

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT  
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

**Advertise Here!**

**Subscribe to our website**  
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

**WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES**

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

**AT YOUR DOORSTEPS**  
0886484201 / 0777007529

**WE WILL DELIVER YOUR DAILY COPY FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY**  
Don't worry, you can pay for your subscription at the end of the month.

**Hurry and book now!**

**CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA**

**MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES**  
**LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR**

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 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.

# The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON Google Play

QPR CODE: 797005

**Down Load New Dawn Android App**

VOL. 15 NO. 100      WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025      PRICE LD\$50.00



# VP Kourouma holds investment meetings in China

# GOL, EU sign US\$25 Million Financing Agreement



**Support Your Family Beyond Borders with MoMo.**

**Dial \*156\*1#** to MoMo it in LRD or USD

Ivory Coast
 Ghana
 Uganda
 Mali

Guinea
 Sierra Leone
 Senegal
 Rwanda

and counting...





# Continental News

## Sudan in danger of self-destructing as conflict and famine reign

Sudan's war is in strategic stalemate. Each side stakes its hopes on a new offensive, a new delivery of weapons, a new political alliance, but

Burhan, walking through the ruins of the capital's Republican Palace, which had been controlled by the paramilitaries of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), since

Port Sudan, which is both the interim capital of the military government and also the main entry point for humanitarian aid. These were long-range sophisticated drones, which the army accuses the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of supplying - a charge the UAE rejects, along with well-documented reports that it has been backing the RSF during the 27-month conflict. The RSF has also expanded operations to the south of Khartoum. Hemedti struck a deal with Abdel Aziz al-Hilu, the veteran rebel commander of the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North, which controls the Nuba Mountains near the border with South Sudan. Their forces combined may be able to make a push to the border with Ethiopia, hoping to open new supply routes. Meanwhile, the RSF has been besieging the capital of North Darfur, el-Fasher, which is defended by a coalition of Darfurian former rebels, known as the Joint Forces, allied with the army.



More than half of Sudan's 45 million people have been wrenched from their homes

neither can gain a decisive advantage. The losers are the Sudanese people. Every month there are more who are hungry, displaced, despairing. The Sudan armed forces triumphantly announced the recapture of central Khartoum in March. It broadcast pictures of its leader, Gen Abdel Fattah al-

the earliest days of the war in April 2023. The army deployed weapons newly acquired from Egypt, Turkey and other Middle Eastern countries including Qatar and Iran. But its offensive quickly stalled. The RSF, headed by Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as "Hemedti", responded with a devastating drone attack on

## 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 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. The Uganda Law Society, a professional body that represents the country's lawyers, has said it will "challenge the



President Museveni has previously defended the use of military courts

## Kenya protesters clash with men wielding clubs

Kenyan protesters have clashed with club-carrying young men, believed to be loyal to the government, in the centre of the capital, Nairobi. The demonstration, held in the wake of the death in custody 10 days ago of blogger and teacher Albert Ojwang, was called to demand the sacking of a top police officer. Police initially said that Mr Ojwang died of self-inflicted wounds, but were forced to retract the statement after an autopsy found that it was likely he died after being assaulted. Two policemen have been arrested in connection with the death. The protest comes amid simmering tension ahead of next week's first anniversary of the storming of parliament by demonstrators. Earlier on Tuesday, there were pockets of violence in the capital's central business district when

shooting of an unarmed civilian by a police officer using an anti-riot shotgun". The policeman allegedly responsible has since been arrested, it added. Officers had been deployed across key parts of the city, in an attempt to block protesters from accessing major intersections and government buildings. Deputy police chief Eliud Lagat has stepped aside as an investigation into Mr Ojwang's death is under way. But activists want him removed from office as it was his complaint against the blogger that led to the young man's arrest. The 31-year-old was accused of defaming Mr Lagat on social media. "We shall not be intimidated. We shall remain unbowed. We want Lagat to step aside," one protester told the BBC. "We want the guy to resign and we want the guy to be arrested."



Albert Ojwang's death in custody has sparked anger in Kenya

groups of young men riding motorbikes, armed with whips and clubs, attacked protesters. Videos show the men - described locally as "goons" - seemingly working side-by-side with police, who fired teargas to try and disrupt the demonstrations. The police have denied any link saying that it has "noted a group of goons armed with crude weapons, in today's protests... The service takes great exception and does not condone such unlawful groupings." The Reuters news agency reported earlier that its staff saw the body of one man on the street with a head wound. The AFP news agency is quoting a hospital source as saying that the man was still alive but in a critical condition. In a statement, the police said it was aware of "an incident involving [the]

We want him to sit there and answer questions, you know. [He is] still on the payroll, still enjoying taxpayers' money," another said. The situation in Nairobi remains tense. Most businesses in the city centre are shut and there are visibly fewer people than usual on the streets. Last year's protests, led by young Kenyans, were against an unpopular finance bill which sought to introduce new taxes. It culminated in the protesters entering parliament on 25 June and forced the government to drop the controversial proposals. There are no contentious tax measures this year, but activists plan to build up momentum to what they are calling "a total shutdown" of business next Wednesday. BBC



# 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 grieve 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 Adekeye Adebajo

## Trump’s Diplomacy of the Absurd

PRETORIA - Last month, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa became the first African leader to visit the White House during US President Donald Trump’s second term. As he so infamously did with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in February, Trump turned his televised meeting with Ramaphosa in the Oval Office into absurdist theater.

Ramaphosa and his multiracial delegation were mere props in a larger performance aimed at Trump’s nativist “Make America Great Again” cult and right-wing xenophobes around the world. Trump, perpetuating racist stereotypes, accused marauding Black savages of hunting down innocent white farmers. It was a bizarre perversion of the historical record - namely, that a white minority had stripped Black South Africans of their land and labor rights for more than three centuries.

Of course, Trump is fully ignorant of that history. The 1913 Natives Land Act, enacted by South Africa’s white-minority government, reserved 93% of the country’s land for white ownership. Today, white South Africans, comprising 7% of the population, still own 72% of all private farmland. Even though Ramaphosa’s administration enacted a law in 2024 allowing for land expropriation without compensation, such land is to be used only for the public good, and any confiscations are subject to judicial review.

Today, 13.2 million people, or roughly one-fifth of the population in what is the world’s most unequal country, still live in extreme poverty, with the vast majority being Black. In 2024, 26,232 murders were recorded in South Africa, 44 of which occurred in farming communities; only eight of those 44 victims were farmers. According to data collected by the Transvaal Agricultural Union - an Afrikaner farmers’ union - only 1,363 white farmers have been killed since 1990, amounting to less than 1% of total murders over that period. Only two of the 18 people murdered on farms between October 2024 and March 2025 were white.

Equating apartheid-era atrocities with the current plight of white South Africans, who still own most of the country’s wealth, is simply preposterous. Despite this, Trump has granted refugee status to white South African farmers, 59 of whom arrived in the US days before his meeting with Ramaphosa. Opening America’s doors to this group, particularly as the Trump administration launches a crusade against illegal and legal immigrants, is less about protecting an endangered minority, and more about appealing to nativist sentiment among white Americans.

It is perhaps not surprising, then, that Trump ambushed Ramaphosa. After all, Trump has launched an assault on diversity programs in the US, is restoring the old names of military bases honoring Confederate generals, and has taken extraordinary measures to erase America’s long history of slavery.

While the exchange between Ramaphosa and Trump started off friendly enough, it quickly degenerated into hectoring, with Trump repeatedly painting the perpetrators of oppression as its victims. After describing Ramaphosa as “a little controversial,” the same president who once described Africa as full of “shithole countries” proceeded to reinforce the trope of Black barbarism, noting: “They say there’s a lot of bad things going on in Africa.”

