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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025	L\$198.1962/US\$1.00	L\$201.2090/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.

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P11

"We want value for money"

VP Koung and delegation at Shantui Group

VP Koung tells potential suppliers of yellow machines

Counter protests rock Bong County



P11

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Continental News

Uganda leader signs new law allowing military trials for civilians

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has signed into law an amendment that will allow, once again, civilians to be tried in a military court



President Museveni has previously defended the use of military courts

under certain circumstances. A previous law permitting such trials was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in January. Before that ruling, civilians could be taken to a military tribunal if they had been found with military equipment like guns or army uniforms. Activists had

complained that the law was used to persecute government critics. Parliamentarians passed the amendment last month amid a heavy police presence and a

boycott by opposition lawmakers, who argued that it violated the ruling by the country's highest court. In January, the judges said that the military courts were neither impartial nor competent to exercise judicial functions, the International Society for Human Rights reported at the time.

The amendment appears to try and address some of the issues.

It says that those presiding over the tribunals should have relevant legal qualifications and training. It also says that while performing their legal functions they should be independent and impartial. But civilians can still be transferred if found with military hardware.

"The law will deal decisively with armed violent criminals, deter the formation of militant political groups that seek to subvert democratic processes, and ensure national security is bound on a firm foundational base. If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" army spokesperson Col Chris Magezi wrote on X after the bill was passed by MPs. But opposition leader Bobi Wine said the law would be used against him and others.

"All of us in the opposition are being targeted by the act," he told the AFP news agency.

Zambian ex-president's family settle funeral row with government

After days of uncertainty and negotiations, the funeral arrangements for Zambia's former president have been finalised. Edgar Lungu, who led Zambia from 2015 to 2021, died 11 days ago in South Africa where he was receiving treatment for an undisclosed illness. According to his family, he had left instructions that his political rival and current President Hakainde Hichilema "should not come anywhere near his body". But a spokesperson for the Lungu family confirmed that an agreement had been reached with the government that allowed for Hichilema to preside over a state funeral next Sunday. The row caused consternation among some in Zambia with people left wondering how they should mourn their former leader. After days of talks, the Lungu family and the government have agreed that: The former president's body will be flown to the Zambian capital, Lusaka, on Wednesday on a private charter plane. On arrival at the airport, the body will be received by the

family and then there will be full military honours. It will then be transported to Lungu's residence in Lusaka where it will lie in state. For three days, starting on Thursday, it will be taken to a conference centre in the capital where the public can pay their respects. A state funeral will be held on Sunday 22 June. The former president will be interred the following day at Embassy Park, the official presidential burial grounds, and official mourning will end. At a joint press briefing in South Africa, Lungu family

spokesperson Makebi Zulu, sitting alongside Secretary to Zambia's Cabinet Patrick Kangwa, said the family apologised "for the inconvenience and pain that the protracted negotiations may have caused but we were doing our best to honour the former president's personal wishes". Mr Zulu also said that the family was proceeding on the basis that the government would "not deviate from our agreement". Speaking for the government, Mr Kangwa appealed for unity and thanked Zambians for their patience "during this difficult time".



Zambia's former President Edgar Lungu died at the age of 68 in South Africa

Kenya's deputy police chief steps aside amid uproar over blogger's death

Kenya's deputy police chief Eliud Lagat has stepped aside pending the outcome of investigations into the death in detention of blogger Albert Ojwang.

Mr Lagat had been under pressure to resign from the opposition and human rights activists as Mr Ojwang was arrested after he filed a complaint, accusing the blogger of defaming him on social media. Police initially said that Mr Ojwang died of self-inflicted wounds, but were forced to retract the statement after an autopsy found that he was likely to have died from assault wounds.

Mr Lagat denied any wrongdoing, but said in a statement that he was stepping aside in the "good and conscious thought" of his responsibilities as deputy police chief. "I undertake to provide any support that may

spoke with Mr Ojwang's father, Meshack Opiyo, following his son's death, the local Daily Nation news site reports.

"He [Ruto] said: 'I'm sorry,' and we spoke at length. His words were sincere," Mr Opiyo is quoted as saying. Ruto promised to give the family two million Kenyan shillings (\$15,500; £11,4000) to help cover funeral costs, while veteran opposition politician Raila Odinga, who also spoke to the family, pledged half the amount, the newspaper reports.

In an initial statement, police said Mr Ojwang was found unconscious in his cell and was rushed to a city hospital, where he succumbed to head injuries allegedly sustained from banging his head against the wall. But an autopsy report and an investigation by the police watchdog, the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA),



Albert Ojwang's death in police custody about a week ago has caused outrage in Kenya

be required of me during the investigations of the unfortunate incident," Mr Lagat said.

"I offer immense condolences to the family of Mr Albert Ojwang for their great loss," he added.

Until the investigation is concluded, Mr Lagat will have no access to his office, and his duties will be performed by his deputy.

This comes amid intensifying pressure, with more demonstrations planned this week by activists demanding a transparent investigation into the 31-year-old blogger's death.

Mr Ojwang was arrested in his village of Kakoth, near the western town of Homa Bay, on 7 June. He was then driven to the main police station in Nairobi, and was reported to have died a few days later.

Kenya's President William Ruto

ruled out the possibility that Mr Ojwang might have killed himself.

While investigations continue, the head of the police station has been detained, along with another officer and a technician accused of disabling the station's CCTV. Police chief Douglas Kanja has apologised for the initial police claim that the blogger died of self-inflicted wounds, saying it was based on "misinformation" from his juniors.

Ruto has called for a swift investigation, and has promised that his government would "protect citizens from rogue police officers". Ruto first pledged to end Kenya's history of police brutality and extrajudicial killings when he came to power in 2022.

But nearly 160 cases of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances

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 Shlomo Ben-Ami

Israel’s War of Grand Ambition

TELAVIV - The rapidly escalating military conflict between Israel and Iran represents a clash of ambitions. Iran seeks to become a nuclear power, and Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu longs to be remembered as the Israeli leader who categorically thwarted Iran’s nuclear program, which he views as an existential threat to Israel’s survival. Both dreams are as misguided as they are dangerous.

Iran’s nuclear ambitions have always been driven primarily by the goal of securing the regime’s survival, not annihilating Israel, which is far more likely to be destroyed at the end of a long war of attrition than under a mushroom cloud. But Israel cannot afford to treat Iran’s threats of nuclear Armageddon as mere bloviating, particularly after Hamas’s October 7 terrorist attack, which triggered Israel’s long, brutal, and ongoing offensive against the Iranian proxy in Gaza. It is not wrong to fear a nuclear Iran.

