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Boakai's commits Liberia

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Continental News

ECOWAS leaders meet in Abuja amid regional tensions and leadership transition

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) convened on Sunday, June 22, 2025, in Nigeria's capital, Abuja. Regional heads of state gathered to evaluate the bloc's current

withdrawal of Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. This move would reshape the bloc's political and economic landscape.

The summit comes as Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu prepares to step down from his role as ECOWAS chairman, a

to revitalize the bloc remain unfulfilled.

In a last-minute diplomatic gesture, Tinubu convened a subregional economic meeting on Saturday, inviting Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. These three military-led countries have severed ties with ECOWAS. However, the junta-led nations declined to attend, underscoring the deepening rift between them and the organization.

Sunday's summit is expected to name Tinubu's successor as ECOWAS chair. Leading contenders include Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye and Ghana's former President John Dramani Mahama. A longstanding but unofficial tradition of rotating leadership among Anglophone, Francophone, and Lusophone countries will likely influence the final decision.

Whoever takes the helm will inherit a troubled organization facing a critical juncture. Beyond internal reforms, the new leader will navigate strained relations with the breakaway Sahelian nations and manage their formal exit from the bloc.



Liberia's President, Joseph Boakai, left, Ghana's President John Dramani Mahama, centre, and ECOWAS President Omar Touray, right, attend the launch of the 50th Anniversary

state, which continues to grapple with internal instability following a wave of military coups in several member countries.

ECOWAS Commission President Omar Aliou Touray is scheduled to present an update on the status of negotiations regarding the formal

position he assumed in Bissau in 2023. Tinubu's tenure has been marked by ambitious rhetoric but mixed results. While he adopted a strong anti-coup stance and called for deeper regional integration, his efforts fell short. His push for military intervention against the Niger junta was ultimately abandoned, and his broader goals

Morocco says 2024 was the hottest year with temperatures reaching 47.7 degrees

Morocco's meteorological agency announced Friday that 2024 was the hottest year ever recorded in the country, reflecting record temperatures globally.

In an annual report, the agency said it recorded an average temperature anomaly of +1.49 degrees Celsius last year compared to the 1991-2020 period.

"The year 2024 stands out as the hottest ever recorded in Morocco," she said, adding that every month of 2024, except June and September, had been warmer than the average for the 1991-2020 reference period.

According to the agency, several cities broke daily heat records last July, with 47.6 degrees Celsius in Marrakech and 47.7 degrees Celsius in Beni Mellal.

According to the meteorological

department, the kingdom is facing its seventh consecutive year of drought, with an average rainfall deficit of -24.7% in 2024.

The agency also noted "an increase in thermal anomalies, particularly during the fall and winter seasons."

Morocco's all-time heat record was set in August 2023, when temperatures reached 50.4 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) in Agadir.



A boy jumps into a river to cool down during a hot summer day in Rabat, Morocco, Friday, June 20, 2025.

Zimbabwe: Yoga in a tavern is the latest mental health outreach

It's before sunrise on a Saturday and a small group has gathered at Socialite Bar in on the outskirts of Zimbabwe's capital. Instead of nursing hangovers, they sit with eyes closed and bodies in meditative poses on the bare floor.

It's an unlikely setting for a yoga class. In Zimbabwe, the practice is rare and mostly found in the wealthy suburbs. Yet it is quietly taking root here in a beer tavern in Chitungwiza, a low-income town 30 kilometers (18 miles) outside the capital, Harare.

The initiative is led by Actions Winya, a yoga instructor who saw how economic hardship and social pressures were damaging the mental health of people in his hometown.

introducing yoga to poorer communities, with the Indian government promoting its spread across the continent.

Inside the tavern in Zimbabwe, mellow music played as about a dozen participants moved through poses. They had no mats, just a cold brick floor, but plenty of determination for inner peace. One mother tried to stay focused as her toddler dashed around, disrupting her poses.

For 47-year-old John Mahwaya, the practice has been transforming. A father of four, he also supports relatives in the countryside, a responsibility he said once weighed heavily on his mental health.

"My head was always spinning. I thought I was losing my mind, and the stress started causing back pains," he said. "Yoga helps me relax and clear my



Community members participate in a yoga class at Socialite Bar in Chitungwiza on the outskirts of Harare, Zimbabwe, Saturday, June 14, 2025.

"Yoga is expensive ... but we also got humans in the ghetto. They need mental wellness," said Winya, who usually teaches in affluent areas, charging between \$30 and \$100 a month. That's an impossible cost for most, especially in a country where many survive through informal jobs.

Since 2023, Winya has been offering free weekend classes to some of those hardest hit by Zimbabwe's economic problems.

The sessions have become a source of relief for people navigating relentless challenges. Authorities acknowledge a growing societal crisis worsened by drug abuse, domestic violence and poverty, compounded by a shortage of public health services and therapists.

"I am a coach, so they bring the stuff that they face within families (to me). This is where we come in and say, 'Guys, come and try yoga, it can help somehow,'" Winya said.

Yoga, an ancient Indian practice, has become a multibillion-dollar industry and a daily ritual for millions around the world. The United Nations over a decade ago designated June 21 as International Day of Yoga.

In Africa, other countries like Kenya and South Africa are

mind. I sleep peacefully these days."

He said many Zimbabwean men bottle up their emotions, afraid to show weakness in a highly patriarchal society that prizes toughness.

"We focus on physical fitness, forgetting the mind," he said. "We suffer slowly, but what suffers first is the mind, and from there, it becomes a slow death."

Edinah Makosa, 24, joined the class earlier this year and said it gave her hope.

"I used to be depressed a lot. You know, for people my age, our main stressors are unemployment and relationships," she said.

"Yoga changed my mindset. I used to think negatively all the time. Now I have started selling beauty products to earn a living. As for romance, well if it works, it works; if it doesn't, it doesn't. I no longer stress about men. I go with the flow."

As they practiced, the sounds of township life seeped in. Taxi drivers shouted for passengers. Vendors pushed carts, calling out to potential customers.

"We need a proper environment and studio. But we are trying," Winya said.

For participants like Mahwaya, the location didn't matter nearly as much as the healing.

"We need to promote yoga in the communities because everyone has a mind. And fitness of the mind is the responsibility of everyone, regardless of where you live," he said.