At this point, Trump zeroed in on the egregious claim - amplified by the South African-born billionaire Elon Musk - that the Black-led African National Congress (ANC) government was committing genocide against white people. Trump proceeded to screen a video of Julius

Malema, a firebrand South African opposition leader who was expelled from the ANC in February 2012, chanting an apartheid-era song “Kill the Boer,” referring to white farmers. Although South Africa’s Supreme Court of Appeal ruled that the chant did not constitute incitement to violence, it is a divisive relic.

The next video - which Musk had posted twice on X before the Oval Office meeting - depicted white crosses that Trump falsely claimed represented a burial site for more than 1,000 murdered white farmers. These were, however, temporary memorials, not gravesites, and were later removed. Trump also showed Ramaphosa an image, purportedly of massacred white South African farmers, that was later revealed to have been taken in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Derrick Johnson, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, described Trump’s remarks as “extremely biased and racist.” They were also an attempt at a power play. One could hardly imagine Ramaphosa inviting Trump to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to accuse him of committing “Black genocide” in America, before showing him a video of white policemen brutalizing and killing innocent Black motorists.

In requesting the White House meeting, Ramaphosa had naively believed that he could reason with a Mafia don wielding a loaded pistol. The South African president maintained a dignified calm, but did not do enough to refute Trump’s bogus claims. His delegation - which included three prominent white South Africans, the billionaire Johann Rupert and golfers Ernie Els and Retief Goosen, at Trump’s behest - did not help matters.

The presence of these wealthy white South Africans reassured Trump: he enthusiastically invited them to speak, even as he failed to make eye contact with his black counterpart. Els betrayed his inadequate understanding of history when he thanked the US for having supported the murderous apartheid army’s invasion of Angola in the 1980s. Goosen talked of his crime-afflicted relatives having to erect electric fences. Rupert lobbied for Musk’s Starlink satellite company to equip South Africa’s police stations.

These responses fed into the “white savior” complex, imploring American knights in shining armor to save South Africans from savage Black criminals. Even Zingiswa Losi, the Black trade unionist who tried to set the record straight on land expropriation, spoke of Black women being raped and murdered. All this reinforced the message that South Africa is a crime scene - far from a powerful sales pitch for a country keen to attract foreign investors and tourists.

This visit was supposed to “reset” South Africa-US relations and start trade discussions, with Ramaphosa touting his country’s critical-mineral deposits. But despite efforts by South African officials and some media to spin the encounter as a success, it exposed deep and damaging divisions between the two countries. The only consolation is that Ramaphosa at least made it to the official lunch. Zelensky was not so lucky.

Adekeye Adebajo, a professor and a senior research fellow at the University of Pretoria’s Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship, served on UN missions in South Africa, Western Sahara, and Iraq. He is the author of Global Africa: Profiles in Courage, Creativity, and Cruelty (Routledge, 2024) and The Eagle and the Springbok: Essays on Nigeria and South Africa (Routledge, 2023).



OP-ED

By Joschka Fischer

There Is No Alternative for Europe

BERLIN - By now, it is obvious that Donald Trump’s return to the US presidency has inaugurated a process of historical reordering. One of the first and largest casualties of Trump’s policy initiatives is the transatlantic relationship, which has anchored the global order since it emerged from the Allied victory over Nazi Germany in 1945 (and which had been reinforced by the West’s victory in the Cold War after 1989).

Thus, the current reordering (undertaken with little or no preparation) will come largely at the expense of the Old Continent. Even as Europeans face the return of war to their borders with the ongoing fighting in Ukraine, the new US administration apparently longs for the return of the American troops now stationed in Europe to the Americas. What will become of us? This is a question that we Europeans must answer wholly on our own.

Make no mistake: the United States is withdrawing from Europe. A full departure may not yet have been decided, but all signs point to this outcome, and Europeans therefore should act as if it will happen.

Moreover, the US is not only pulling away; it is also giving up its roles as a guarantor power and the leading market within a global free-trade system. Already, its unilateral economic aggression toward friends and trading partners has thrown the global economic order off balance. Protectionism has replaced free trade, and the losses are mounting. The world is heading toward tariff-based trade blocs that will mirror the new geopolitical blocs of the twenty-first century.

Since the end of World War II, Western Europe has sheltered beneath America’s security umbrella. These countries shared values favoring democracy and a market economy - values that were embraced by almost the entirety of Europe after the Cold War. But America’s looming withdrawal creates a radically different situation for Europeans.

We must prepare for a future in which we are squeezed between an imperial, aggressive Russia and an America that can no longer be trusted. That means answering the fundamental question that this historical turning point has raised: Are we willing to do what it takes to transform ourselves into a viable power in our own right?

If the people of Europe answer in the affirmative, the mechanics of European sovereignty - the military, political, fiscal, economic, technological, and scientific underpinnings - must take center stage. To be sovereign means to trust in one’s own strength and political will.

We are experiencing not only a geopolitical upheaval, but also a seismic technological and economic shift. The digital revolution and the rise of AI will have far-reaching consequences for all economies and societies, as well as for the multifaced relationships among them.

In the face of these disruptions, traditional European nation-states will be able to keep pace and prosper only if they come together to express a shared political will. Each on its own - even the largest (Germany) - is too small for the task.

The external pressures we face are difficult to overstate. Russian President Vladimir Putin continues to wage war on Ukraine and threaten the rest of Eastern Europe. The Trump administration has shown nothing but contempt for us, and is apparently committed to inflicting more economic pain on America and its trade partners. Meanwhile, China is steaming ahead in its own pursuit of AI and advanced military hardware.

All these pressures will continue to grow in the months and years ahead. But Europeans still have agency. We can frame our plight as an opportunity to build anew. The challenge is not only to overcome entrenched sources of internal and external resistance, but also to preserve our diverse identities.

We must not waste this chance. Trump and Putin are not the founding fathers that we would have picked for this moment, but they are what we have. Europe must assert itself as a sovereign power and move forward on its own. There is no alternative unless Europeans opt for a future of craven subservience.

We must establish military deterrence, create the dynamic conditions needed for domestic digitalization and innovation, establish a single capital market, and muster some form of shared political will and the institutions to realize it in practice, based on common democratic values. In short, we must unite Europe as a free, sovereign power. Failing that, we will be at the mercy of external actors who would like nothing more than to see Europe come apart and decline into a state of perpetual weakness and subjugation.

Joschka Fischer, Germany’s foreign minister and vice chancellor from 1998 to 2005, was a leader of the German Green Party for almost 20 years.

OPINION

By Rola Dashti, Claver Gatete, and Mahmoud Mohieldin

Rethinking Europe’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

BEIRUT/ADDIS ABABA/CAIRO - As the climate crisis escalates, the European Union and the United Kingdom are moving forward with their Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, promoting it as a landmark tool linking trade and climate policy. But the CBAM’s ambitious aims are now meeting a growing backlash.

The CBAM puts a price on the carbon content of emissions-intensive imports like steel, aluminum, and cement. The goal is to reinforce the EU’s Emissions Trading System (ETS) and create a level playing field between domestic and foreign producers, thereby incentivizing greener production practices worldwide.

Despite the European Parliament’s support for recent proposals to simplify the CBAM, its current design and pace of implementation risk undermining its legitimacy. Rather than advancing a fair and equitable energy transition, it could stoke trade tensions and fuel economic fragmentation, exacerbate inequality, and deliver only limited climate benefits.

The transition phase, which began in October 2023, requires importers to report carbon dioxide emissions associated with their goods, but does not require them to pay. That will change in January 2027, when the CBAM’s levies on carbon-intensive imports take effect.

Most countries in the Global South - particularly major exporters to the EU - are unprepared for this shift, because they lack the technical capacity to track and report embedded CO2 emissions, the institutional infrastructure to verify them, and the fiscal space to absorb the costs of compliance. These are some of the symptoms of a deeply unequal global system in which the burdens of climate action have not been fairly distributed.