But Netanyahu is a key reason why Iran’s nuclear program is as far along as it is. It was over his objections that the so-called P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), together with the European Union, negotiated the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran, freezing the Islamic Republic’s nuclear program. And it was under pressure from Netanyahu that Donald Trump withdrew the US from the JCPOA three years later, spurring Iran to renew its race for the bomb.

Israel’s audacious attacks on Iran surely will cause further tension between Trump and Netanyahu. Since his return to the White House, Trump has sought a new nuclear agreement with the Islamic Republic. But this was never going to be an easy process - and not only because Iran has little reason to trust the US. While Trump has no qualms about touting unimpressive (or worse) deals as historic breakthroughs, he surely feels pressure to strike an agreement that is somehow better than the JCPOA that then-US President Barack Obama negotiated a decade ago.

Given this, Trump probably views Israel’s strikes as useful in limited doses - just enough to increase his leverage in the nuclear negotiations that were already underway. But Netanyahu is fighting for his political survival - and in that battle, no bridge is too far.

While Israel initially focused its attacks on nuclear facilities and ballistic missile bases, the conflict has escalated to include targets that could draw the US into the war (such as energy facilities and residential buildings), and it is just getting started. In line with his grand Churchillian ambition - and mirroring the perspective he has brought to his war against Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon - Netanyahu is seeking “total victory” over Iran. This would render a nuclear deal unnecessary.

There is just one problem: Israel is incapable of eradicating Iran’s nuclear program. Israel has struck nuclear sites in Natanz and Isfahan, but the damage to the facilities was limited, partly because Israel recognized the need to avoid unleashing radiation across the region. And Israel does not have bombs that can penetrate Iran’s Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant, which is built inside a mountain.

Of course, physical infrastructure is only part of the equation. That is why Israel also targeted scientists, as well as top Revolutionary Guard leaders. But Iran’s nuclear program is an expansive and deeply embedded state project. Killing a few - or even a few dozen - individuals will not paralyze it, let alone eliminate it.

In any case, Israel still needs the US. And Trump has no interest in letting Israel drive up oil prices or create a rift between him and America’s Gulf allies, which just agreed to funnel trillions of dollars in investment toward the US.

Nor can Israel hope for the tacit complicity that the Arab states demonstrated in its war against Hamas and Hezbollah. While these countries have no love for Iran, they have a vested interest in regional stability, especially as they work to diversify their economies. A cornered Iran might even attack the Gulf states directly, hitting their oil installations or disrupting transport lanes in the Persian Gulf. These countries want a nuclear deal, not a regional conflagration.

Iran probably wants roughly the same. Though it withdrew from scheduled nuclear talks in Oman, its military response has been confined to Israeli targets. Notably, despite having poured billions of dollars into its regional proxies in recent years, it has refrained from activating them - however diminished they may have been rendered by Israel - against American or Arab targets.

But if Iran finds itself with its back against the wall, it can force a reluctant Hezbollah and its Iraqi militias into the fight. If not now, when? It is for occasions like this that the alliances were created in the first place. Iran can also incite attacks against Israel elsewhere, such as the West Bank. Moreover, it will probably withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, opening the way for it to achieve nuclear breakout - a process that would take mere months.

Iran now risks falling into the same strategic trap that drained the energies of the Sunni pan-Arabism it revolted against in 1979. By pouring its energy and resources into a war of annihilation against Israel, it would jeopardize its primary objective: regime survival.

But Iran is not alone in letting illusory ambitions cloud its judgment. If Israel cannot destroy Iran’s nuclear program, it certainly cannot achieve total victory over Iran’s regime. And it is not just Iran: none of Israel’s security challenges can be overcome through total victory. No matter how many bombs Netanyahu drops, diplomacy will remain the only answer. Meanwhile, Israel’s military hubris is becoming inadmissible to its moderate Arab allies. They wanted Israel as an equal partner in a regional peace, not as a new hegemon.

Shlomo Ben-Ami, a former Israeli foreign minister, is Vice President of the Toledo International Center for Peace and the author of *Prophets Without Honor: The 2000 Camp David Summit and the End of the Two-State Solution* (Oxford University Press, 2022).

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2025 Nimba County District #5 By-Election Regulations

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PART I

Section 1 : Citation

These Regulations may be cited as the 2025 District #5, Nimba County By-Election Regulations.

Section 2: Definitions

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise indicates:

- (i) "Application" means a request by a political party, coalition, or alliance or any aspirant, to the Commission to stand in an Election;
- (ii) "By-Election" means any election other than a general or special election as provided for under the provision of Article 37 of the 1986 Constitution and to otherwise include election called for the purpose of filling vacancies created as a result of unexpired term in an elective position other than the Presidency and the Vice Presidency;
- (iii) "BOC" means the Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission;
- (iv) "Commission" means the National Elections Commission (NEC);
- (v) "Aspirant" means any person nominated or endorsed by a political party, coalition or alliance, and anyone applying to the Commission to stand as a candidate; "aspirant candidate" shall have the same meaning;
- (vi) "Candidate" means any person nominated or endorsed by a political party, coalition or alliance, anyone applying to the Commission who is accredited by the NEC through the nomination process to contest in the election.
- (vii) "Domicile" means the residence in the constituency of an aspirant or candidate who seeks elective public office in which he/she lives and pays taxes;
- (viii) "Residence" means the place where an aspirant or candidate lives;
- (ix) "Alliance" means any alliance accredited by the Commission to participate in election;
- (x) "Coalition" means any coalition accredited by the Commission to participate in the election;
- (xi) "Political Party" means an association with a membership of not less than five hundred (500) qualified registered voters in at least each of any six (6) counties. The activities of a political party which has met the minimum registration requirements laid down by the Elections Commission by filing with said Elections Commission, its articles of incorporation and by-laws in the Archives of the Republic of Liberia shall include canvassing for votes on any public issue, or in support of a candidate for elective office;
- (xii) "Independent candidate" means a person seeking elective public office with or without his/her own organization, acting independently of a political party.
- (xiii) "Campaign", means canvassing for votes;
- (xiv) "The NEC", means the National Elections Commission;
- (xv) "Publication" means when the NEC places these regulations on its official website.

Section 3: Application of Regulations

These Regulations apply to the 2025 Nimba County District #5 By-Election.

PART II

Section 4: Voter Registration

- 4.1 Any qualified Liberian citizen who registered as a voter in District #5, Nimba County and is in possession of a valid voter registration card issued by the NEC, shall, upon production and verification, be entitled to use such card to vote in the polling place so designated by the NEC.
- 4.2 The VR Card Replacement Exercise will be carried out on the designated dates to be publicly announced by the NEC.

