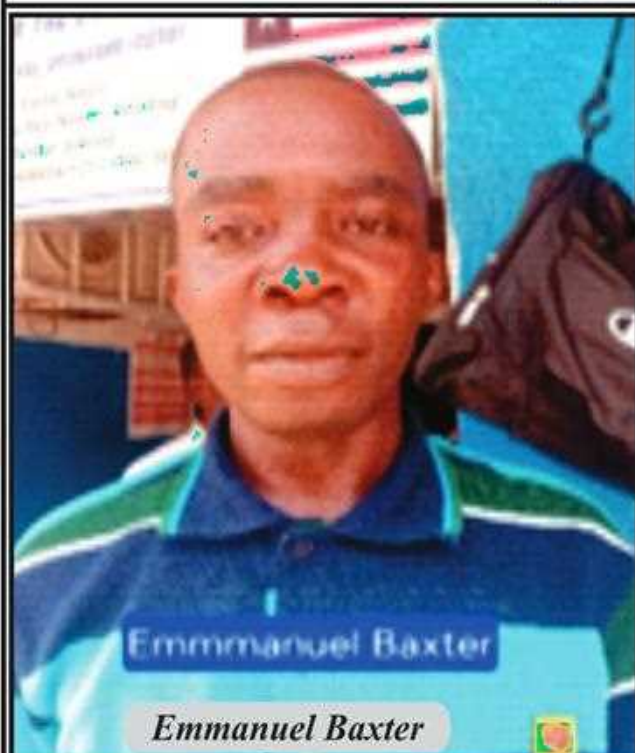
"We know God first, and government second in life, and going by the law and Supreme Court ruling, if Koffa and others are not traveling and he loves his country and citizens, he should go by the law until the investigation can be completed. And if he is not found guilty, he will be set free, so let him go by the law."



Noah A. Gowe

Noah A. Gowe

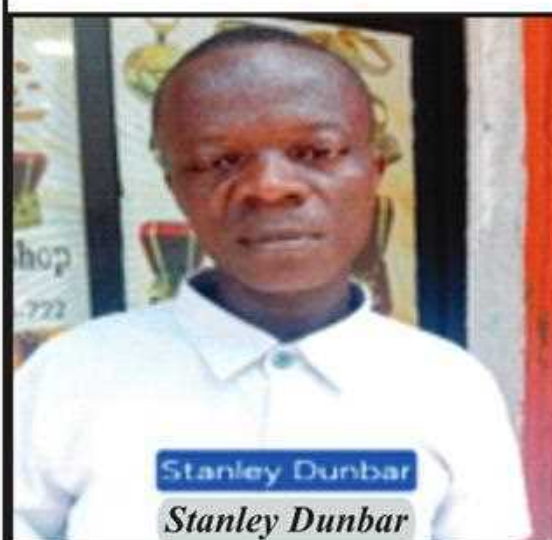
the weekend and placed behind bar have been set free on bail this morning and are all honorable people. They have money; some of them have served in the legislature for the past 12 years, and some of them have spent six years and this is their second term, going as representatives for their various districts, so the crime levied against them, they could find opportunity to leave the country. It is a good decision from the government for people to not escape justice."



Emmanuel Baxter

Emmanuel Baxter

"The government is acting in the rightful direction, for the fact that those people, who were arrested over



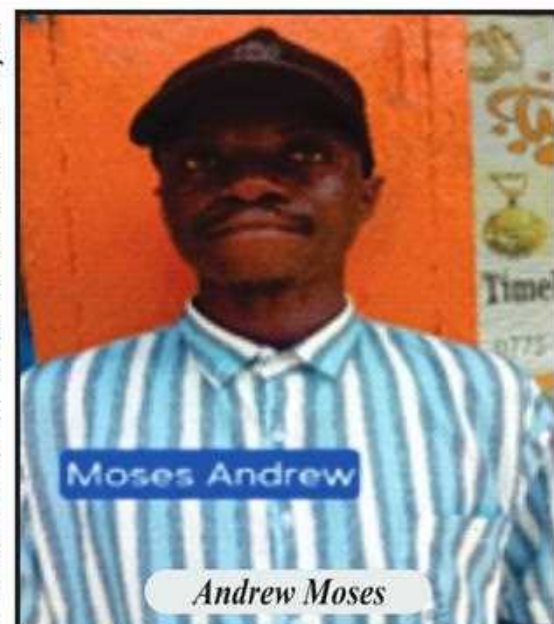
Stanley Dunbar

Stanley Dunbar

"Well, it is a fine thing. You know the issue that has to do with crime at the Capitol Building is a serious one. It has to do with arson. You know that place, the Liberian government spent huge money from our taxpayers to build that building but, to just wake up one night and burned the Capitol, I think it is very bad. So,

to see the Liberian government and security to call back Fonati Koffa and others, I think that they did their background investigation and they got to know that they have sufficient evidence. I think it is a fine thing because they talked about the rule of law is a part of the arrest agenda, so if the government comes up to say that they want to investigate, it is a right thing to impose ban on them, until the process can go through. If they are not found guilty, they will be set free but, if they are guilty, they should bear the full weight of the law; they are not above the law. The constitution is for everybody, so everything that they did and government got to know that they did that thing by burning the Capitol Building, they must go to jail and bear the punishment."