EDITORIAL

In hunt of value for money: The yellow machines may be in sight

A Liberian government delegation headed by Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung has been touring Chinese manufacturing companies in the past week in search of yellow machines for road construction programs across the country.

The trip is in fulfilment of the Boakai Administration's campaign promise and commitment to connect the entire country with desperately needed roads that would promote trade internally thru movement of people, goods and services.

Everywhere they went last week in China, Vice President Koung presented one request to the Chinese: “We need value for money.” The Liberian government has set a ceiling of US\$22 Million for 285 pieces of yellow machines.

The current endeavor indicates a strong commitment from the current administration to deliver on its promise to the people to pave Liberia with quality roads that have eluded the country for centuries despite successive governments since independence in 1847.

Lack of roads in the country has impeded development and stifle socio-economic life, while seriously undermining health care delivery and education.

The Liberian government under President Joseph Boakai wants to reverse this ugly and grime picture with a great relief for its citizens.

President Boakai said recently that he is no longer a race car packed in the garage, when he served as Vice President then, but is now in the race track, as President. This means that he is focus on and in full control of his agenda, ready to deliver.

The government's initial step with the yellow machines quest had received public criticism and outrage surrounding transparency and evasion of procurement policy. It seems to now have all stakeholders inboard this time around, as indicated by composition of the current delegation in China that includes head of the Public Procurement and Concession Commission, the Minister of Public Works, representatives of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the General Service Agency, among others, headed by Vice President Koung.

The Liberian government wants the machines as soonest as yesterday. But it would not trade quantity for quality, and this is what VP Koung has emphasized. “Our aim”, the Vice President said to one of the Chinese companies, Sany Group in Changsha, “is to get value for money. Our aim is to get a fair market value for the money to avoid ambiguity in price.”

“We don't want cheap items but quality with affordable prices. The country is considering the processes and middlemen/ 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,” Mr. Koung underscored.

Ordinary Liberians can but wait, to see the machines here to create jobs across the country, as the bargaining include training opportunities and long- time benefits for the country.

COMMENTARY

By Elisabeth Reynolds, Eran Ben-Joseph, and Vir Chachra

Congress Can Secure America's Clean-Energy Industrial Future

BOSTON – The US Senate is currently revising President Donald Trump's self-proclaimed “big, beautiful bill” that the House of Representatives passed last month. Among the bill's many provisions are major cuts to the clean-energy tax credits included in former President Joe Biden's 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The paradox here is that maintaining these credits would actually help the Trump administration achieve two of its main goals: reindustrializing the United States and strengthening the country's energy position.

Since the IRA's enactment, the private sector has invested over [\\$100 billion](#) in manufacturing plants producing clean technologies – from batteries and electric vehicles (EVs) to solar panels and critical-minerals processing – that are fundamental to America's energy and industrial future. Of the 380 planned facilities, [nearly half were operational](#) by the end of March. Ninety additional projects, worth over \$50 billion, are in the [pipeline](#).

These projects have helped the US – which has experienced significant deindustrialization over recent decades – increase its manufacturing capacity through “learning by building.” As China pushes the frontier of advanced manufacturing and green technologies, the US cannot afford to lose this momentum if it wants to secure long-term competitiveness.

The Trump administration and Republicans in Congress would also do well to remember that most of this manufacturing boom has taken place in Republican-led states: Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, and Texas. The average investment size is more than [\\$425 million per site](#) with some notable outliers, such as Toyota's [nearly \\$14 billion](#) battery facility in North Carolina. In Texas, which leads the country in both [crude-oil](#) and [wind-energy](#) production, [more than \\$8 billion](#) has been poured into EV, solar, battery and critical-minerals projects, illustrating how such investments can help meet surging energy demand and strengthen the industrial base.

The long-term benefits are even more compelling. These industrial investments create jobs, build domestic supply chains, reduce reliance on China, and expand and advance US manufacturing capabilities in the clean-energy sector and more broadly. Worryingly, since the start of the year, [six announced projects](#), representing around \$7 billion in investment, have been canceled, as companies wait to see how policy debates about tax credits and tariffs play out.

If the Trump administration is serious about restoring America's manufacturing strength and establishing a new era of US energy dominance, private investment is essential. And emphasizing carrots over sticks has

proven effective in mobilizing it: for every dollar in clean-energy tax credits, [businesses have invested \\$4-5](#).

Compared to broad-based US tariffs, this approach to industrial development is more targeted, efficient, and market-friendly. Moreover, it helps investors address some of the main obstacles to scaling up manufacturing in America: longer time horizons and greater capital intensity, often in riskier technologies. The decades-long effort to increase US nuclear-energy capacity underscores these challenges, as does the more recent effort to leverage America's drilling expertise to accelerate the deployment of geothermal technologies.

Even legacy industries like critical-minerals production benefit from the clean-energy tax credits, receiving [nearly \\$4.5 billion in investment](#) since their enactment. Given China's recent decision, following the imposition of US trade tariffs, to restrict exports of rare-earth elements that are used in automotive, semiconductor, and aerospace manufacturing, increasing America's domestic supply of critical minerals has taken on new importance. These investment incentives, coupled with a robust innovation ecosystem for [critical-minerals processing](#) (including harvesting materials from [mining waste](#)), chart a path forward for reducing US dependence on China in an area where demand is growing exponentially.

The industrial transformation underway in the US – with a new focus on developing resilient supply chains – is the most significant domestic manufacturing resurgence in a generation. It is reviving communities with new manufacturing jobs, restoring industrial strength, and positioning the US to compete globally in industries that underpin the twenty-first-century economy.

In such a polarized US political environment, it is rare to find a policy that advances both national-security and economic-security goals, while also gaining some degree of bipartisan support. The clean-energy tax incentives do just that. Rather than cut or reduce them, the Senate should ensure that they are well targeted, and focus on accelerating permitting and building.

The US is on the cusp of a clean-energy manufacturing revolution. But it will happen only if Congress does the right thing.

Elisabeth Reynolds, former Special Assistant to the President for Manufacturing and Economic Development at the National Economic Council (2021-22), is Professor of Practice at MIT. Eran Ben-Joseph is Professor of Landscape Architecture and Planning at MIT. Vir Chachra is a graduate student at MIT.