PART III**Section 5: General Provisions Relating to Political Parties, Alliances, Coalitions and Independent Candidates**

- 5.1 All qualified political parties, coalitions or alliances may contest in this by-election; provided that such Association shall have satisfied any other requirements laid down by the 1986 Liberian Constitution, Statutory Laws, NEC's Regulations, Guidelines and Code of Conduct;
- 5.2 Any Liberian Citizen who meets the requirements may apply to the NEC for registration to stand in the By-Election as an independent candidate, provided that such person shall have a functioning office in District #5, Nimba County and satisfying any other requirements laid down by the 1986 Liberian Constitution, Statutory Laws, NEC's Regulations, Guidelines and Code of Conduct;

PART IV**Section 6: Qualifications for Office and Proof of such Qualification**

- 6.1 Any person, in order to be accepted to stand as a candidate in the By-election must, in addition to meeting any other legal requirement:
- 6.1.1 Be a citizen of Liberia;
- 6.1.2 Has attained the age of thirty (25) years;
- 6.1.3 Be domiciled in District #5, Nimba County not less than one year prior to the Election;
- 6.1.4 Be a taxpayer;
- 6.1.5 If he/she is running on the ticket of a political party, alliance or coalition, the endorsing coalition, party or alliance must present proof of a minimum bank balance of US\$10,000.00 or its Liberian Dollars equivalent; and also present proof of an insurance policy not less than US\$100,000.00 or its Liberian Dollar equivalent.
- 6.1.6 In the case of an independent candidate, he/she shall display proof of deposit and maintenance of a minimum bank balance of US\$10,000.00 or its Liberian Dollars equivalent; and also present proof of an insurance policy not less than US\$100,000.00 or its Liberian Dollar equivalent.
- 6.1.7 Each aspirant is required to submit a separate sworn declaration or affidavit together with his/her application for nomination, attesting to:
- 6.1.8 His/her citizenship;
- 6.1.9 His/her domicile;
- 6.2.0 His/her actual, regular and principal place of residence;
- 6.2.1 In addition, an aspirant shall submit together with his/her application for registration a copy of each of the following:
- 6.2.2 National Identification Card, Passport (biographical page);
- 6.2.3 Tax clearance as a regular taxpayer (income or property taxes);
- 6.2.4 Any other documentation containing information which the Commission may in its sole discretion request to verify the authenticity of the aspirant's claim to being qualified for the office sought.

PART V**Section 7: Nomination Procedures for Candidates of Political Parties, Alliances, and Coalitions**

- 7.1 A registered political party, alliance or coalition intending to contest this By-Election, shall, together with payment of the prescribed application fee, pick up the nomination package (at the NEC headquarters) containing all relevant nomination forms including endorsement forms which shall be filled in by both the candidate and the party (National Chairperson/National Secretary General) and submit same to the NEC before the close of the nomination period.

- 7.2 The Commission may reject any application which does not meet the qualification and criteria specified in the Liberian Constitution, the New Elections Law of 1986, or the Regulations.

Section 8: Application Procedure for Independent Candidate

- 8.1 Any Liberian citizen who satisfies the qualifications specified herein shall, together with payment of the prescribed application fee, pick up a nomination package (at the NEC headquarters), fill it in and submit same to the NEC before the close of the Nomination period.

Section 9: Application Fees

- 9.1 Every aspirant shall pay a non-refundable application fee of Five Hundred United States Dollars (US\$500.00) or its Liberian Dollar equivalent into an account designated by the Commission.

Section 10: Verification and Determination Procedures for all Aspirants

- 10.1 The Commission, upon receipt of an application package, shall issue a written and dated notice of receipt to the aspirant.
- 10.2 The Commission may take all lawful steps which it deems necessary, including the holding of hearings, to verify the accuracy of the information and documentation submitted by an aspirant, in order to ascertain that the aspirant meets the requirements
- 10.3 An aspirant shall correct any defect in his/her application package before the close of the Nomination period (July 4, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.).
- 10.4 The Commission shall notify an aspirant about the rejection of his/her application. An aspirant whose application has been rejected may appeal the NEC's decision to the Supreme Court within forty-eight (48) hours of the NEC's decision.
- 10.5 The Commission shall publish on its website the names of all candidates accepted to contest.

PART VI**Section 11: Campaign Period**

- 11.1 The Commission shall determine, publish and announce the date when official campaign shall open and close.
- 11.2 No two candidates/parties shall be allowed to campaign in the same area at the same time.
- 11.3 The official campaign period shall end at midnight forty-eight (48) hours before the Election Day.

Section 12: Complaints and Appeal

- 12.1 The provisions of the NEC's Regulations on Complaints Appeal and NEC's Elections Hearing Procedures promulgated by the National Elections Commission on October 7, 2022 apply to this By-Election.

Section 13: Effective Date

These Regulations shall enter into force immediately upon their publication by the Commission and shall be binding upon all candidates, political parties, alliances, coalitions and independent candidates contesting these By-Elections.


DONE UNDER OUR HANDS AND SEAL OF THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION (NEC) THIS 10th DAY OF JUNE, 2025.

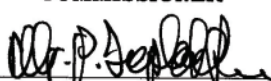

Hon. Josephine Kou Gaye
COMMISSIONER

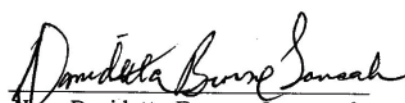

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2025 Nimba County District #5 By- Election Nomination and Registration Procedures

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Definitions

In these candidate nomination/registration procedures, unless the context otherwise indicates:

- Commission - means the National Elections Commission;
- By-Election - means any election other than a general or special election as provided for under the provision of Article 37 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia;
- Alliance or Coalition - means two (2) or more political parties accredited by the National Elections Commission (NEC) as a single entity for the purpose of participating in an election, while maintaining their individual identities;
- Candidate Nomination Application - means the registration documents that an aspirant, whether running on the ticket of a political party, coalition, alliance, or independent, submits to the Commission to stand for nomination in the 2025 senatorial By-Election in Nimba County;
- Aspirant – means anyone canvassing for elective public office;
- Candidate – means any individual who has been endorsed by a political party, coalition or alliance, or who runs as an independent candidate for an elective public office and has been duly accredited as such by the NEC;
- Campaign - means to canvass for votes;
- Domicile – refers to the residence in the constituency of an aspirant or candidate who seeks elective public office in which he/she lives and pays taxes;
- Voter - means any qualified person who has been regularly registered and is in possession of a valid Registration Card and whose name appears on a Registration Roll;

Candidate Nomination Period

The Aspirants/candidates' registration for the 2025 Senatorial By-Election in Nimba County, respectively, will commence on **Monday, June 23, 2025** in the nomination center at the Headquarters of the National Elections Commission, located on 9th Street, Sinkor, Montserrado County and end on **Friday, July 4, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.**

During the nomination period, between the hours of **09:00 A.M. to 05:00 P.M. (Monday through Friday)**, aspirants shall submit nomination application/registration documents to the NEC Nomination Committee at the nomination Center. An aspirant must personally appear at the nomination center (during the nomination period) to submit his or her nomination application/registration documents.