"I think the government is on a serious joke, because some of thought that the reason these guys were arrested is because the government has collected sufficient evidence that they have in their hands to prosecute these guys. But on the contrary, we later understand that it is just on the basis of mere witch-hunt and hate. We will not take this government serious, because I am a Liberian, I believe that anybody destroys any part of this society, they should be held reliable, and they should bear the full weight of the law but, it should be on evidence basis, because you catch two pekin them, and carried them to NSA headquarter, put fear in them to call people's names that they not supposed to call, than you went and arrested the people and put them in jail, at the end of the day you can't inform the public with



Moses Andrew

Andrew Moses

the sufficient evidence that they want to see how those guys were prosecuted, but you did you own thing just to score political goal. I think this is the Unity Party, for us, we can't get another Unity Party; this Unity Party, for us, they are people that can just use power any way."



Augustine S. Zulu

Augustine S. Zulu

"For me, it is very wrong because the democracy we fought for, I don't think this is what we fought for. The law doesn't

say when somebody is accused, that means the person is guilty and more especially, Fonati Koffa is a sitting lawmaker. I don't think he will leave his people in this country and just run away; he is representing people, so government doesn't have any right to come up with such a law when he is not guilty; he is just accused. It is political witch-hunt in the sense that this government wants to sideline all Cdcians, because since ascendancy of this government, anything that has to do with CDC, they make sure to go for it, even in this government, nobody is working in it as a born Cdcians. If I am lying, let them bring the proof."

Evidence is still weak

Former Speaker Fonati Koffa says charges brought against him by the state are not strong enough to proceed with prosecution in the Capitol fire case.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia; June 12, 2025 - Former Speaker Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa has expressed deep disappointment in the prosecution's case during second day of preliminary hearings at the Monrovia City Court in the December 8, 2024 arson attack on the Capitol Building. Speaking to journalists shortly after

The five lawmakers, Cllr. Fonati Koffa, and Representatives Dixon Seboe, Jacob Debee, Abu Kamara, and Priscilla Cooper, are facing charges filed by the LNP over their alleged roles in the December 2024 arson attack on the Capitol Building.

Earlier, Tuesday's hearing opened under tight security. The prosecution, led by Solicitor General Cllr. Augustine C.



Wednesday's proceedings, Cllr. Koffa criticized what he called a weak and inconsistent body of evidence presented by the state.

"The prosecution tried to avoid the fact that the police were in charge of the building at all times", he argues; adding "If arson did occur, then by that logic, the police would have to be seen as co-conspirators, which they obviously aren't, so the case is flawed from the start."

He questions the relevance of some of the evidence provided by the state. "The witness talked about plastic cups and other materials found outside the Capitol premises. That makes no sense. Then there's a hodgepodge of recordings that don't directly link us to the fire."

Referring to an alleged recording in which his voice was heard, while at President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's residence, the Grand Kru County District#2 Representative, who is on trial along with four of his colleagues further argues, "To suggest that's evidence I was spying? That's absurd. I was truly disappointed today. The only improvement is that they didn't take as many bathroom breaks, but the evidence is still just as weak."

The court reconvened Day Two of the preliminary hearing on Wednesday with four of the five accused lawmakers present. Representative Priscilla Cooper of Montserrado County District #5 waived her right to a preliminary examination and is now expected to head directly to trial at Criminal Court 'A'.

Cllr. Koffa, instead of sitting with the other defendants, actively joined his legal team during cross-examination. The defense focused on dismantling the testimony of the prosecution's first witness, Inspector Peter Johnson of the Liberia National Police (LNP).

The purpose of the preliminary examination is to determine whether there is sufficient probable cause to proceed to trial.

Fayiah, along with County Attorney Richard Scott and Cllr. Bobby Livingston had argued that the preliminary evidence is strong enough to move forward with a full criminal trial. The defense is being spearheaded by top legal figures, including former Associate Justice Walkins Wright and Cllr. Jonathan Massaquoi.

Inspector Johnson's testimony was both detailed and controversial. He alleged that Koffa was the key financier of the operation, pointing to a deleted social media post that read "ALARMO", which, he claimed, was a coded signal linked to the arson plot.

Johnson also introduced audio evidence purportedly capturing Koffa's voice discussing plans to set fire to part of the Capitol. Koffa acknowledges the voice may have been his but denies any involvement in a conspiracy. Other lawmakers dismissed the audio as deepfake or artificially generated content. Johnson further alleges that Rep. Dixon Seboe was the operational mastermind who helped others flee the scene, while charging Rep. Jacob Debee of criminal facilitation by his failure to report the alleged plan.

Rep. Abu Kamara's vehicles were used in executing the operation, according to Officer Johnson.

Johnson's session on Wednesday was marked by frequent interruptions for bathroom breaks, sparking frustration from defense lawyers and their clients. One legal source described the day as a "waste of time," reflecting rising tensions in the courtroom.

Outside, the drama continued, as Koffa exited the courthouse and entered his vehicle.