However commendable the CBAM’s stated goals may be, its inherent asymmetries must not be overlooked. Applying a uniform carbon-pricing regime to countries with vastly different capacities undermines the principle of a just energy transition and erodes the legitimacy of global climate action by placing a disproportionate burden on those least responsible for the crisis. Many developing economies are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and struggling with rising public debt, in addition to being acutely vulnerable to climate shocks. Now, they are expected to comply with EU and UK standards despite lacking access to robust emissions data systems, clean technologies, regulatory infrastructure, and adequate climate finance.

Compounding the problem, revenues generated through the CBAM will be directed to the budgets of the EU and the UK rather than to international climate finance or support for affected countries. This design flaw reinforces the perception that the CBAM is not a genuine effort to advance global climate goals but an instrument of trade protectionism. Many countries, particularly outside Europe, have voiced such concerns, viewing the mechanism as a unilateral trade measure cloaked in green rhetoric.

The geopolitical consequences could be dire. The CBAM has emerged at a time of fraying multilateralism and escalating trade tensions. Without broader participation and tangible support for affected exporters, it risks fueling economic fragmentation and undermining global trust - just when international climate cooperation is most critical and official development assistance is being slashed.

But the CBAM is not beyond repair. With thoughtful reforms, it can evolve from a rigid policy tool into a catalyst for an equitable climate transition. To achieve this, the EU and the UK should consider postponing the start of financial enforcement until at least 2028, thereby giving developing countries time to prepare and adapt.

This pause must be anchored in a strategic partnership framework that directs resources toward establishing emission-tracking systems, strengthening regulatory capacity, developing carbon-credit markets, and accelerating green industrial investment in climate-vulnerable economies.

Moreover, a portion of CBAM revenues should be allocated to international climate partnerships. This would make the mechanism more equitable, build trust with developing countries, and ensure that carbon pricing serves as an incentive rather than a penalty. Most importantly, the CBAM must not be framed as a final destination, but as a step toward a more coordinated and inclusive carbon-pricing framework. Mutual recognition of national systems, policy flexibility, and transitional thresholds could help prevent fragmentation and promote international alignment.

While the EU and the UK have both the capacity and the influence to help shape global standards, climate leadership demands more than bold policy ambitions; it requires solidarity, partnership, and the recognition of shared but differentiated responsibilities. Rather than simply decarbonizing imports through a transactional approach, policymakers must focus on facilitating low-carbon development.

That goal cannot be achieved through border measures alone. If rushed, the CBAM could become just another divisive international levy. But if recalibrated through a constructive and pragmatic process grounded in trust-building, it has the potential to serve as a unifying platform for international climate cooperation.

The fight against climate change will not be won through exclusion. A sustainable future depends on building systems that bring others along. A well-designed CBAM could play a vital role in that effort.

Rola Dashti is Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Claver Gatete is Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa. Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Co-Chair of the Expert Group on Debt, is a former Minister of Investment of Egypt (2004-10), former Senior Vice President of the World Bank Group, and former Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund.



FEATURE

ARTICLE

# Boys’ absence from school and presence in the street

By Pastor K. Richard Tonnonlah

This is a wake-up call on the topic: “The absent of our young men from the classrooms and present in the streets, in ghettos, Kekeh, and on motor-bikes, among others. This call should claim the attention of everybody, if these young people will eventually take over from us. We must realize that this is a matter of urgency and Liberia must act and act with speed against what is happening to our future leaders.

Much more, let us rise up to the fact that what is happening is damaging the future of our nation. Let me also remind us that the future of these young people is at the edge of the bridge. Therefore, we still have a chance to act now. This is a call for bold action and must be now. This is a social problem that if not handled timely, may lead to breaking down of the nation and especially so, it is these very young people who will take over from the present leadership. The intent of this article is to draw attention of everyone, from parents, government and society to safe our nation, Liberia, from brain drain catastrophic.

Having researched few grade schools and universities in and around Monrovia, in Montesorrado County; it was observed that boys were out number by the presence of girls in classrooms. According to the World Bank gender data portal 2023, the various institutions of learning in Liberia have recorded the higher rate of enrolment of males. That stands at about 61.4% of males, while females account for about 34.12%.

The gross enrolment rate in primary schools in Liberia within the same period is about 94%, making the total percentage to have completed lower secondary school by the year 2023 (World bank portal report).

Research also informed us that total number of students that enrolled is about 922,000 in primary and secondary schools. According to the 2021/2022 Annual school Census Report, in primary school completion rate, girls were higher with 11%, while 10% boys completed the school year. The question now is, where are the boys?

The number of students that attend public schools in Liberia is 434,475, while the balance 487, 525 are in private, community and faith based institutions that account for the rest. (RFI@fir.edc.org) Now, the question is what could be the reason(s) behind males being absent from the classroom? There are multiple potential issues that may cause or come with boys being absent from schools and present in the streets. Friends, parents, and government officials; let us take a look at some possible problems that the nation will start to experience; as a result of male children losing interest in education.

"The boys absent from school and present in the streets," The lack of interest in education: By not attending school, these boys or young men may be missing out on important learning opportunities and knowledge that could help them succeed in the future. Without an education, they may face limited job prospects and opportunities for advancement.

At the same time, they increased the risk of engaging in criminal activity in the country. When boys are in the streets, instead of being in school, they may be more likely to get involved in risky behaviors such as gang involvement, drug use, or other criminal activities. This can lead to getting in trouble that will negatively

impact their future prospects as well as becoming abusive of their female counterpart, who are now been seeing in the classroom in the majority.

As an instructor in the classroom myself, I have also come to notice that females are always in the greater number over the males. The question that I am left to wonder over is; could it be that girls are growing more interest in education than boys? This is in contradiction of the days of old where the boys were encouraged going to school while the ladies were asked to stay home with their mothers to prepare or learn to take care of the home. What is a shift of paradigm that the ladies have now developed so much interest in education than the gentlemen?

In my opinion, these could be factors responsible; the fast growing proliferation of motor-bikes, Kekeh and increase of ghettos in communities, coupled with lack of strong enforcement of policies and laws on the

their total well-being. It is important to address the underlying issues that may be contributing to this behavior in order to provide support and resources to help our boys succeed or else, our country will be a place of gangs and there will soon be no law and order.

"The boys absence from school and presence in the street," let us also consider the following steps: According to research, there are some good and bad reasons why boys may be absent from school and spending time in the streets, instead. This could include factors such as poverty, lack of access to education, family problems, or societal influences.

The absence of these young men from the classroom is heartbreaking and it must claim the attention of all by acting now to save the future of our beloved nation, Liberia. This is a call for all of us to act now or never; and remember that history will judge us for the role that we will play at this time when we needed



books for these acts like drugs abuse, and crimes, among others.

In fact, these young people will lack positive role models and support to their generation, because the school provides a structured environment where students can learn from teachers and peers, as well as receive support and guidance. But when the boys are absent from school, they may not have access to positive role models or support systems that can help them make positive choices.

They will not be able to resist those harmful drugs and those activities that have now penetrated our communities and they have almost taken control of our children, and they do not want to develop interest in their future.

Ohoo, yes, everyone can almost attest to this fact that there is an increased risk of social isolation from their parents; society. Being absent from school and spending time on the streets may lead to social isolation, as these boys may miss out on important social interactions with their peers. This can impact their social development and emotional well-being.

Overall, boys being absent from school and present in the streets can have negative consequences for their educational achievements, future prospects, and

to act in their interest to rescue them.

There are some that develop a storyline; create a compelling storyline that follows the lives of boys who are absent from school and are navigating life in the streets. They are enjoying it for a short time but they will soon come to the end that is leading them to the early grave. As it is, they do not see the complexities of their lives and the reasons behind their decisions to be on the streets and not in school. Some inhabited this vivid setting from challenges they face, and the relationships they have formed as a community and or gotten hooked up to it.