General Eligibility Criteria

An aspirant, whether nominated by a political party, coalition, or alliance or applying independently must:

1. Meet the candidate eligibility criteria for the Office sought;
2. Fulfill the application requirements; and
3. Appear in person (during the nomination period) for registration at the nomination center.

Application and Registration Fees

All aspirants must pay the applicable nonrefundable application and registration fee as stated under Section 7.3.2 of the Elections Law.

Processing Fee of Petition List for Independent Aspirants

An independent aspirant must pay the applicable nonrefundable processing fee concerning his/her Petition List, as stated in the application requirements.

In addition to the requirements above, each aspirant must satisfy all other requirements issued by the Commission and submit the documents to the Commission during the nomination period.

Issuing Nomination Package

Nomination package will be available for pickup in the nomination center, at the Candidate Nomination Help Desk, beginning Monday, June 23, 2025 and throughout the nomination period (June 23 thru July 4 2025). A Political party, coalition, or alliance must pick up the nomination package through its national Chairperson, national Secretary General, or duly authorized agent. An independent aspirant must pick up the registration package personally or through a duly authorized agent.

It is the responsibility of the aspirant to carefully read the nomination procedures and other information on how to complete the forms and what documents and procedures are required in order to get nominated and registered as a candidate for the office sought.

UPON ENTERING THE NOMINATION CENTER

An Aspirant will:

- Proceed to the Help Desk and write his or her name on the sign-in sheet.
- Be escorted by the Protocol Officer to the Document Verification desk where a verification officer will confirm whether the aspirant has been nominated by a political party or is applying as an independent aspirant.
- Hand over his/her completed registration application package to the Verification Officer. If the aspirant's package is missing any of the required forms or documentation, the Document Verification Officer will return the package to the aspirant. The aspirant may return to the Nomination Center, during the nomination period, with all the necessary forms and/or documents. If the Documentation Verification Officer confirms that the aspirant's package has the required forms/documentation and proof of payment, the aspirant will be escorted to an area in the Nomination Center to wait for his/her turn to be processed.

USE OF SYMBOLS

1. If an aspirant is endorsed by a political party, coalition or alliance, he/she shall use the symbol of that party, coalition, or alliance that was submitted to the NEC. The Data Entry Officer of the Nomination Team will attach the appropriate symbol to the aspirant's application;
2. In the case of an independent aspirant, he/she should provide the Aspirant Desk Officer with his/her symbol, stored on a compact disc (CD). If an independent aspirant does not have a symbol or provides one that is similar to a symbol submitted by another aspirant and cannot be accepted, the aspirant will have the option of returning with an appropriate symbol within the nomination period.

Scrutiny of an Aspirant's Registration Package

- Please note that receipt of an aspirant's submitted forms and documents does not constitute an acceptance of the aspirant's registration as additional processes, including scrutiny must be completed. The NEC may take all lawful steps, including the holding of an investigation/hearing to verify the accuracy of the information and documentation submitted by an aspirant, political party, coalition, or alliance so as to ascertain whether the aspirant is qualified under the Law and/or the Regulations.
- The Candidate Nomination Committee of the NEC shall notify an aspirant of its decision to accept or reject the aspirant's application. An aspirant whose application has been rejected by the Committee may, within 24 hours following receipt of the said decision, perfect his/her written appeal to the NEC Board of Commissioners. An aspirant dissatisfied with the rejection decision of the Board of Commissioners may, within 48 hours following receipt of the said decision, perfect his/her written appeal to the Honorable Supreme Court.

Publication of the Provisional List of Candidates

- The NEC will publish the Provisional List of Candidates for the said By-Election on its website at necliberia.org.

Corrections to the Provisional List of Candidates

- Aspirants are encouraged to review the Provisional List for any inaccuracies made by the NEC. An Aspirant whose information on the Provisional List is incorrect may within two (2) days of the publication of the Provisional List request in writing that the Commission corrects the inaccurate information. Corrections may be made on the following grounds:
 1. Incorrect recording or publication of the aspirant's name and or positioning on the ballot paper;
 2. Incorrect or misplacement of the party's/aspirant's symbol;
 3. Incorrect or misplacement of the party's/aspirant's photograph; and/or

Challenge to Name on the Provisional List

A candidate on the Provisional List, a participating political party, coalition or alliance may challenge, where applicable, the eligibility of a candidate on the Provisional List. Such a challenge must be in writing (with all relevant documents/evidence attached) and filed with the NEC no later than two (2) days after the date of publication of the said Provisional List of Candidates. The following are grounds for challenge:

That the candidate:

1. Has not attained the constitutional age;
2. Has not been domiciled in Nimba County, District #5 one year prior to August 12, 2025; or
3. Has dual citizenship.

Decision on registration/challenge

A challenger or challenged aspirant/candidate not satisfied with an investigative/hearing decision may, within 24 hours following receipt of the said decision, perfect his/her written appeal to the Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission. A challenger or challenged aspirant/candidate dissatisfied with the Board of Commissioners' decision may, within 48 hours following receipt of the said decision, perfect his/her written appeal to the Honorable Supreme Court of the Republic of Liberia.

Period for Permissible Withdrawal

A candidate may withdraw from contesting an election by giving written notice to the Commission no later than seven (7) days after the last day for receiving nomination; and a withdrawal notice after this period is void. This does not apply to the second round of a presidential election.

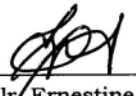
The notice of withdrawal shall be as follows:

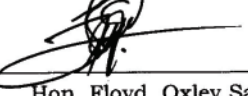
- The signature of an independent aspirant shall be sufficient to effect his/her withdrawal.
- If the aspirant is endorsed by a political party, coalition or alliance, said withdrawal can only be effected under the joint signatures of the aspirant and chairperson of the party.
- Registration and/or processing fees once paid are non-refundable.

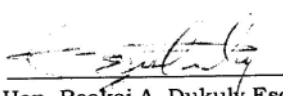
DONE UNDER OUR HANDS AND SEAL OF THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION (NEC), IN THE CITY OF MONROVIA, THIS 10TH DAY OF JUNE, 2025.