OP-ED

By Sophie Howe

Norway's Responsibility to Future Generations

CARDIFF – Over the first four months of 2025, 56 Norwegian citizens convened to discuss how Norway's immense oil wealth can best serve current and future generations, both domestically and globally. Unlike traditional policymaking, where elected officials and experts call the shots, this so-called [Future Panel](#) – the second such assembly held in Norway – allowed ordinary citizens, selected through a representative process and equipped with the necessary knowledge, to craft recommendations through informed debate.

The Panel was established by seven civil-society organizations – WWF Norway, Save the Children Norway, Caritas Norway, *Framtiden i våre hender* (The Future in Our Hands), the Norwegian Children and Youth Council, and the think tank Langsikt – to conduct a fact-based public discussion about Norway's wealth. Its remit is to amplify the people's voice on this highly important topic before the general election in September.

By embracing a more radical model of deliberative democracy that focuses on the long-term collective good rather than short-term political interests, Norway is setting a precedent for other countries. Perhaps more importantly, when presenting its [recommendations](#) to the Norwegian parliament on May 13, the Future Panel formally demanded a legal framework – including a dedicated commissioner – to safeguard future generations. If enacted, it would demonstrate that grassroots advocacy can bring about a paradigm shift in governance.

I experienced the potential of this shift firsthand as the first Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, which passed the Well-being of Future Generations Act in 2015. The law requires public bodies to consider the long-term consequences of their decisions, ensuring that sustainability and intergenerational justice are embedded in policymaking.

The act was the result of a year-long national conversation – another deliberative democratic process. In 2014, the Welsh government [asked](#) its citizens to discuss what kind of country they wanted to leave behind for their children and grandchildren. Their answers helped shape the legislation's seven long-term well-being goals, which serve as a north star for policymakers.

Momentum for such legislation is growing globally. In September, the United Nations General Assembly [adopted](#) a Declaration on Future Generations that encourages governments to institutionalize long-term thinking.

Norway's opportunity to do so could prove particularly consequential because of the country's [\\$1.8 trillion sovereign oil fund](#). As climate change accelerates and economic uncertainty deepens, Norway must develop a new vision for financial stewardship that will help preserve planetary and societal well-being.

First and foremost, as one of the world's largest oil exporters, Norway must reckon with its fossil-fuel dependency. To be sure, the country has committed to ambitious climate targets, including net-zero emissions by 2050. But it continues to [expand oil exploration](#), despite the global call for a managed decline in fossil-fuel production and the vulnerability of its pristine ecosystems – from the Arctic tundra to vast fjords – to environmental degradation. Norway also faces the challenge of moving to a post-oil economy amid the shift to renewables. To mitigate the cost of stranded assets, protect workers, and ensure a fair transition, the country will need to diversify carefully.

A Norwegian future generations act based on the Welsh model would embed intergenerational responsibility into policy decisions, ensuring that the government seeks to balance social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being for current and future generations. As part of that process, a future generations commissioner could act as an independent advocate, flagging measures that conflict with the law's aim and holding political leaders accountable for pursuing and achieving a balance between the short and long term.

Many of today's challenges attest to the dire consequences of failing to plan for the future. From climate change to demographic shifts, these often-intersecting problems stem from shortsighted decision-making and a willful blindness to robust data and trends. What happens, for example, when Norway's aging population struggles to adapt to hotter temperatures, putting even more pressure on its overburdened health-care system?

But long-term thinking is not only about preventing problems. It is also about working toward a better and more hopeful future. The Welsh model, for example, has given the government and public institutions a vision that seeks to transcend political cycles. Since becoming more future-oriented, policymakers have prioritized investing in public transport over building roads; focused on keeping people healthy, instead of just treating the ill; and even revived Welsh, a once endangered language.

Norway's Future Panel has spoken, and now the government is at a crossroads. Will it become a global leader in long-term policy planning, ensuring that its oil wealth benefits generations to come? Or will it make decisions based solely on short-term considerations, perpetuating crises that future citizens will have to fix? If its citizens' wishes are to be respected, Norway must assume the responsibility to help create a world that improves human well-being and equity.

Sophie Howe was the first Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.

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OPINION

By Fernando Amorim Teixeira

A BRICS+ Development Agenda for the Global South

RIO DE JANEIRO – On July 6-7, Rio de Janeiro will host the BRICS+ Summit of presidents and heads of state. With ten current member states and many others seeking to join, the BRICS+ brings together countries with diverse political, cultural, and civilizational outlooks, but which share a commitment to fostering South-South cooperation and pursuing a more equitable, multipolar global order.

Such efforts are needed more than ever, because climate-change mitigation and adaptation [cannot be separated](#) from socioeconomic development. From a production standpoint, responding to such a complex, multifaceted challenge requires integration into higher rungs of the value chain, through strategies [underpinned](#) by strong sustainability principles. In practice, that means adopting policies to incentivize energy-efficient production methods and an expansion into higher value-added industrial outputs.

But industrial decarbonization depends on knowledge-intensive sectors and technologies, and investments in these areas do not arise organically from market dynamics. They require political will, strategic planning, a risk appetite for long-duration projects, and – crucially – increased productivity through the more efficient use of natural resources. Such an agenda demands empowered states; it calls for a strategic mobilization of public institutions that can operate with relative independence from fiscal constraints.

In this context, the BRICS+ should focus on identifying complementarities across strategic sectors and activities, so that member states can drive innovation and strengthen their international competitiveness without undermining each other. Initiatives such as the Partnership for the New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) represent [important steps](#) in this direction.

But moving beyond dialogue is essential. To translate commitments into concrete action, policymakers must engage a broader coalition of stakeholders – including companies, civil society, trade unions, and academia – to co-develop policies, guiding principles, and common standards. Creating shared value among businesses and communities not only strengthens relationships but also enhances sustainability and those businesses' reputations. This, in turn, fosters greater public acceptance and reduces the potential for resistance or conflict.

Specifically, new investments could require labor safeguards such as fair working conditions, the prohibition of child and forced labor, and protection of freedom of association and collective-bargaining rights, all in accordance with international agreements and national legislation. Additionally, safeguards promoting gender equality and the elimination of racial discrimination would support a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of sustainability, informed by the perspectives of the Global South.