About The Author:  
K. Richard Tonnonlah (Rev.)  
He is a Social Work Instructor at The University of Liberia and a Social Worker. He is also a Pastor and a trained Counselor from the Kofi Anna Institute of Conflict Transformation, University Of Liberia. He is also a trained Social Worker from the Kenya Institute of Social Work and Community Development, Nairobi, Kenya.



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# ECOWAS Parliament convenes in Monrovia

**-To address rising youths unemployment and job creation**

Members of the ECOWAS Parliament are meeting in Monrovia to discuss investment and youth unemployment in the region.

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia, June 17, 2025 - The head of the Liberian delegation to the ECOWAS

"This is only the second time in our nation's history that we have secured such a seat, and it is a resounding affirmation of Liberia's

West Africa ranks among the highest in the world, despite abundance of natural resources, human capital, and entrepreneurial spirit in the region. He notes that the Joint Committee Meeting is a critical platform to evaluate the ECOWAS Investment Policy (EIP), to understand its strengths, identify its limitations, and propose practical, impactful reforms. "Our shared task is to ensure that this policy truly delivers on its promise by attracting quality investment, supporting private sector growth, and creating decent sustainable jobs for our people", he explains. "In Liberia, we feel the effects of unemployment", he notes, adding that too many young people in Liberia are talented and ambitious, but they are without opportunity.

However, Senator Snowe says with the right mix of policy reforms, investment incentives, and regional collaboration, the regional bloc can change this narrative, not only for Liberia, but for the entire ECOWAS community. For his part

Parliament, Senator Edwin M. Snowe, Jr., has described the opening of the Parliament sitting in Monrovia as a great and enduring commitment to global peace, diplomacy, and international cooperation", he adds. He says across the sub-national pride for Liberia. Addressing participants especially, among youth is Monday, 16 June at the start not just an economic of the sitting, Senator concern, but a social Snowe recalled that just emergency that undermines recently, Liberia achieved a peace, fuels migration, and historic milestone with its erodes hope. election to the United Nations Security Council as a recent data shows that a Non-permanent member. youth unemployment in

# Rev. Dr. Abba G. Karnga receives Sawyer's Lifetime Award

A renowned Liberian Clergy, Rev. Dr. Abba G. Karnga, is proud recipient of the Dr. Amos Claudius Sawyer Lifetime Award for Service to the Nation.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, June 17, 2025 - The Amos C. Sawyer Education Foundation has been officially launched in Monrovia with its inaugural annual fundraiser, bringing together national leaders, educators, and advocates in a night of reflection, recognition, and renewed commitment to educational advancement in Liberia. The event celebrated the enduring legacy of the late Dr. Amos Claudius Sawyer, a statesman, scholar, and champion of democratic governance. Speakers paid tribute to his contributions to Liberia's academic and political development, while reaffirming education as the most powerful vehicle for national

transformation. Among key attendees on Saturday, June 14, 2025, was Senate Pro-Tempore, Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, who joined the event not only as a political leader, but also as a sister of the late Dr. Sawyer. A highlight of the night was the presentation of the Amos Sawyer Lifetime Award for Service to the Nation to her father, Rev. Dr. Abba G.

Karnga. Following the ceremony, Senator Karnga-Lawrence took to her official Facebook page to share her appreciation and emotion over the honor: "Last night, we attended the launch of the Amos C. Sawyer Education Foundation, where our father, Rev. Dr. Abba G. Karnga, was a recipient of the Amos Sawyer Lifetime Award for service to the nation. We were told that the late Dr. Sawyer had a plan to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

# WLI urges government to prioritize elderly care in national budget

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

World of Life International, Inc. (WLI), a faith-based organization, through its Ageing Project Awareness initiative, is calling on the Government of Liberia to allocate specific provisions in the national budget for elderly citizens. The organization is also appealing to NGOs to support ageing populations, particularly those who are no longer part of the workforce.

This advocacy message was delivered during a program held at WLI's headquarters in Bassa Town Community, Pipeline, Paynesville City. Mr. Augustine K. Ndorbor, Program Manager of WLI's Ageing Project, stressed the importance of recognizing and supporting older persons. "While everyone wishes to grow old, it is equally important that we extend help and support to those who reach that stage of life," he stated.

Ndorbor noted that although WLI has been working to support

their ageing populations."

The event also recognized 35 elderly individuals, who are part of WLI's Ageing Project network. They were encouraged to stay connected with the organization as it continues to expand its services and advocacy. Ms. Rebecca K.G. Nyamndo, WLI's Ageing Project Focal Person, outlined the history and objectives of the initiative, which began in 2006. She explained that the project aims to combat elder abuse and reduce poverty among older adults. During the community outreach, the WLI team encountered troubling instances of mistreatment, including older persons being labeled as witches while seeking assistance. "We are asking communities to show compassion and offer support," Nyamndo said. "Our elders deserve dignity and respect." She further called on the government and international donors to partner with WLI to establish safe homes for the elderly. The project, which has reached over



older persons through its Ageing five communities in Montserrado Project, more substantial County, also includes support for support is needed. He expressed persons with disabilities.

hope that their advocacy efforts WLI is currently working in would influence national budget collaboration with partner discussions in the House of organization to support people Representatives. aged 60 and above. According to

One prominent supporter of the 2022 census conducted by elderly welfare in the legislature the Liberia Institute of Statistics is the now Speaker of the House and Geo-Information Services of Representatives, Richard (LISGIS), approximately 2.8 Koon, who has consistently million people in Liberia are aged advocated for inclusion of 65 or older.

elderly care in national planning, The media in attendance according to Mr. Ndorbor. WLI pledged to elevate WLI's intends to deepen its message and help raise national engagement with lawmakers to awareness of the challenges ensure this concern is taken older citizens face. The occasion seriously. also marked WLI's observance of

"All is not lost; God is paying the International Day of attention to your direction," Awareness of Abuse and Ageing, Ndorbor told elderly in alignment with global efforts participants. "We believe the led by the World Health Government of Liberia can make Organization (WHO) and the it possible to support you, just as United Nations since 2006. other countries are doing for





MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Rep. Williams donates forming tools to local farmers

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Maryland, Liberia; June 18, 2025 - Amid efforts to increase agricultural production across the county, processing, improve productivity, and empower smallholder farmers especially, women and youth, who rely heavily on cassava production as a primary source



Maryland County electoral district#2 Representative Anthony F. Williams, has donated agricultural equipment including cassava mill and farming tools. According to the Chief of Office Staff of the lawmaker, the donation is a significant step toward strengthening food security and supporting rural livelihoods of residents of his district. He emphasized that the donation will help reduce burden of manual cassava

of income and food. Communities that benefited from the donation include; New Sodoken, Gbolobo Kaeken, Wetchoken, and Christian Community, among others. He said tools distributed include hoes, cutlasses, and shovels to surrounding towns and villages aimed at assisting in land preparation and crop cultivation during peak of farming. For his part, constituency officer, Standford Y. Neufville,

reaffirmed Representative Williams' commitment to supporting residents through rural farming.

He explained that the donation has been widely welcomed by community members with local farmers expressing appreciation, noting that the cassava machines will drastically reduce time women spend processing cassava. Mr. Neufville pointed out that the initiative aligns with the Pleebo Sodoken District Representative's broader development agenda, which prioritizes agriculture, education, healthcare, and road infrastructure. "Since taking office, Williams has consistently invested in projects aimed at improving the lives of ordinary citizens and expanding economic opportunities in rural areas", he disclosed. He however, called on local leaders and residents to make proper use of the equipment, urging them to adapt cooperative approaches to ensure sustainability and equal access. Mr. Neufville said the cassava machines and other farming tools will make a meaningful impact in increasing yields, reducing post-harvest losses and stimulating rural economic growth.