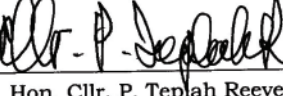

Hon. Josephine Kou Gaye
COMMISSIONER


Hon. Barsee L. Kpangbai
COMMISSIONER


Hon. Cllr. Ernestine Morgan-Awar
COMMISSIONER


Hon. Floyd Oxley Saylor
COMMISSIONER


Hon. Boakai A. Dukuly Esq.
COMMISSIONER


Hon. Cllr. P. Teplah Reeves
CO-CHAIRPERSON


Hon. Davidetta Browne-Lansanah
CHAIRPERSON

Français

« Je reviendrai en 2029 » – George Weah entretient l'espoir, couronné Père de l'année

L'ancien président libérien George Manneh Weah continue d'entretenir

représenter à l'élection présidentielle de 2029. S'exprimant devant les fidèles de sa congrégation au sein de

vous, pour ce pays, et je reviendrai. »

Fidèle à son ton résolu, il a ajouté : « Je ne suis pas affecté par les critiques. Les injures et les calomnies ne me déstabilisent pas. Ce qui me préoccupe, c'est ma famille – ma femme, mes enfants. Pas ceux pour qui j'ai donné ma vie. »

M. Weah a brièvement évoqué son bilan à la tête de l'État, déclarant avoir donné le meilleur de lui-même durant son premier mandat : « Vous m'avez élu président, j'ai travaillé du mieux que j'ai pu. Vous m'avez retiré du pouvoir, je ne me suis pas plaint. Alors, pourquoi ce combat ? » Revenant sur l'histoire du pays, il a déclaré :

« Je ne suis pas le problème de ce pays. Le Liberia a été fondé en 1847 – j'étais là en 1847 ? Même il y a vingt ans, je n'étais pas là. Nous avons hérité des problèmes de ce pays et avons tenté, du mieux que nous

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

l'espoir d'un retour au pouvoir, affirmant que sa relation avec le peuple libérien demeure la source de sa détermination. Il a annoncé avec assurance son intention de se

l'église Forky Klon Jlah Family Fellowship Church (située au Séminaire Baptiste), où il a été désigné pour la deuxième fois « Père de l'année », M. Weah a affirmé : « Je n'ai rien fait de mal au peuple libérien. Dieu est témoin. J'ai combattu pour

Incendie du Capitole : Le procès de Fonati Koffa et coaccusés s'ouvre aujourd'hui

Le procès tant attendu de l'ancien président de la Chambre des représentants, le conseiller Fonati Koffa, et de trois autres personnalités politiques, s'ouvre ce lundi 16 juin 2025 devant la Cour criminelle « C » au Temple de la Justice. Ils sont accusés d'avoir orchestré l'incendie criminel du bâtiment du Capitole le 18 décembre 2024.

Cette ouverture du procès fait suite à une décision rendue vendredi 13 juin par le tribunal de première instance de Monrovia, estimant que le ministère public disposait de preuves suffisantes pour poursuivre les accusés devant une juridiction criminelle.

Lors de l'audience préliminaire, le magistrat Ben Barco a conclu que les éléments présentés par l'accusation constituaient un cas prima facie, c'est-à-dire qu'il existe des motifs raisonnables de soupçonner les inculpés d'avoir commis une infraction. Il a précisé que ce seuil n'exige pas une preuve « au-delà de tout

doute raisonnable », mais simplement des fondements sérieux pour la tenue d'un procès complet. Les prévenus – les représentants Dixon Seeboe, Abu B. Kamara, Fonati Koffa et Jacob C. Debbie – sont accusés d'avoir comploté en vue de l'achat de carburant et d'explosifs utilisés pour incendier la salle plénière du Parlement. Des preuves accablantes, selon l'État

Dans une interview téléphonique accordée au programme Hot Seat Midnight Conversation durant le week-end, le procureur général, Me

Augustine C. Fayiah, s'est montré confiant dans la solidité des preuves à charge. Selon lui, le gouvernement est prêt à démontrer « au-delà de tout doute raisonnable » l'implication des parlementaires dans cet acte criminel.

« Nous sommes préparés. Ce qui nous préoccupe, ce sont les faits, pas les moyens financiers. Nous sommes payés pour faire ce travail, et nous le ferons. Nos procureurs sont bien formés

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Par Jayati Ghosh

La Conférence sur le financement du développement a-t-elle des chances de succès ?

NEW DELHI – Le pessimisme est aujourd'hui compréhensible en ce qui concerne le multilatéralisme. Les récents rassemblements internationaux – Sommet de 2023 sur les Objectifs de développement durable, Sommet de l'avenir 2024, ainsi que les multiples Conférences des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques – n'ont en effet donné lieu qu'à des promesses non tenues. Le président américain Donald Trump abandonnant actuellement les engagements internationaux des États-Unis, et rejetant les initiatives multilatérales tout en semant le désordre et la confusion dans le commerce mondial, la Conférence sur le financement du développement (FfD4) qui se tiendra à la fin du mois pourra-t-elle produire de meilleurs résultats ?

Certes, il faut s'attendre à ce que les États-Unis jouent les trouble-fête à Séville, ou à ce qu'ils se montrent indifférents aux accords conclus. Cela ne signifiera pas pour autant l'échec de cette conférence. En effet, le retrait des États-Unis de l'accord de Paris 2015 sur le climat durant le premier mandat de Trump – quelques mois seulement après l'entrée en vigueur du texte – n'a pas conduit à sa disparition. Bien que l'action climatique demeure limitée, presque tous les protagonistes admettent que le changement climatique se produirait encore plus rapidement si cet accord n'avait pas été conclu.

Les États-Unis se sont par ailleurs [retirés](#) en avril des négociations sur la décarbonation du transport maritime menées au sein de l'Organisation maritime internationale (OMI) des Nations Unies, menaçant de prendre des « mesures réciproques » si de nouvelles taxes étaient imposées aux navires américains pour leur consommation de carburant. Or, l'OMI est malgré tout [parvenue](#) à convaincre 108 États – qui représentent 97 % de la flotte marchande mondiale en termes de tonnage – d'approuver une nouvelle norme obligatoire concernant le carburant des navires, ainsi qu'un mécanisme mondial de tarification des émissions, dont les recettes sont destinées à soutenir notamment le développement d'infrastructures dans les économies en voie de développement.

Il est clairement possible pour le monde de progresser sans les États-Unis face à des défis communs. Le manque d'implication des États-Unis dans la FfD4 pourrait même s'avérer avantageux, compte tenu de leur tendance habituelle consistant à obtenir des compromis favorables à leurs propres multinationales, pour ensuite refuser de signer ou d'appliquer quelque accord que ce soit – comme l'illustrent les négociations relatives à l'accord fiscal mondial de l'OCDE, finalisé en 2021.

Pour que la FfD4 soit une réussite, il faudra néanmoins que d'autres États viennent combler le manque de leadership mondial, et qu'ils démontrent un engagement crédible en faveur de la coopération multilatérale, qui est essentielle à notre survie. Fort heureusement, la [première version](#) du document final de la FfD4 reconnaît cet impératif, et formule de nombreuses propositions politiques utiles et pratiques, dont plusieurs sont issues du [rapport final](#) de la Commission internationale d'experts sur le financement du développement (dont j'étais membre).