Finance is another critical pillar. Here, the discussion should be led by members' state-owned financial institutions, since these are best positioned to direct capital to strategic sectors and coordinate their efforts with private investors. BRICS+ countries already have dozens of public development banks and sovereign wealth funds with [patient-investment](#) (long-term) mandates, technical expertise, and demonstrable experience in supporting structural change and sustainable development initiatives. These institutions offer fertile ground for further cooperation, particularly through innovative financial instruments that could strengthen the role of the New Development Bank.

Importantly, public development banks and sovereign wealth funds must go beyond merely [correcting market failures](#). They should serve as early-stage investors to catalyze the necessary structural transformation, including by attaching social and environmental conditionalities to their investment frameworks to influence private decisions across the value chain. For example, a company could be required to share its technology and knowledge to receive public financing. That is how the state can foster new markets and ensure that public support contributes to building more inclusive and sustainable economic models.

With clear short-, medium-, and long-term targets – like the BRICS+'s [goal](#) of tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030 – public programs to direct resources toward specific sectors would naturally enhance coordination. Each member state will need to adopt policies to target sectors that are ripe for productivity and efficiency enhancements. Input-output dynamics can be shaped through a number of channels, including effective demand, derisking mechanisms, reduced unit production costs, and measures to encourage private investment, including through public procurement.

The value chains for critical minerals and energy bio-inputs (such as sustainable aviation fuel) are two such sectors. Countries like Brazil have already made [advances](#) in these domains and are in a position to share some technologies and expertise in exchange for strategic financing.

An effective BRICS+ development agenda will require a coordinated mobilization of resources and institutional efforts, with the state playing a central role in steering the overall strategy. More than just an investor or financier, the public sector is uniquely positioned to anchor private expectations in an increasingly uncertain world. Brazil's BRICS+ presidency, which comes at a time of rising protectionism and global economic fragmentation, offers a historic opportunity to advance a model of cooperation attuned to the Global South's economic realities and development imperatives.

Fernando Amorim Teixeira is Coordinator of the Industrial Working Group of the Brazilian Network for the Integration of Peoples (Rebrip), Director of Sustainability and Special Projects at the Forum of Brazilian Sovereign Wealth Funds (FFSB), and Coordinator of Public Policy at the Brazilian Centre for Sustainable Finance (CeFiS).

FEATUREARTICLE

ESIA and EPA permits disprove Sen. Twayen's claim

Yekepa, Nimba County – June 16, 2025

A detailed environmental assessment and two official permits issued by Liberia's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have debunked recent claims by Senator Nya Twayen that ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) built its new iron ore concentrator in Toledoh, Nimba County without a proper environmental impact study. Last week Senator Nya Twayen complained ArcelorMittal Liberia to the Senate enabling the senate Plenary to mandate its Secretary of Senate, J. Nanborlor F. Singbeh, Sr. to communicate with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) “to submit copies of the Environmental Impact Assessment (FIA) study, report, and the corresponding environmental permit issued in relation to the ongoing construction of a multi-million-dollar iron ore processing plant by ArcelorMittal in Yekepa, Nimba County”.

For weeks now, Senator Twayen has harbored the belief that there was no environmental and safety impact assessment was done prior to the construction of the concentrator. Contrary to the Senator's assertions, AML conducted and submitted a full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Tokadeh Iron Ore Processing Plant, as required by law. The study was prepared by URS/AMEC Foster Wheeler, an internationally recognized environmental consultancy, in partnership with Earthtime Inc., and was formally submitted to the EPA.

Documents seen also revealed 21 separate reports environmental and social impact assessment reports that covered the concentrator, including a Framework Resettlement action plan, environmental management plan, Noise pollution, Geo mapping, climate change studies, Zoogical impact report. Botanic Grassland report, Forest Botanical Impact report, landscape Character report and even assessments reports submitted by conservation internation that enabled the EPA to renew two environmental permits for the construction and procession of ore from Tokadeh and operations at the Port of Buchanan

The ESIA report specifically states: “This ESIA has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Protection and Management Law (EPML) of Liberia and EPA guidelines for Category A projects.”

The study classified the concentrator project as a Category A development, meaning it had potentially high environmental and social risks and therefore required full environmental review, public consultation, and official approval prior to implementation.

What the ESIA Covered

The ESIA provided an in-depth review of

environmental baselines including air quality, surface and groundwater conditions, biodiversity, noise, and soil in the Tokadeh and Yekepa areas. It also examined social factors such as population density, health indicators, livelihoods, and cultural heritage. The report noted: “Potential impacts of the project include dust emissions, noise from machinery, sediment runoff into local watercourses, and biodiversity disturbance. Mitigation measures include dust suppression systems, buffer zones, controlled clearing of vegetation, and the implementation of a community health and safety plan.”

Summary of Project Outline from ESIA Report

(Phase II Expansion – ArcelorMittal Liberia)

According to the ESIA report, the concentrator mining project involves extracting, crushing, screening, and magnetically/flotation-concentrating approximately 15 million tonnes of iron ore annually over 20 years (2015–2034). Mining will occur at Yuelliton (up to 200m deep), Gangra (175m), and Tokadeh (100m), covering a total mining area of about 1,200 hectares, including stockpiles and waste dumps.

“A 303-hectare Tailings Management Facility will be constructed at Tokadeh, and treatment ponds will cover another 146 hectares. The total mine exclusion zone, inaccessible to the public for the life of the mine, spans 2,146 hectares, the ESIA report stated.

“Ore will be concentrated at Tokadeh and transported by rail. There will be new township developments in Yekepa and Buchanan, including housing, sewage, and waste management systems. A temporary camp for up to 1,250 construction workers and a railway maintenance camp at Greenhill in Bong County will support operations”.

This Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) draws from prior studies (2010, 2011) and includes updated physical, biological, and social surveys to reflect Phase II expansion needs of which the concentrator is a part of. Some aspects, like

drainage management, borrow pit locations, and Yekepa township planning, remain at early design stages and will be further assessed as details become available.

Importantly, the ESIA emphasized that **no involuntary resettlement** was necessary, as the project falls entirely within AML's previously authorized mining concession. It further documented that extensive public consultations were held across Nimba County involving local leadership, women's groups, youth, and local government, as part of the approval process.