# 180 youth recruited for Eco Brigade Program in 3 counties

Monrovia, Liberia - June 18, 2025 - The Broadcasting Service (RBS), and Government of Liberia, the Development in collaboration with the United Communication Network (DCN) Nations Development in Cestos City. Approximately 500 youth applied for the Eco-Livelihood & Employment Brigade programme, Programme, is advancing demonstrating widespread efforts to reduce poverty and interest in grassroots environmental actions. The program provides training engage vulnerable households in environmental conservation and communities in sustainable and small business income-generating activities, development, equipping this partnership aims to foster participants with practical economic resilience and social skills while engaging them in empowerment. city clean-up efforts and According to UNDP, among sustainability projects. With a these initiatives is the Eco-strong commitment to Brigade Youth Volunteer inclusivity, the selection Program, a dual-purpose effort process ensured equal that promotes environmental representation across gender conservation while creating and ability. Each county's recruitment economically marginalized and included 28 men, 28 women, unemployed youth. and 4 persons with disabilities, By combining environmental affirming the program's stewardship with income dedication to diversity.



## Starts from page 11 GOL, EU sign US\$25 Million

sectors, thereby driving job creation, economic growth, and business competitiveness across the country. In addition to developing value chains, the Minister says the project will work to improve the business environment and investment climate through public-private dialogue and regulatory reforms. It seeks to also promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, especially in rural and underserved communities, he continues, noting that the project will be implemented by Expertise France and International Labour Organization, Ngfuan adds.

He says the project is aligned with the EU's Team Europe Initiatives on Safe and Sustainable Food Systems and Forestry and Biodiversity. This initiative also supports the EU Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025) in terms of fostering economic diversification and strengthening sustainable value chains with a strong gender-inclusive approach. "The implementation of this agreement reflects the shared commitment of Liberia and the European Union to building a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economic future", Minister Ngafuan adds. Editing by Jonathan Browne

## Starts from page 6 Rev. Dr. Abba G. Karnaga receives

present this honor himself Liberia folkore music and throughout Liberia. and didn't get the for the artistic standards she The Foundation's Board opportunity to do so. set with the University of Chair, former Associate Our family is extremely Liberia Choir and Choral Justice Kabineh Ja'neh, grateful for this recognition. Group. emphasized its commitment Thanks to Mrs. Sawyer and Held in the ballroom of to empowering Liberia's the family, and the board of Monrovia City Hall, the next generation through directors," she wrote on fundraiser brought together access to quality education, June 15. a diverse mix of stakeholders leadership development, Another major posthumous from government, civil and civic engagement, recognition was given to society, academia, and the principles that defined Dr. Prof. Agnes Nebo von private sector. Proceeds Sawyer's life and career. Ballmoos, as Liberia's from the event will support Dr. Sawyer, who served as f o r e m o s t scholarships, mentorship Interim President of Liberia ethnomusicologist. She was programs, and educational from 1990 to 1994 and later celebrated for her tireless resources for as Chairman of the dedication to preserving underprivileged students Governance Commission, is

generation, the program seeks Following their selection, to uplift communities and participants formed teams encourage sustainable named after local landmarks: development. • Tubmanburg Eco-Brigade In May 2025, 180 youth (Bomi County) volunteers were recruited from • Sao Boso Eco-Brigade (Bopolu three locations in Tubmanburg City, Gbarpolu County) Bomi County, Bopolu City, • Cestos Eco-Brigade (Cestos, Gbarpolu County, and Cestos Rivercess County) City Rivercess County. Local leaders have voiced A transparent, community-strong support for the driven selection process initiative. Mohamed A. Sheriff, ensured that each county Mayor of Tubmanburg, praised contributed 60 volunteers, the program as a timely boost to including individuals with ongoing environmental efforts, disabilities. while Mayor Siah Victor-Keah of The recruitment process was Bopolu City and Mayor Mark preceded by extensive Molton of Cestos echoed similar community mobilization and sentiments, pledging their stakeholder engagement, commitment to the training supported by public outreach phase and advocating for through local radio stations in continued logistical support. the participating counties. Press Release Awareness campaigns were conducted via radio talk shows, including Radio Bomi-ELRB in



# Français

## Au-delà des « Yellow Machines » : Le Vice-Président Koung en quête d’investissements en Chine

En visite officielle en Chine, le Vice-Président libérien Jeremiah Kpan Koung doit

deux parties. Cette rencontre, qui devrait se tenir après la visite du Vice-Président au port de Qingdao -

portent principalement sur des projets d’investissement, notamment dans les infrastructures portuaires libériennes.

Le Shandong Port Group collabore actuellement avec la direction de l’Autorité Portuaire Nationale du Libéria (NPA) autour de projets visant à moderniser et développer les installations portuaires du pays.

En marge de ces rencontres, le Vice-Président Koung effectue une visite d’inspection auprès de trois entreprises chinoises ayant soumis des offres spontanées pour la fourniture de 285 engins de terrassement, communément appelés « Yellow Machines ».

Parmi les entreprises intéressées figure Shantui, une filiale du conglomérat public Shandong Heavy Industry Group, contrôlé par la province du même nom

▶ CONT’D ON PAGE 9



rencontrer ce mercredi le gouverneur de la province du Shandong, M. Zhou Naixiang, dans le cadre d’échanges visant à renforcer les relations économiques entre les

géré par le Shandong Port Group -, s’inscrit dans une série de discussions autour de potentielles opportunités d’investissement au Libéria. Bien que peu d’informations aient filtré sur le contenu précis de ces échanges, les discussions

## Bong County secoué par des contre-manifestations autour du maintien en fonction de la Superintendante Norris

Une nouvelle voix s’est élevée dans le débat politique local : le groupe « Bong County Citizens Unity for Development » est descendu dans les rues pour s’opposer aux appels à la démission de la Superintendante Hawa Loleyah Norris, lancés récemment par la section jeunesse du parti Unity dans le comté.

Ces contre-manifestations surviennent dans un climat de vives tensions internes au sein de la Jeunesse du parti Unity à Bong County, marquées par des désaccords persistants sur la conduite à tenir face à la Superintendante. Des divergences notables sont apparues entre les jeunes cadres et les militants de base, divisés entre le maintien ou la démission de Mme Norris, dont la lettre de démission aurait été soumise mais reste sans suite officielle.

Le 13 juin 2025, les membres du groupe Bong County Citizens Unity for Development ont remis une pétition dans laquelle ils soulignent l’engagement constant de

Mme Norris en faveur du développement du comté et de la mise en œuvre du programme de gouvernance du parti Unity.

Dans sa déclaration publique, Joseph N. Tokpah, porte-parole du groupe, a énuméré plusieurs projets réalisés sous la direction de Mme Norris, en moins de deux ans : la rénovation du complexe de la Superintendance à Gbarnga, la clôture du bâtiment administratif, la réhabilitation du réseau routier de Gbarnga, ainsi que la relance de la bourse d’études "Madam Suakoko" grâce au Fonds de

Développement du Comté.

Ils ont également salué son rôle de vice-présidente du jury de développement du président Boakai dans le comté, qui lui a permis de canaliser des fonds vers des institutions clés comme l’hôpital Phebe, l’hôpital C. B. Dunbar, le Centre de formation professionnelle LOIC, et l’hôpital de Bong Mines.