L'un des points clés du document consiste à permettre une plus grande mobilisation des ressources nationales. Un système fiscal international obsolète et des contrôles insuffisants des flux financiers illicites pèsent lourdement sur les budgets des pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire. Des réformes dans ces domaines contribueraient grandement à réduire les inégalités de revenus et d'actifs, ainsi qu'à faire croître des recettes fiscales indispensables pour financer les investissements dans la santé, l'éducation, l'atténuation et l'adaptation au changement climatique.

Il est plus largement nécessaire que les participants au sommet de Séville s'efforcent de remédier à l'absence de filet de sécurité financière mondiale. Une première étape pourrait consister à mettre en place des allocations régulières de droits de tirage spéciaux, l'actif de réserve du Fonds monétaire international. Pour renforcer l'impact de cette démarche, les DTS pourraient être distribués en fonction des besoins – en rupture avec l'approche actuelle, qui alloue les DTS proportionnellement aux quotas du FMI, ce qui signifie que les parts les plus importantes reviennent aux États qui en ont le moins besoin. Le FMI pourrait également introduire des swaps de DTS afin de répondre aux besoins de liquidités immédiats des économies qui ne bénéficient pas des swaps de liquidités de la Réserve fédérale américaine.

Français

Starts from page 8 « Je reviendrai en 2029 » – George Weah

pouvions, de les résoudre. » Battu de justesse par l'actuel président Joseph Nyuma Boakai lors des élections générales de décembre 2023, considérées comme une revanche électorale de 2017, M. Weah ne semble pas découragé. Alors que Boakai a remporté le scrutin malgré une campagne soutenue des deux camps, Weah nourrit désormais de nouvelles ambitions pour 2029. Dans cet élan, un mouvement citoyen dénommé « Weah Coming Back » a récemment vu le jour. Son lancement officiel serait imminent, signe que le camp Weah entend mobiliser ses partisans autour de sa probable candidature. L'ancien président a également lancé un appel à l'unité et à la

Starts from page 8 Incendie du Capitole : Le procès de Fonati

et savent exactement ce qu'ils font. Même la défense sait qu'elle ne peut contester ces preuves », a déclaré Me Fayiah. Il a affirmé que les investigations menées par l'État ont été rigoureuses, et que les éléments de preuve — y compris les témoignages de personnes ayant vu les accusés transporter de l'essence vers le Capitole — sont solides et recevables en justice. Rejet des critiques sur les preuves numériques Face aux critiques de la défense, qui a insinué que certaines preuves étaient tirées de réseaux sociaux ou générées par l'intelligence artificielle, Me Fayiah a rétorqué fermement : « Ce que nous avons présenté n'a rien à voir avec les réseaux sociaux ou des technologies inventées. Nous avons suivi les procédures légales. Les preuves ont été obtenues légalement, par voie de réquisition et d'assignation. » Il a également réfuté les doutes exprimés quant à la validité des enregistrements audio

Des suspects interpellés après l'attaque contre la ligne ferroviaire d'ArcelorMittal Liberia à Grand Bassa

libérienne (LNP) a annoncé l'arrestation de plusieurs individus suspectés d'être impliqués dans des actes de vandalisme et le blocage des opérations ferroviaires d'ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) dans le comté de Grand Bassa. Les faits se sont produits entre le 10 et le 12 juin 2025, entraînant l'interruption du transport du minerai de fer depuis le comté de Nimba jusqu'au port de Buchanan, via la voie ferrée stratégique exploitée par AML. Selon les autorités, ces actes ont causé des perturbations majeures dans les activités de l'entreprise, ainsi que des pertes financières importantes. Le chemin de fer reliant Yekepa à Buchanan constitue en effet une infrastructure vitale pour l'exportation du minerai de fer, principale ressource minière du pays. Des anciens employés parmi les suspects Les suspects interpellés — Andrew Jokpo (22 ans), Sampson B. Pokiay (43 ans), constatations, les protestataires Cyrus Bloue (32 ans), J. Prince Quito (27 ans), Stanley Ben (19 ans), et Samuel Barchue (19 ans) — seraient d'anciens employés d'une société sous-traitante, WBHO, indépendante d'ArcelorMittal Liberia. Ils sont actuellement placés en garde à vue en attendant leur mise en accusation. D'après les premières



La Chine et l'Afrique dénoncent le protectionnisme et l'unilatéralisme

La République populaire de Chine, la Commission de l'Union africaine, ainsi que 53 pays africains, dont le Liberia, ont fermement condamné la montée du protectionnisme, de l'unilatéralisme et des pratiques économiques abusives qui entravent gravement le développement socio-économique et la qualité de vie en Afrique et dans d'autres régions du Sud global. Cette position commune a été exprimée mercredi 11 juin à l'occasion de la réunion ministérielle des coordinateurs chargés du suivi des engagements du Forum sur la coopération sino-africaine (FOCAC), tenue à Changsha, dans la province chinoise du Hunan. La délégation libérienne était conduite par le Dr Ibrahim Al-barkri Nyei, vice-ministre des Affaires étrangères chargé de la Coopération internationale et de l'Intégration économique.