EPA Permit Confirms Project Legitimacy

The EPA issued a renewed environmental permit on **August 10, 2024**, signed by **Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo**, Executive Director of the EPA. The permit reference number is **EPA/EC/ESIA/EMPS/004-0113R** and covers the processing (concentration) ore extraction at Tokadeh, operation of the concentrator in Yekepa, and associated stockpiling and processing activities at the Port of Buchanan.

The permit is explicit: “This permit is issued pursuant to the Environmental Protection and Management Law of Liberia (2003), Part III, Sections 8 (1), 11 (1), and 13. It authorizes ArcelorMittal Liberia Limited to conduct the Phase II iron ore mining and processing activities within the coordinates specified herein.”

It also warns: “Any deviation from the approved Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), including misinformation or failure to comply with monitoring obligations, shall be subject to suspension, cancellation, or prosecution.”

The permit remains in effect until **20 December 2027**, covering AML's current operations and establishing a clear regulatory framework for environmental oversight. It mandates the submission of periodic environmental audit reports, monitoring dust and water quality, noise control, biodiversity protection, and sustained community engagement.

Conclusion: Senator's Claim Refuted by Facts

The facts are clear. A full ESIA was conducted, reviewed, and approved. The EPA granted AML a valid environmental permit grounded in Liberian law. Construction of the concentrator was not only legal but also subject to some of the highest environmental standards applied in Liberia's mining sector to date.

Senator Twayen's claims that “there was no environmental report before the concentrator was built” is directly contradicted by documentary evidence. The public should be guided by verified records, not political statements that risk undermining national regulatory systems and discouraging responsible investment.



by Setlue Karweaye Sr.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LACC pushes for specialized Anti-Corruption Court

-To Fast Track Prosecutions
By: Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, June 23, 2025: The Executive Chairperson of the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission (LACC), Cllr. Alexandra K. Zoe, has revealed that a draft bill is currently before the Legislature seeking the



establishment of a specialized Anti Corruption Court in Liberia. The bill, if passed into law, would mark the first time Liberia establishes a court dedicated solely to handling corruption related cases involving government officials in a timely basis Speaking at the Ministry of Information's regular press briefing on Thursday, June 19, Cllr. Zoe explained that due to delays within the existing judicial system, many corruption cases linger for extended periods, especially when defendants appeal to the Supreme Court.

According to her, the Supreme Court often takes a long time to assume jurisdiction over such matters, and as a result, they are unable to proceed with enforcement because the law prohibits any action until the Supreme Court hears the case. "These are some of the legal reforms we need to consider," she added. "For instance, in the Commercial

Court, when a verdict is passed against you, it is not enforced immediately. Instead, the amount you are held liable for is placed in an escrow account." However, she argue that they go through months of investigation to prepare their indictments, but the cases stall because of judicial delays, however, With a specialized Anti-Corruption Court, she claim that they will be able to proceed swiftly and recover stolen government assets. She emphasized that the Criminal Court "C," which currently handles

LACC's cases, is overwhelmed with its existing docket, limiting the Commission's ability to proceed with timely prosecutions. According to her, the Commission is currently pursuing indictments in several major cases, including those involving the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), and corruption allegations in Lofa, Gbarpolu, and Bong Counties amongst other. She disclosed that in one of the cases the "LISGIS case" the court has informed them it cannot continue with jury trials due to the volume of cases on its docket, and As a result, prosecution has been postponed to the next court term in August. She further stated that LACC has engaged with stakeholders and donor partners to support the establishment of the specialized court once the legislation is enacted. Meanwhile, Cllr. Zoe confirmed that the Commission is working on four new indictments as part of its ongoing prosecution efforts, but stressed that legal reforms are necessary to improve enforcement mechanisms even after verdicts are delivered. "These are the reforms we must address in our laws. For instance, in the Commercial Court, once there's a verdict, funds can be placed in expo account We need similar practical mechanisms for corruption cases," she concluded.

Bong County: LRA Office reports over \$3.6 million Id and \$27k usd in revenue

-Amid staffing constraints.
By: Kruah Thompson

The Bong County, June 23, 2025: The local Chapter of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) has announced the collection of L\$3,654,885.85 (Three Million Six Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Five Liberian Dollars and Eighty-Five Cents) and US\$27,017.20 (Twenty-Seven Thousand Seventeen United States Dollars and Twenty Cents) in revenue for the month of May 2025. The announcement was made by Ambrose Boima, the LRA's Senior Tax Collector for Bong County, during a one-day training on "Strengthening Political Accountability in Liberia," organized in Gbarnga by Naymote Partners for Democratic Development, the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL), and the Center for Democratic Governance. Mr. Boima, who is currently the only assigned tax collector in Bong County, highlighted the challenges he faces in covering the entire county singlehandedly. He explained that while some taxpayers voluntarily visit the office to settle their obligations, many require outreach visits—which often take him away from the office. "I'm alone here. Sometimes people come to the office to pay their taxes, but sometimes I cannot be in the office because I have to move around

to collect taxes," Mr. Boima stated. Despite the logistical and staffing challenges, Mr. Boima expressed pride in the revenue collected but stressed the need for greater citizen compliance and government support to boost tax collection efficiency in the county. He used the platform to appeal to the LRA Commissioner General and the national government to assign at least one additional revenue agent in Bong County. He believes this will not only enhance the performance of the LRA but also improve coordination with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which plays a crucial role in local economic regulation. "Liberia can only develop when Liberians pay their taxes," Mr.



Boima emphasized, calling on citizens of Bong County to view tax payment as a civic responsibility and an investment in the nation's future. Stakeholders at the accountability training praised the LRA's efforts under difficult circumstances and echoed the call for increased support to local revenue offices, particularly in rural areas like Bong County. As the government continues to prioritize domestic revenue mobilization for development, Mr. Boima's appeal sheds light on the urgent need for increased staffing, logistical support, and public education on taxation at the county level.