« En tant que citoyens de Bong County, nous ne pouvons pas nous permettre

▶ 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**

. Le Vice-Président et sa délégation ont conclu, le mardi 17 juin, une visite au siège du groupe à Laiwu. Ils ont ensuite été transférés au Centre de conférences du lac Xueye pour un déjeuner de travail, avant de prendre un train à grande vitesse G207 à destination de Jinan Est et Qingdao Nord. Durant cette visite, les représentants de l’usine ont présenté aux autorités libériennes différentes chaînes de production en fonctionnement, notamment celles de camions Sinotruk, de bateaux et de bus de 50 à 75 places. L’usine Sinotruk, exploitée par Jinan Truck Manufacturing Company, constitue l’un des piliers industriels de la province du Shandong. Le gouvernement libérien a fixé une enveloppe maximale de 22 millions de dollars américains pour l’acquisition de ces engins. Trois entreprises chinoises ont soumis des propositions : Sany Group (basé à Changsha), Shantui (dans le Shandong), et ABK Group. La délégation libérienne, dirigée par le Vice-Président Koung, comprend entre autres le ministre des Travaux publics Roland Gittens, le directeur de la Commission des marchés publics et des concessions (PPCC) J. S. Scott, la ministre adjointe du Budget Sarah Mulbah, ainsi que le gestionnaire du parc automobile de l’Agence des services généraux (GSA), Roberts Wilson. L’objectif principal de cette mission est de vérifier physiquement la qualité des équipements, la capacité de production et les standards industriels des trois entreprises, afin de garantir une acquisition optimale.


« Nous voulons en avoir pour notre argent. Il est impératif que le prix corresponde à la valeur réelle du produit », a déclaré le Vice-Président Koung lors de son passage chez Sany Group, le lundi 16 juin. « Nous ne cherchons pas le moins cher, mais un bon rapport qualité-prix », a-t-il ajouté, soulignant l’impact potentiel des intermédiaires sur le coût final des équipements. Conformément aux exigences du gouvernement libérien, les fournisseurs devront inclure dans leur offre la fourniture de pièces de rechange, la formation de techniciens libériens ainsi que la maintenance des équipements sur une période définie. Le Shandong Heavy Industry Group, entreprise publique, réalise 40 % de son chiffre d’affaires en Chine, 40 % sur les marchés internationaux à partir de produits fabriqués en Chine, et 20 % à partir de sites de production à l’étranger. Le groupe opère dans six secteurs majeurs : systèmes d’énergie, véhicules utilitaires, agriculture, construction, logistique intelligente et machines industrielles. Au terme de la visite de l’usine Sinotruk, le Vice-Président Koung a exprimé sa gratitude envers les dirigeants du groupe. « Le Libéria est un petit pays, mais nous admirons la Chine. Vous avez su sortir de la pauvreté, et cela force le respect », a-t-il déclaré. La visite visait à évaluer le potentiel de production de Sinotruk, dont les camions sont conçus pour répondre aux besoins variés des secteurs de la construction et de l’exploitation minière.

*Starts from page 8* **Bong County secoué par des contre-manifestations**

de perdre la Superintendante Norris à cause des intérêts égoïstes de certains groupes ou leaders », ont-ils plaidé. « Excellence Monsieur le Président Joseph Nyumah Boakai, sachez que certains individus s’opposent à Mme Norris simplement parce qu’elle refuse de brader les intérêts du comté à des fins personnelles. Cette opposition a commencé dès le jour de sa nomination et continue aujourd’hui à travers ces manifestations injustifiées. » Le groupe a vigoureusement dénoncé les accusations portées contre la Superintendante, qu’il qualifie de mensongères et malveillantes : allégations de corruption, abandon de fonction, octroi de contrats à l’opposition, et refus de reconnaître certains partisans comme membres actifs du parti Unity. Ils ont aussi démenti des rumeurs prétendant qu’ils seraient contrariés par le don d’un véhicule 4x4 au Révérend James Paye, de l’église Christ Vision International Ministries à Gbarnga. « Nous nous en réjouissons. Le Rév. Paye a toujours prié pour notre comté et notre pays tout entier », ont-ils déclaré. « Excellence Monsieur le Président, aujourd’hui, nous sommes réunis à Gbarnga, représentants de différentes communautés et institutions de Bong County, pour vous dire que Mme Hawa Loleyah Norris accomplit un travail exceptionnel à la tête de notre administration locale. Nous préparons même une cérémonie d’hommage pour reconnaître ses efforts. Ne prêtez pas attention aux propos mensongers de certains politiciens malintentionnés. » Le groupe a notamment mis en avant son engagement dans l’autonomisation des jeunes, le développement des infrastructures, et une gouvernance inclusive, autant de raisons, selon eux, de la maintenir à son poste. La pétition a été reçue par Josephus Dormeyan, conseiller au bureau de la Superintendante, qui a salué le caractère pacifique de la manifestation et promis de transmettre les doléances dès le retour de Mme Norris, actuellement en déplacement pour des obligations nationales. M. Dormeyan a également insisté sur la nécessité de l’unité et de la collaboration pour accélérer le développement de Bong County. Malgré le climat de division, la journée s’est déroulée dans le calme, avec des appels au rassemblement lancés par plusieurs figures influentes du comté. Cependant, une autre faction persiste à réclamer la démission de Mme Norris, estimant que cela est nécessaire pour préserver l’intégrité du parti, citant des erreurs internes présumées, un déficit de communication avec les leaders locaux, et une érosion de la confiance publique. Ce bras de fer met en lumière un véritable clivage au sein de la section locale du parti Unity à Bong County, menaçant l’unité et l’efficacité du parti sur le terrain.

**M. Lakshmi Mittal salue la croissance soutenue du Liberia**

Le président exécutif du groupe ArcelorMittal, M. Lakshmi N. Mittal, a salué les avancées remarquables du Liberia au cours des deux dernières décennies, qualifiant le pays de symbole de résilience, de croissance et de potentiel. Il s’exprimait lors de la cérémonie officielle de dédicace de l’usine de concentration de minerai de fer d’ArcelorMittal Liberia, d’une valeur de 1,4 milliard de dollars, située à Tokadeh, dans le nord-est du pays. Dans son discours, M. Mittal est revenu sur les débuts de sa relation avec le Liberia, entamée lors de sa première visite en 2005. Il s’est dit impressionné par la transformation du pays depuis cette période. « En 2005, il n’y avait pratiquement pas d’électricité. Aujourd’hui, on voit la lumière, les routes, le confort, les signes évidents du progrès », a-t-il déclaré, avant d’exprimer sa confiance dans la trajectoire de développement du Liberia. Au-delà des chiffres, son message a également pris une tournure personnelle, empreinte d’admiration à l’égard du Président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, qu’il a qualifié de leader respecté et digne de confiance.



« J’ai connu le Président Boakai lorsqu’il était Vice-Président. Je l’ai toujours admiré pour sa sagesse et son engagement. Même après son départ de la vice-présidence, je lui ai écrit pour lui dire que je croyais en son avenir au service de ce pays », a-t-il confié. M. Mittal a souligné que cette relation fondée sur la confiance et l’écoute mutuelle s’était renforcée au fil des années, notamment autour des questions de développement communautaire et d’infrastructures. Il a salué l’intérêt constant du chef de l’État pour des projets sociaux tels que la route Ganta-Yekepa et la formation professionnelle. « Le Président discute toujours avec moi des besoins des communautés. Nous prenons ses messages très au sérieux », a affirmé M. Mittal, assurant l’engagement de son groupe à soutenir les écoles, centres de formation et infrastructures routières dans les zones concernées. Le magnat de l’acier a également félicité le Liberia pour son récent succès diplomatique : son élection en tant que membre non permanent du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies, qu’il a décrite comme une conséquence directe du leadership visionnaire du président Boakai. « Cela semblait inimaginable, mais grâce à votre leadership, Monsieur le Président, le Liberia a gagné en reconnaissance internationale », a-t-il déclaré. S’exprimant sur l’inauguration de l’usine de concentration, M. Mittal a précisé qu’il ne s’agissait que du début d’un partenariat à long terme, et a réaffirmé la confiance d’ArcelorMittal dans le futur du Liberia. Avec un investissement total de plus de 3 milliards de dollars américains et la création de plus de 10 000 emplois directs et indirects, ArcelorMittal demeure le plus grand investisseur privé du pays.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Starts from back page

Red Cross restores hope to Sarwolo residents

water. Today, I feel proud,” said Noria Cooper, the Women Chair Lady. “We will organize ourselves to care for these pumps like they are our own children.”