Guidés par le consensus des chefs d'État formulé lors du sommet de Pékin en 2024, les représentants chinois, les délégués des 53 pays africains et la Commission de l'UA se sont réunis pour faire progresser la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration de Pékin sur la construction conjointe d'une communauté sino-africaine à toute épreuve pour la nouvelle ère. Vers une coopération de qualité Dans son intervention, la Chine a réaffirmé son engagement à renforcer sa coopération avec l'Afrique dans le cadre de dix axes stratégiques de partenariat pour la modernisation, incluant l'industrie verte, le commerce électronique, les paiements numériques, la science, la technologie et l'intelligence artificielle. La coopération sera également élargie aux domaines de la sécurité, de la finance et de l'État de droit, dans le but de promouvoir un développement de haute qualité de la coopération sino-africaine. Le FOCAC est désormais reconnu comme un modèle de solidarité Sud-Sud. Le rapport d'étape sur la mise en œuvre des décisions du Sommet de Pékin offre une présentation concrète, quantitative et exhaustive des progrès réalisés. Les parties ont annoncé leur volonté commune de faire de 2026 l'Année des échanges entre les peuples Chine-Afrique, selon un plan d'action défini dans un document conceptuel publié à cette occasion. Une résolution forte en faveur du multilatéralisme À l'issue de la séance plénière, les participants ont adopté une résolution en neuf points destinée à répondre aux défis économiques et développementaux majeurs. Ils y soulignent que l'émergence du Sud global constitue une tendance irréversible et porteuse d'avenir. « La Chine et l'Afrique sont des piliers majeurs du Sud global. Nous appelons l'ensemble des pays — en particulier ceux du Sud — à œuvrer à la construction d'une communauté de destin pour l'humanité, à promouvoir une coopération de qualité dans le cadre de l'Initiative la Ceinture et la Route, et à mettre en œuvre les grandes initiatives mondiales pour le développement, la sécurité et la civilisation », indique la résolution. Les signataires ont dénoncé les tentatives de certains pays, notamment les États-Unis, de perturber l'ordre économique et commercial mondial par l'imposition de droits de douane unilatéraux, estimant que ces pratiques nuisent à l'intérêt général international. Ils appellent la communauté internationale à accorder une attention prioritaire aux difficultés économiques rencontrées par les pays africains et à renforcer l'aide au développement plutôt qu'à la réduire, afin de soutenir efficacement la lutte contre la pauvreté, l'amélioration des conditions de vie et la croissance économique durable. Respect mutuel et équité internationale La Chine a été saluée pour sa détermination à défendre l'équité et la justice sur la scène internationale, tandis que les pays africains ont été félicités pour leur attachement indéfectible aux principes de souveraineté, d'égalité et de justice. La résolution rejette toute logique de compromis imposé au détriment des intérêts d'un pays tiers. Elle appelle à défendre un multilatéralisme authentique, fondé sur la consultation, la coopération et le bénéfice mutuel, à préserver l'ordre international centré sur l'ONU et à promouvoir un système commercial multilatéral équilibré sous l'égide de l'OMC. « Tous les pays, quel que soit leur poids ou leur puissance, sont égaux dans la communauté internationale », conclut la résolution, affirmant la volonté partagée de protéger l'égalité souveraine et de garantir un ordre mondial juste.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Mr. Mittal praises Liberia's steady growth

reinforcing ArcelorMittal's commitment to improving schools, training centers, and roads in host communities.Mr. Mittal also praised Liberia's recent diplomatic milestone—its election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council—describing the achievement as a testament to President Boakai's leadership on the global stage.

"It was unbelievable, but because of your leadership, President Boakai, you have gained this appreciation, and you have gained the seat in the United Nations Security Council," he noted.

He described the dedication of the concentrator as "just the beginning" of a larger journey and reaffirmed ArcelorMittal's massive commitment to Liberia. With over \$3 billion in total investment and over 10,000 direct and indirect jobs created, he said the company's ongoing expansion is rooted in its strong belief in Liberia's future.

"We could not have spent \$3 billion if we did not have the confidence and trust in the country and the people of Liberia," Mr. Mittal emphasized

Starts from page 11

Counter protests rock Bong County

the history of Bong County. Please don't listen to the lies coming from some politicians in the county, as their goal is to undermine the development she's achieving," they added.The citizens cited Superintendent Norris's leadership involvement in youth empowerment, infrastructural progress, and inclusive governance as critical reasons why she should be retained.Receiving the petition on behalf of Superintendent Hawa Loleyah Norris, Josephus Dormeyan, an advisor in the offices of the Bong County Superintendent, acknowledged concerns raised by the protesters.He assured them that Superintendent Norris and other officials of the ruling Unity Party would address their issues upon her return to the county, as she was engaged with some national responsibilities at the time of the protest.

Mr. Dormeyan expressed gratitude to the citizens for their civil conduct during the demonstration and stressed the importance of collaborative efforts to foster development in Bong County.

Despite the tensions, the atmosphere remained peaceful, with many prominent sons and daughters calling for unity and support for Sup. Norris's development in the County.

Why on the other hand, some factions feel that her resignation is necessary to keep the party's integrity intact, citing concerns about alleged internal missteps, lack of communication with local leadership, and declining public trust in recent months.

Although robust debate is a characteristic of a healthy democratic institution, the current impasse is threatening the unity and effectiveness of the Bong Chapter of the Unity Party.

74-year-old Ghanaian woman arrested with huge narcotics in Cape Mount

By: Kruah Thompson

The Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) Grand Cape Mount County Detachment has arrested 74-year-old Ghanaian national Grace Kuasi for allegedly possessing a large quantity of narcotics.

Acting on intelligence gathered, the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) wrote to Robertsport Magisterial Court seeking a search warrant to conduct a targeted operation at the residence of Madame Grace Kuasi in the Fanti Town Community, Robertsport City.

After the warrant was issued by the court, LDEA agents conducted the search on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at approximately 2:00 PM.

During the operation, law enforcement officers discovered and seized nineteen (19) compressed plates of marijuana concealed in her kitchen.

The seized narcotics, with an estimated street value of US\$1,200.00, equivalent to LD\$228,000.00, are currently in the possession of the LDEA Grand Cape Mount County Detachment.

According to the LDEA, following their preliminary investigation, suspect Grace Kuasi has been formally charged with illegal possession of narcotics under Liberia's newly amended drug law. She has been forwarded to the Robertsport Magisterial Court for prosecution.

Meanwhile, In 2025, Liberia witnessed a surge in drug enforcement operations led by the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA), resulting in several high profile arrests and seizures across the country.

Major cases included the arrest of Kenyan and Nigerian nationals at Roberts International Airport with over 8 kg of heroin, and the seizure of large quantities of cocaine, marijuana, tramadol, and the synthetic drug "Kush" in counties such as Grand Cape Mount, River Gee, and Lofa.

These operations exposed Liberia's growing role as a transit hub in the international drug trade and the increasing use of synthetic drugs among the youth.

However, LDEA is urging the public to support its anti-drug efforts by reporting suspicious drug related activities via its hotline: 0777133333.

I've done nothing to Liberians

-Weah on why he should be reelected

Former President George Weah says he deserves a second chance in office because he did nothing bad against the Liberian people in his first term.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia; June 17, 2025 - Former President George Weah, who is restless in returning to power, says he has done nothing wrong to Liberians, so he is confident of being reelected to the Presidency.Mr. Weah optimistically argues that he served well during his Presidency and nothing can stop his return to state power, not even negative criticisms.

"I've done nothing wrong, and God knows, nothing bad to the Liberian people; I have fought for you, this country and will be made me President; I performed to the best of my ability; you took me out; I didn't complain; why are you fighting?"

"I am not the problem of this country. We met the problem. They say Liberia was founded in 1847. In 1847, I was here? 20 years ago, I was not here. We met the problems on this country, and we tried our best to fix it."

Meanwhile, a movement named "Weah Coming Back" has been formed and will be launched to campaign for his return in 2029.

The political leader of the former ruling Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) cautions Liberians to do away with division and



back", he maintains.