NPA hosts 10th annual conference of Harbor Masters and Port Security Officers

By: Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, June 23, 2025: The Deputy Managing Director for Administration at the National Port Authority (NPA), James Richard Bernard, has announced that Liberia is hosting the 10th Annual Conference of Harbor Masters and Port Facility Security Officers (PFSOs) for the Four Management of West and Central Africa. The event brings together Harbor Masters and PFSO vessels from 22 ports across 20 countries in the West and Central African region. The conference, according to Bernard, is aimed at enhancing port security and safety, and promoting collaboration across regional port authorities. Speaking Thursday at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism, Bernard emphasized that the conference brings together members of the PFS committee and the harbor master community to exchange ideas and strategies for improving maritime safety and port operations. Without revealing the actual date the event will be held he stated that

powers of inspection and detention of vessels. They must also be fully aware of the scope and legal backing of these powers. Meanwhile, Port Facility Security Officers (PFSOs) are tasked with coordinating port security, ensuring compliance with ISPS regulations, and adhering to local port laws, particularly in relation to policing and enforcement. Bernard explained that Liberia, through its membership in regional and international port networks, has benefited from multiple organized conferences and trainings facilitated by the International Maritime Committee of Africa (IMCA), particularly in capacity building, human resource development, and inclusive training. "We're also looking forward to improving port facilities, safety protocols, operational systems, human capital, sanitation, and health," Bernard said, noting particular concern for environmental stewardship, waste management, emergency



"This year's celebration is under the theme, 'Navigating the Challenges of Port Security and Safety.'" He stressed the importance of aligning the conference with key pillars of President Joseph Boakai's ARREST agenda, especially in the areas of rule of law, governance, and robust port security systems. According to the International Harbour Masters Association, authority in enforcing maritime and nautical legislation, including

preparedness, and their impacts on the maritime sector, trade, and tourism. He added that Liberia remains a founding member of democracy since 1972 and, through regional cooperation, the port authority has gained access to knowledge-sharing platforms, compliance frameworks, and strengthened regional collaboration. "The port is no longer an isolated node," he concluded. "We are now integrating into a stronger, smarter, and more secure regional training network."

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Bong County: Lawmaker leads local development through agriculture.

By: Edwin N. Khakie

Bong County, June 23, 2025: Electoral District #3 Representative Josiah Marvin Cole has shifted focus to strengthening the government's development agenda through robust agricultural initiatives.



During a tour of his farm facilities over the weekend, Rep. Cole told The New Dawn newspaper that his agricultural investments are part of a broader strategy to combat poverty, reduce crime, and empower young Liberians through employment and skills development. “My aim is to contribute meaningfully to national development by creating jobs for my people, especially the youth who are often vulnerable to economic hardship and criminal

activities,” Rep. Cole explained. “Agriculture is the key to self-reliance and community empowerment.” According to Rep. Cole, his palm farm alone currently employs over 200 Liberians, providing them with daily wages to sustain their livelihoods. In addition to the palm farm, several other young people are employed on his cocoa farms and in various catchment areas, contributing to the rural economy. The District #3 lawmaker emphasized that employment from his farms offers not only income but also a sense of purpose for the youth, keeping them engaged in productive activities. Calling on the national government, Rep. Cole urged the

Ministry of Agriculture and relevant authorities to support local farmers across the country—regardless of political alignment. “We cannot develop Liberia by empowering only those we agree with politically,” he said. “If the government wants to see real transformation in agriculture, support must be fair and inclusive.” His comments come at a time when tensions are reportedly rising within the House of Representatives over alleged political sidelining of some lawmakers, including Cole. Despite such challenges, he insists on focusing his energy on delivering tangible results to his constituents. Rep. Cole's efforts have drawn praise from several residents in Bong County, who say the farms are a much-needed source of employment in a struggling economy. Many are hopeful that his initiatives will inspire similar efforts across the country. As Liberia continues to grapple with unemployment and food insecurity, Rep. Cole's investment in agriculture highlights the critical role lawmakers can play in driving sustainable development at the grassroots level.

LDEA Welcomes Four-Man Delegation from U.S. DEA

Monrovia, Liberia – June 23, 2025: The Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) received a three-man delegation from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (U.S. DEA) at its headquarters in Fiamah, Sinkor, on Wednesday, June 18, 2025. The visiting delegation was led by Attaché Christiana A.Olagbiaye, accompanied by Donnie West, U.S. DEA Diversion Specialist, Divine Ahlivia, and UNODC Representative, Luis F. Diaz. The purpose of their visit was to familiarise themselves with the LDEA's operations, challenges, and to explore opportunities for enhanced collaboration and coordination between the two agencies. Upon arrival, the delegation was welcomed by LDEA Director General Anthony Souh, Director for Administration Gwee Forkpah, Director for Operation Sabastine Farr, and other senior officers. They were given a guided tour of the agency's key

operational areas, including the crime lab, prevention and rehabilitation units, and the holding cell. The tour offered the visitors a comprehensive insight into the agency's daily functions and infrastructure. A representative from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was also present during the visit. Crime lab technicians showcased various drug samples, test kits, and other materials used in substance

detection—many of which were donated to the LDEA to support its enforcement activities. Director General Souh expressed sincere appreciation for the visit and reiterated the agency's commitment to strengthening ties with the U.S. DEA. He emphasised the significance of international partnerships in supporting the LDEA's institutional development and operational effectiveness.



LLA holds forum on Land Governance and Customary Land Rights

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Harper, Liberia; June 23, 2025 – In an effort to deepen understanding and strengthen land governance across Liberia's southeast, the Liberia Land Authority (LLA) has conducted a stakeholder engagement meeting with traditional leaders, local officials, and civil society representatives in Maryland County. The dialogue, held in Harper City, focused on customary land rights, land documentation, and peaceful dispute resolution. The high-level forum was led by LLA Chairman, Samuel F. Kpakio, accompanied by commissioners and other senior members of the Authority. The initiative is part of the Authority's nationwide campaign to ensure local communities understand provisions of the 2018 Land Rights Act and their rights to manage and protect their ancestral land. Chairman Kpakio emphasized, “Land belongs to the people.” During the one-day dialogue held recently in the Harper Administration Building, Chairman Kpakio emphasized the central role communities play in managing their land under Liberia's new legal framework. “Land no longer belongs only to the elite or

must be inclusive in order to maintain our lasting peace and prosperity,” he added. Commissioner Garsinii outlined LLA's roadmap for supporting local communities through awareness, training, and facilitation of the formal land documentation process. He said the LLA is also engaging leaders, security apparatus and traditional residents on the illegal influx of Burkinabes who are occupying land of Liberia illegally. The engagement was attended by a broad range of local stakeholders, including chiefs, city mayors, youth leaders, and civil society organizations. One of the most powerful voices at the meeting came from Mrs. Lucy Davis Momo, a prominent women's leader in Maryland County. “For too long, women have been left out of land decisions, even though we are the ones farming and feeding our families,” Momo stated. “This engagement is a step in the right direction. We must be included in every stage of this land process—not just as observers, but as decision-makers.” She also urged the Liberia Land Authority to provide simplified materials and sustained community outreach in local languages, so that everyone, regardless of education level, can understand their rights and responsibilities under the new law.