For Manda Cooper, a mother of seven, said the Red Cross’ intervention brought more than clean water—it brought peace of mind. “Some of my children died from bad water. But today, I can say thank God for the Red Cross. They gave us life.” Sarwolor Town now looks ahead—not to another tragedy, but to a future of dignity, health, and clean water.

Speaking during the hand pump dedication in Sarwolor Town, Swedish Red Cross Country Representative Armel Komena reaffirmed the organization’s global mission of compassion. “Our objective is to mobilize the power of humanity to create a better world, a better community,” he said. “That is why the Red Cross is present in every country—because humanity knows no borders. It is this same spirit that has brought the Swedish Red Cross to support the Liberian Red Cross.”

Christopher Johnson, Head of Programs at the Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS), emphasized that clean water access remains one of the most urgent humanitarian challenges in Liberia’s rural communities.

Mr. Johnson added that the Swedish Red Cross has donated two drilling machines to expand clean water access. “These are not

for profit,” he emphasized, “they’re for our people—to end suffering like what happened here.”

“What happened in Sarwolor is not an isolated tragedy—it’s one of many untold stories,” he said. “With limited resources, we are doing all we can to stop people from drinking unsafe creek water, but the need far outweighs our current capacity.”

The Red Cross has been actively responding to these needs, with the rehabilitation of 15 damaged hand pumps across 13 communities in Bong County, including Gbarnga, Totota, and Bong Mines.

Under the LNRCS GIRL Project, an additional 14 hand pumps have been rehabilitated in hard-to-reach southeastern counties—Sinoe, Grand Kru, and River Gee. “Every pump we repair or build saves lives and restores dignity,” Johnson added.

Despite the progress, both Johnson stressed the urgent need for increased support, partnerships, and collaboration to scale up the LNRCS humanitarian interventions.

“We have the technical expertise and the commitment,” said Johnson, “but we are seriously challenged by extremely limited resources. We call on all partners to help us reach further—to restore access to safe and reliable drinking water and protect lives.” Press Release

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

Starts from page 6

ECOWAS Parliament convenes in Monrovia

, the fourth speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament, Mr. Tunkara Billay, calls on member states to reflect on the challenges that have engulfed youths across the region.

"Ladies and Gentlemen: let us reflect together of the unique and pressing challenges that continue to confront our region - particularly, the issue of unemployment, and the urgent need to harness the opportunities of ECOWAS Investment Policy in addressing unemployment in our region."

He discloses that the critical issue that member states should take into consideration during this meeting is not only about the need for investment, but how they can harness and also leverage the ECOWAS Investment Policy to produce concrete benefits for their citizens especially, in the form of decent, sustainable jobs.

According to him, the ECOWAS Investment Policy is adopted to foster a harmonized and transparent investment environment across West Africa; provide an important framework to attract private capital, stimulate intra-regional trade, and promote inclusive economic transformation.

"Dear colleagues, as a regional Parliament, our role is to ensure that the implementation of this policy reflects national priorities, responds to the needs of our citizens, and aligns with our regional

integration goals", he emphasizes. On behalf of the ECOWAS Speaker, Mr. Billay reaffirms the regional block’s unwavering commitment to supporting policy frameworks that deliver real development outcomes, adding, “We are here to listen; to learn, and to lead the charge for reforms that ensure that investment is more impactful in the lives of our community citizens.”

In remarks, Liberia’s Senate President Pro-Tempore, Madam Nyobebe Karnga Lawrence, thanks ECOWAS for selecting Liberia to host its sitting, saying “Your engagement and guidance were not only timely, but also deeply reflective of the values of dialogue, mutual respect, and democratic consolidation that underpin the ECOWAS Parliament.”

Pro-Tempore Karnga Lawrence says the Joint Committee Meeting, under the Theme "Assessing the Effectiveness of the ECOWAS investment Policy as instrument for addressing the rising Levels of Unemployment in the Sub-Region," touches the very core of our regional challenges.

She reveals that the Liberian Senate has prioritized legal frameworks that examine gaps in the country’s investment frameworks and, more importantly, to align strategies that meaningfully address joblessness, poverty, and migration pressures. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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 country’s top seat, and not very satisfied today, for the bother by criticisms.

“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 adds. The former commitment to bringing President, was quick to reflect on prosperity to Liberia. Editing by his days as President says “You Jonathan Browne

unite to move Liberia forward.

“This Country is so beautiful, but we think that fighting will make us better; no, it will only destroy us; let us continue to focus on unite to move Liberia forward.



www.thenewdawnliberia.com

Advertise with us!

Subscribe to our website

Get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

We Offer The Following Printing Services:

- Newspapers, Magazines

- Flyers, Posters, Calendars

- Brochures, Letterhead

- Receipts, Invoices

- Souvenirs, Gifts

- Designs, etc...

PLEASE! KEEP THE DOOR CLOSE

New Dawn

LIBERIA'S ONLY INDEPENDENT

PUBLISHED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS INC.

108 Drive, P.O. Box 1246

Monrovia - Liberia

Tel: 0886484201 / 0777007525

0886978282 / 0775407211

Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

WEDDOPHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO PHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO VIDEOGRAPHY

WE DO EVENT PLANNING

WE DO TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO BIRTHDAY PHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO CHRISTMAS PHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO EASTER PHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO HALLOWEEN PHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO NEW YEAR PHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO VALENTINE PHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO 4TH OF JULY PHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO INDEPENDENCE PHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO CHRISTMAS PHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO EASTER PHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO HALLOWEEN PHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO NEW YEAR PHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO VALENTINE PHOTOGRAPHY