Speaking briefly when he was gowned and sashed for the second time as "Father of the Year at his Forky Klon Jlah us; let us continue to focus on Family Fellowship Church God."

opposite Baptist Seminary in Mr. Weah thanked the Church for Paynesville, Mr. Weah appeared the honor bestowed upon him.

upbeat about his return to the "I respect your decision and I'm country's top seat, and not very satisfied today, for the bother by criticisms.

honor and among 10,000 fathers "I'm not bother by criticisms, to be recognized", he adds.This castigating me and talking is the second time Mr. Weah has wrongly about me, doesn't move been crowned as Father of the me. What worries me is my Year.

family; my wife, my children, not In 2022, he was named Father of people, who I sacrificed my life the Year, and affirms his for", Mr. Weah addes.The former commitment to bringing President, was quick to reflect on prosperity to Liberia. Editing by his days as President says "You Jonathan Browne

“We want value for money”

Shandong, China, June 17, 2025: Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung has told potential suppliers of the much talked about 285 pieces of earth-moving processes and middlemen/

Changsha Monday, June 16. “We don’t want cheap items but quality with affordable prices,” he said, “The country is considering the

After the tour of Sany Group, VP Koung and delegation took a two hour flight to Shandong Province to tour the Shantui Factory, Shandong Heavy Industry Group.



VP Koung and delegation at Sany Group

equipment in China that Liberia is in search of value for money and not just machines. The Liberian Government has set a ceiling of US\$22 million to purchase earth-moving equipment and has received unsolicited bids from three companies based in China- Sany Group in Changsha, Shantui in Shandong and Sino in Guangzhou. Vice President Koung is currently leading a delegation in China visiting the three companies in these provinces for a physical verification of the earth moving equipment and suppliers. The aim of Vice President Koung’s delegation which comprises Public Works Minister Roland Gittens, Public Procurement and Concession Commission boss Scott, Assistant Finance Minister for Budget Sarah Mulbah and General Services Agency Fleet Manager Roberts Wilson among others is to inspect and compare equipment quality, plant capacity, and production standards of the three companies. “Our aim is to get value for money. Our aim is to get a fair market value for the money to avoid ambiguity in price,” VP Koung told Sany Group Vice President Li Qin during his delegation first stop at Sany Group in

agents in getting the product to Liberia, which might increase the price. We understand businesspeople aim are to make profit, however, we don’t want to buy and don’t have a real market value,” he added. As per the government’s procurement request, the suppliers must be able to include in the package supplies of spare parts, training of Liberians and maintenance for certain period. Responding Sany Vice President Li said “We agreed with your quest for value for money. We provide full coverage from end point to end point to ensure that our clients get value for money.” During the tour of Sany Group, Vice President Koung and delegation were drilled through the various specifications of earth-moving equipment and excavators manufactured at the company with some historical backgrounds relative to countries in which they are being supplied. Sany Group has over 16 overseas manufacturing plants. It produces one pump truck in every 45 minutes, 84 percent of truck components are manufacture by this massive factory which has branches in South Africa, Morocco and Nigeria.

The Vice President and delegation were given VIP escort from the airport straight to the factory complex for a tour and dinner before retiring at the Shandong Hotel, three hours’ drive from the factory. The Vice President and delegation are expected to spend three working days in Shandong before traveling to Guangzhou to visit the Sino Group on June 19. However, unlike the Sany Group, Shantui has a representation in Liberian and does 100 percent of its manufacturing on site. Information available to this paper indicate that Shantui and Sino both with presence in Liberia are willing to include in the supply package, spare parts, training and servicing. But it is too early to tell which of the three companies would provide the type of machines that the Liberian government so dearly need to tackle its road infrastructure. As it stands the US\$22 million is just the ceiling, the cost could get lower than that. The tour settled speculations that the Government had already reached an agreement with the provider for the cost of US\$22 million. No payment has been made so far. -Writes Othello B. Garblah.

Counter protests rock Bong County

By Edwin N Khakie

A group under the nomenclature “Bong County Citizens Unity for Development” has emerged to counter-protest the Unity Party’s Youth Wing Bong Chapter over Superintendent Lolelah Hawa Norris’ resignation demand in the County.

There is a growing concern and internal divisions within the Bong County Chapter of the Unity Party Youth Wing. In recent days, the chapter has experienced heightened tensions and differing opinions among its members. Youth leaders and grassroots supporters remain split over whether Superintendent Norris should remain in office or proceed with her resignation, which has reportedly been tendered but yet to be conclusively acted upon. On June 13, 2025, a faction under the nomenclature Bong County Citizens United for Development underscored in their petition that, Superintendent Norris has been consistently committed to the development agenda of the Unity Party and Bong County at large. The petition read by Joseph N. Tokpah acknowledges some of the great developments Superintendent Norris has successfully implemented, while

certain groups or leaders. Your Excellency, President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, please be aware that some individuals are fighting the Superintendent because she has refused to compromise the county’s interests for their personal gain, this fight even started from the day you made the appointment, this is the same fight continuing. They’re now staging a protest against her, and we urge you to advise them to let her do her job in peace,” they added. They categorically condemn the lies made by a few political surrogates against the Superintendent, including allegations of corruption, abandonment, awarding contracts to the opposition, and her refusal to recognize them as partisans of the ruling Unity party in the county, adding that the statements are false and misleading, aimed at presenting Superintendent Hawa Loleyah Norris as a bad leader. The Bong County Citizens United for Development also condemns the lies that some leaders and their supporters in the county



some are still ongoing, in less than two years. He highlighted the renovation of the Superintendent’s compound in Gbarnga, the fencing of the Administrative Building in Gbarnga, the rehabilitation of all the streets in Gbarnga, and the reinstatement of the Madam Suakoko Scholarship through the County Development Fund. The Bong County Citizens said Superintendent Norris, as the Vice Jury of President Boykai in Bong County, used her leadership ability to allocate funds through the County Council to major facilities in the county including: “Phebe Hospital, C B Dunbar Comprehensive Hospital, the only Vocational Training Institute in Gbarnga (Liberia Opportunity Industrialization Center), and Bong Mines Hospital.” “We, as citizens of Bong County, cannot afford to lose Sup. Norris due to the selfish interests of

are spreading, claiming that ‘We’re angry about the gift of a four-door pickup to Rev. James Paye of the Christ Vision International Ministries Church in Ghamga.’ “We appreciate this gift, and we’re happy for Rev. Paye because he has prayed for our county and the country at large,” the citizens stressed. “Your Excellency, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, we’ve gathered here today, in Gbarnga representing different ethnic groups and institutions from Bong County, to inform you that Madam Hawa Loleyah Norris is doing an excellent job as Superintendent. We’re planning to honor her as one of the best and hardest-working Superintendents in

-Recalls personal bond with President Boakai

"When I came in 2005, there

"He always discusses with me about community... So, all these messages we have taken very seriously," Mr. Mittal said,



In his message was a warm and

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