Hearing continues today, Thursday, June 12. The case could have serious ramifications for Liberia's political stability, rule of law, and public confidence in democratic institutions.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from back page Nimba affected communities slam

line with its obligations.

"What ArcelorMittal is doing in Nimba is a plus, and we cannot sit here and allow Sen. Twayen to tarnish the image of the People of Nimba, (for people) to look at us ugly as betrayers", Armstrong Gobac Selekpoh, a member of one of the affected communities, said.

According to members of the Nimba affected communities, a review of AML MDA from the government shows that, largely, AML is following all its material MDA commitments and obligations between 2006 and April 2024.

They asserted that AML had gone beyond its MDA commitments and obligations and has invested USD 47 million in socioeconomic growth and development of communities in its operational areas and elsewhere in Liberia.

Mr. Kehwalain pointed to the railroad rehabilitation (243 km completed). Port rehabilitation (Buchanan port operational) Reporting & Documentation (storage of records) Employment quotas (met or exceeded all MDA targets) Secondment of Government staff. Vocational Training Center (rehabilitated and expanded) Advanced Scholarships Program (99

awarded, 46% graduated) Access to schooling for dependents (1,080 students enrolled) Taxes and royalties (over \$424 million paid) Security (concerning human rights and VPSHR standards) Community health infrastructure investments (e.g., clinics, hospitals).

"Sen. Nyan doesn't care about the nearly 10,000 jobs created by AML, but he is bent on pushing the company out of Liberia by his shameful comments.

"We distance ourselves from Senator Nyan, and we are not going to support any politician to sit in Monrovia and incite us wrongly," Kehwalain lamented.

He has done nothing for us since he took over. he has not been able to report to the people of Nimba, and not even to identify with communities, the affected communities said.

Meanwhile, this is not the first time that ArcelorMittal Liberia has come under huge criticisms of breaching the MDA in Nimba County by a sitting lawmaker.

In 2022, former Nimba County electoral District#7 Representative Roger Domah slammed the steel giant for failing to meet its commitments. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

Doe Family at loggerheads

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh & Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia; June 12, 2025 - What appears to be a war of words is growing deeply within family of slain Liberian President Samuel K. Doe, over remains of former First Lady, Nancy B. Doe, with daughter of the deceased couple accusing a family member of having hand in her mother's demise.

Madam Doe died at home in Sinkor, Monrovia on May 21, 2025, after a brief illness. But since her death, the family has not been able to speak with one voice, almost on every other thing, with a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Doe,

was crying with the name of Zoe", Veronica Doe said.

But a quick backlash greeted her accusations, as the rest of the family has expressed sadness in the outburst against the Senator and other family members.

The Doe Family, in a release, describes Veronica's comments as heartbreaking and deeply distressing. According to the family, her allegations do not reflect the values they hold dearly, and the truth they know.

They urged the public not to buy into such divisive claims, as they are meant to bring the entire Doe Family to public disrepute.

They said as a family entirely entrenched on love and compassion, no amount of



Slain President Doe and Veronica Doe

Veronica Mamie Doe, returning a consolation package from Ex-president George Manneh Weah on one hand, and accusing a family member, Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue of Grand Gedeh County of being responsible for mother's death.

"Zoe Pennue is a demon; he is blamed for my mother death; he has been killing people and when my mom was dying, she

erroneous claims would compromise cherish values they uphold.

Appearing Tuesday night on the widely viewed political talk show Spoon Talk, Ms. Doe alleged that Senator Pennue was directly responsible for the recent death of her mother.

"I have a strong belief that he's the cause behind my

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 5

Nimba affected communities slam Sen. Twayen over AML agreement

Representatives of Nimba affected communities have rebuffed Sen. Nyan Twayen for what they described as unfortunate comments he made recently regarding the Arcelor Mittal Liberia Mineral Development Agreement (MDA).

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh
Capitol Hill, June 11, 2025: Speaking at a news conference on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at Capitol Hill, the affected communities, through its

track with the MDA signed between the company and the government of Liberia, contrary to what Sen. Twayen had said.

AML has come under fire recently after Sen. Twayen railed

and failing to meet its obligations to the people of Nimba, after over two decades of operations here, while reaping billions in wealth.

His outburst against AML, which had just unveiled a US\$1.8 billion concentrator here, was followed by a petition from the Nimba University Students Association (CONUSA) to the Liberian Legislature on Tuesday requesting that members of the Legislature take urgent action in revisiting AMLMDA.

The Nimba students warned that continued neglect threatens environmental devastation, economic marginalization, amidst corporate exploitation.

But addressing the Press conference on Tuesday, members of the Nimba affected communities slammed their Senator, accusing him of self-interest, while trying to damage their reputations with AML.

According to the affected communities, they are hugely benefiting from the MDA, arguing that the company is in



Spokesperson, Prince Kehwalain, distanced the affected communities from Sen. Twayen's outburst against Arcelor Mittal Liberia.

According to Kehwalain, ArcelorMittal Liberia is on

against it for bad labor practices, and breaching every part of the MDA owed to the people of Nimba County.

The Nimba County Senator also accused the steel giant of exploitation through questionable financial practices

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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