government; it belongs to the people,” he said. “But to benefit from that right, communities must organize themselves, claim their customary land legally, and resolve disputes peacefully.” He said women also have equal rights just as their male counterparts in acquiring land under the new land right acts of the nation. He underscored that with proper understanding and documentation, communities in Maryland County could secure land tenure that empowers them economically, reduces conflict, and supports sustainable development. The LLA Commissioner on Land Use and Management, Uriaus Garsinii echoed the Chairman's statements and focused his remarks on gender inclusion in land governance. He urged traditional leaders to ensure that women and youth have voices in local land discussions, particularly as communities begin the process of claiming customary land titles. “If women farm the land, they must help decide how it is managed. Land governance

One of the key voices of the local authority in Maryland County is Mr. Isaac Weah Sr., Acting Mayor of Harper, who explained that locals are their own problems when it comes to illegal influx of Burkinabes who are occupying forest in the region. Meanwhile, the Liberia Land Authority pledged to continue these stakeholder meetings in other parts of the southeast, working closely with traditional councils and local government to support legal recognition of customary land ownership. Training sessions and follow-up consultations are expected in coming months. As Liberia implements its landmark Land Rights Act, engagements like the one held in Harper are seen as critical to ensuring that rural communities particularly those in historically marginalized counties like Maryland are not left behind in the country's land reform efforts. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Français

Boakai engage le Liberia dans l'Accord de la ZLECAf

Le Président Joseph N. Boakai a engagé le Liberia dans l'Accord de la Zone de Libre-Échange Continentale Africaine (ZLECAf) lors du Sommet de la CEDEAO, affirmant que les

programmes du pays sont alignés sur cette initiative. Lors du Sommet Économique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (WAES) 2025 au Centre International de Conférences d'Abuja, le samedi 21 juin 2025, le Président Boakai a souligné que cet événement, célébré dans le cadre du Jubilé d'Or de la Communauté, offre

une plateforme essentielle pour la réflexion, la coordination et le renouvellement de l'engagement envers la transformation économique de la sous-région. Il a ajouté que malgré les défis persistants et complexes après 50

économique. Nos priorités budgétaires se concentrent de plus en plus sur l'agriculture durable et la transformation rurale, en alignement avec les objectifs de la ZLECAf. Nous investissons dans les réseaux routiers et l'infrastructure portuaire pour faciliter le mouvement fluide des biens et des services à travers nos frontières", a souligné le Président Boakai. Le 21 juin 2025, le Président Boakai a rejoint plusieurs dirigeants africains lors du Sommet Économique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (WAES) 2025 au Centre International de Conférences d'Abuja, Nigeria. La réunion a été honorée par la présence de Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, Président de la République Fédérale du Nigeria et Président en exercice de l'Autorité de la CEDEAO des Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement. Le programme a également compté la participation de dirigeants éminents de la Commission de la CEDEAO, de ministres, de représentants d'organisations internationales,

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Des membres de l'UP menacent le gouvernement face à la vie chère et aux abus de pouvoir

Un groupe affilié au parti au pouvoir, l'Union pour l'Unité (Unity Party), à savoir le mouvement *Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia* (EFFL), a lancé un avertissement sévère contre le gouvernement, dénonçant les conditions de vie précaires des Libériens et les abus de pouvoir imputés à certains hauts responsables. Lors d'une cérémonie d'investiture des dirigeants du district de Montserrado, organisée sous le thème « *La révolution n'a pas de place pour les imposteurs* », le commandant en chef de l'EFFL, Emmanuel C. D. Gonquoi, a exprimé une profonde déception quant à la gestion actuelle de l'État. Selon lui, le temps n'est plus aux discours édulcorés. « À Paynesville, des enfants vendent de l'eau glacée alors qu'ils devraient être à l'école ; à West Point, des familles dorment à même le sol, sans toilettes, sans électricité, sans sécurité », a-t-il dénoncé. M. Gonquoi a également décrit une situation alarmante dans les comtés de Bong, Nimba, Rivercess et Bomi, où « des citoyens meurent de maladies bénignes faute de soins, alors que les routes sont impraticables et les cliniques désertes. Pendant ce temps, ceux que l'on appelle *dirigeants* construisent des résidences luxueuses, voyagent en classe affaires et détournent

des millions ». « Le peuple est fatigué. Nous sommes fatigués. Aux fonctionnaires corrompus, aux politiciens de carrière, aux vampires économiques : nous vous observons. Et nous venons — pas avec la violence, mais avec une résistance organisée. Nous ne faisons pas de promesses, nous prenons des engagements. Et nous passons à l'action », a martelé Gonquoi. Il a ajouté que l'EFFL est le seul mouvement politique qui agit réellement dans l'intérêt du peuple, rappelant que lorsque deux de ses membres ont été nommés à des postes publics, ils ont aussitôt démissionné de leurs fonctions au sein du parti, respectant ainsi le Code de conduite. « Ceux qui critiquaient hier le CDC reproduisent aujourd'hui les mêmes pratiques qu'ils condamnaient. Nous

dénoncerons vos vols, remettrons en cause vos politiques, et éveillerons les consciences. Et lorsque le peuple se lèvera, aucun mur ne sera assez haut pour vous protéger », a-t-il averti. Gonquoi a conclu en annonçant l'élargissement du mouvement dans tout le pays : « Ce que nous lançons aujourd'hui à Montserrado ne s'arrêtera pas ici. Nous installerons des directions dans les 15 comtés — Grand Bassa, Nimba, Margibi, Lofa, Maryland, Sinoe, Bomi et au-delà. Nous allons organiser partout. Nous élèverons une génération de révolutionnaires qui ne braderont plus leur avenir contre un sac de riz ou quelques dollars américains. »