WE DO 4TH OF JULY PHOTOGRAPHY

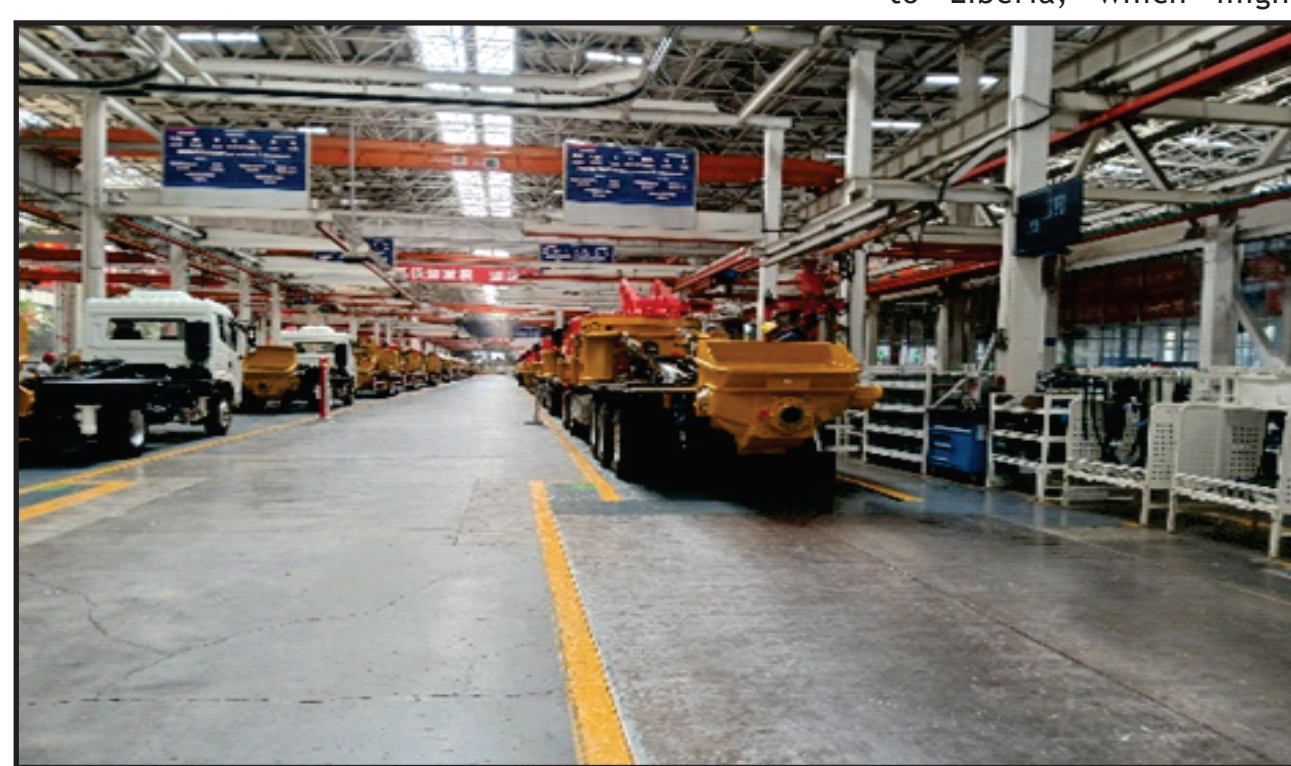
WE DO INDEPENDENCE PHOTOGRAPHY



# VP Koung holds investment meetings in China

Shandong, China, June 18, 2025: Liberia's Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung is expected to meet with Shandong Province

Sany Group in Changsha, Monday, June 16. "We don't want cheap items but quality with affordable prices," he said, "The country is considering the processes and middlemen/agents in getting the product to Liberia, which might



Governor Zhou Naixiang today as the latter appears to have shown interest in investing in Liberia. The meeting between the two leaders is expected to take place following the Vice President's visit to Qingdao Port, a Shandong Port Group. Details of these meetings are scanty, but they are geared towards potential investment opportunities in Liberia. The Shandong Port Group has, in recent times, been engaged with Liberia's National Port Authority Management over potential investment in the country's port facilities. These meetings with both Governor Zhou and authorities at Shandong port come on the sidelines of a verification visit to three companies which have expressed unsolicited bids to supply 285 earth-moving equipment to Liberia. Among the group seeking to provide the Yellow Machines is Shantui, a company that is part of the Shandong Heavy Industries Group. Shandong is an SOE owned by Shandong Province. Vice President Koung and the delegation wrapped up their visit at Shandong Heavy Industries at Laiwa on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, and were transferred to Laiwa Xueye Lake Conference Center, where they had lunch before taking a high-speed G207 train to Jinan East, Qindao North, where they

including Sino Trucks, Boats, 50-75-seater buses, as production was in progress. The Laiwa Factory Sinotruck, Jinan Truck Manufacturing Company, is a key component of Shandong Province's major initiative. 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 the ABK Group. 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. "We aim to get value for money. We aim 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's first stop at

## GOL, EU sign US\$25 Million Financing Agreement

The Government of Liberia and the European Union have signed a US\$25 Million Financing Agreement that marks an important step in enhancing Liberia's private sector, with a focus on strengthening cassava, fisheries, and food processing value chains.

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia, June 18, 2025 - The Government of Liberia and the European Union have signed additional US\$25 Million Financing Agreement to boost private sector development in the country. The initiative marks an important step in enhancing Liberia's private sector, with a focus on strengthening cassava, fisheries, and food processing value chains. Speaking at the official signing ceremony in Monday, June 16, 2025, at the Ministry of Finance in Monrovia, the EU Ambassador accredited to Liberia, Nona Deprez said she was very proud because the initiative will support the value chains of cassava, fish, and wood, saying "And what we bring is a real holistic package because it is also in line with the AMES Agenda for Industrial Development, but it also fits our program in Tibet, which is on wood processing."

"We also will hopefully facilitate a stronger public-private sector dialogue, and we're looking forward to working with all of you on this. I think it's really important and we hope that this can also create jobs, of course."For his part, Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Augustine K Ngafuan, thanked the EU on behalf of President Boakai and citizens of Liberia. "If we should develop geographically, and that no sector, no region, will be left behind, we will make sure that whatever ambitions we have under the project are actualized, including ramping up government support, when there are gaps, because it's important", Minister Ngafuan says. According to him, as President Boakai demands results from public officials, the government



Ambassador Deprez says the endeavor also fits the Team Europe initiative on food sustainability and agriculture under the same value chains of cassava and fish, including upcoming programs to support EP1 and EP2 fisheries program. She said the initiative is in line with the EU's global gateway strategy, the 360 degrees approach that looks at decent work, decent work conditions that come with private sector development. Accordingly, the EU envoy explains that they want to work with small and medium enterprises, with business associations, Ministry of Commerce, National Investment Formation, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and this will be good for the workers and for the people of Liberia.

cannot just be saying private sector; the Indians or local operating resources, instead, they must attract government resources. We have to enable the private sector. He discloses that when the government do roads, they are doing it to help the country generally, but also the private sector, saying if the people who we serve if they can move from here to Harper, Maryland, quickly, they can sell their goods and services quickly and make profit. He noted that the four-year project (2025-2029) aims to increase competitiveness and environmental sustainability of these key



## Red Cross restores hope to Sarwolo residents

**B**ong, Liberia; June 18, 2025: - After the tragic loss of seven lives to waterborne diseases, a wave of hope has swept through Sarwolor Town in Bong County, as the Liberia

the Red Cross, in January, Sarwolor made headlines when FrontPage Africa reported that over 3,000 residents, primarily women and children, were drinking from a creek after the town's only hand pump broke down.

The creek, just a short walk from the town, once appeared to be a gift of nature—cool and shaded—but it was a silent killer. "I was forced to drink from the creek because there was no other choice," said Rita Dollo, a mother of four. "We were dying slowly."

The urgent intervention by the Red Cross has since transformed sorrow into celebration. During the dedication on June 13, 2025, Town Chief Lawrence Dolopay expressed deep gratitude. "The Red Cross saved our lives. We were crying for help, and they answered. This is what true humanity looks like," he said. Chief Dolopay emphasized the town's commitment to protecting the new water facilities: "We will not let these pumps spoil. We will maintain them so no more lives are lost."

Women, who bore the brunt of the crisis, voiced overwhelming relief. "We used to feel shame and sadness fetching creek

The consequences were devastating. "I watched my daughter die just two days after being diagnosed with diarrhea," recalled Norah Gbanjah, a grieving mother who also lost her son and grandson to the same fate. "We were helpless."

National Red Cross Society (LNRCS), with support from the Swedish Red Cross, officially handed over two newly constructed hand pumps and rehabilitated a third—restoring safe drinking water to a community once desperate and forgotten. According to



**MoMo WAYSAY WASA 4**  
Everyone is a Winner

**It's Raining Rewards.**

**Dial \*156#**  
to transact and win.

MoMo | Lonestar Cell | MTN

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

[www.thenewdawnliberia.com](http://www.thenewdawnliberia.com)  
**Advertise with us!**  
**Subscribe to our website**  
Get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

<http://www.thenewdawnliberia.com>  
**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

**PUBLISHED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS INC.,**  
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266  
Opposite the National Investment Commission  
Monrovia - Liberia.  
Tel: 0886484201 / 0777007529  
0886978282 / 0775407211  
Website: [www.thenewdawnliberia.com](http://www.thenewdawnliberia.com)  
Email: [info@thenewdawnliberia.com](mailto:info@thenewdawnliberia.com)

**We Offer The Following Printing Services:**

- Newspapers, Magazines
- Flyers, Posters, Calendars
- Brochures, Letterhead
- Receipts, Invoices
- Souvenirs, Gifts
- Designs, etc...

**PLEASE! KEEP THE DOOR CLOSE**

**WE DO PHOTOCOPY**

**2 Colors Heidelberg Machines**

**PRESS**

**New Dawn**  
CALENDAR  
\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections  
BROCHURE