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

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Boakai engage le Liberia

du secteur privé, d'ONG et de représentants commerciaux, entre autres. Le dirigeant libérien a en outre indiqué que ces actions reflètent la détermination du Liberia à jouer un rôle actif dans la chaîne de valeur régionale et continentale, en identifiant plusieurs secteurs prioritaires pour des investissements stratégiques. "L'agriculture, où nous visons à augmenter la productivité, renforcer la sécurité alimentaire et promouvoir l'agro-industrie. Les ports et la logistique, où des efforts sont déployés pour moderniser le Port Libre de Monrovia et d'autres portes d'entrée clés afin d'améliorer la compétitivité et l'efficacité du commerce. L'énergie, où nous élargissons l'accès à une électricité abordable et fiable pour soutenir la diversification économique et le développement industriel. L'économie numérique, où nous investissons dans l'infrastructure et le capital

humain pour favoriser l'innovation et positionner le Liberia comme une destination pour les entreprises technologiques", a révélé le Président Boakai. Il a également souligné que le Liberia travaille en étroite collaboration avec la CEDEAO et l'Union du Fleuve Mano pour harmoniser les politiques, réduire les barrières commerciales et renforcer la compétitivité. "À travers la mise en œuvre de notre Agenda ARREST récemment lancé pour un développement inclusif, le Liberia poursuit des réformes globales visant à favoriser la croissance économique, renforcer les institutions et améliorer la prestation des services publics. Notre vision est de transformer le Liberia en une destination stable, transparente et attractive pour les investissements du secteur privé et le développement inclusif", a conclu le Président Boakai.

De fortes pluies attendues dans le centre et le sud-est du Liberia jusqu'à fin septembre

Le ministère des Transports, à travers sa Division de la météorologie et des prévisions saisonnières, a annoncé que des pluies extrêmes sont attendues dans les régions centrales et sud-est du Liberia jusqu'à la fin du mois de septembre 2025. Selon les autorités météorologiques, ces précipitations exceptionnelles auront des répercussions majeures sur plusieurs secteurs clés du pays, notamment l'agriculture, la santé publique, les transports, l'énergie et les infrastructures. Lors d'un point de presse organisé ce week-end, Steven Jones, prévisionniste au ministère des Transports, a présenté les grandes lignes de la prévision saisonnière 2025 à travers des graphiques illustratifs. Il a mis en garde contre des inondations probables, une augmentation des épidémies, la prolifération de maladies touchant les cultures et le bétail, ainsi qu'une réduction de la saison agricole, autant de facteurs susceptibles d'affecter gravement la productivité agricole et le développement des infrastructures. Jones a précisé que si les régions nord, sud-ouest et ouest du pays connaîtront un démarrage normal de la saison des pluies, une saison agricole précoce est prévue dans les comtés du centre et du sud-est. Toutefois, les comtés de Gbarpolu Nord et de Lofa devraient recevoir des précipitations inférieures à la moyenne entre juin et août. Pour sa part, James Leviticus Kollie, ingénieur agro-météorologue au sein du ministère, a insisté sur les conséquences agricoles de ces prévisions. Il a indiqué que la saison agricole 2025 devrait être marquée par des périodes de sécheresse prolongées et une recrudescence des maladies affectant les plantes et les animaux, menaçant ainsi la sécurité alimentaire et les moyens de subsistance des agriculteurs. « Ces défis représentent des risques sérieux. Il est impératif que les agriculteurs et les parties prenantes adoptent des mesures proactives pour maximiser leur

production », a-t-il déclaré. Il a en outre précisé que les régions de l'ouest et du nord-ouest connaîtront une courte période sèche au début de la saison, tandis que les zones centrales et méridionales du pays seront exposées à des sécheresses plus longues. La plupart des régions devraient également connaître une fin de saison anticipée, en raison d'un déficit pluviométrique attendu vers la fin de l'année. Kollie a expliqué qu'un épisode sec correspond à une période consécutive sans pluie. Il est qualifié de « **court** » lorsqu'il dure quelques semaines ou mois, et de « **long** » lorsqu'il s'étend sur une période plus prolongée. Cependant, certaines zones – notamment Bomi, le sud de Gbarpolu, le centre et le sud de Bong, le centre de Nimba, le nord de Montserrado, Margibi et Grand Bassa – pourraient connaître une fin de saison agricole plus tardive. À titre de mesures préventives, il a recommandé aux agriculteurs de :

- Réajuster leurs calendriers de semis pour s'adapter à une saison courte ;
- Opter pour des variétés à cycle court ;
- Cultiver des espèces résistantes à la sécheresse et aux inondations ;
- Déplacer le bétail vers des zones en altitude en cas d'inondation ;

Renforcer les systèmes de surveillance des maladies et des ravageurs ;

Suivre de près l'état sanitaire des cultures et des animaux ;

Collaborer étroitement avec le Service météorologique libérien (LMS) pour obtenir des informations actualisées.

Le ministère des Transports, à travers sa Division de la météorologie et des prévisions saisonnières, est chargé de la coordination et de la supervision de toutes les activités météorologiques et climatologiques au Liberia. Ses missions incluent la production de bulletins météorologiques, l'émission d'alertes en cas de conditions climatiques extrêmes, ainsi que la diffusion d'informations destinées à la sécurité publique et au développement national. La division travaille également en étroite collaboration avec des partenaires internationaux, tels que l'Organisation météorologique mondiale (OMM), le Centre africain d'applications de la météorologie pour le développement (ACMAD) et l'Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale (OACI), afin de fournir des conseils stratégiques au gouvernement libérien sur les questions liées au climat et à la météo.



La LACC plaide pour la création d'un tribunal spécialisé dans la lutte contre la corruption

La présidente exécutive de la Commission libérienne de lutte contre la corruption (LACC), Me Alexandra K. Zoe, a annoncé qu'un projet de loi visant à créer un tribunal spécialisé pour les affaires de corruption est actuellement à l'étude au sein de la Législature. Si ce texte est adopté, il marquera une première historique pour le Liberia : la mise en place d'un tribunal exclusivement chargé de traiter les affaires de corruption impliquant des responsables publics, avec pour objectif d'accélérer les procédures judiciaires. Lors du point de presse hebdomadaire du ministère de l'Information, le jeudi 19 juin, Me Zoe a souligné que de nombreuses affaires de corruption s'éternisent dans le système judiciaire actuel, notamment en raison des recours déposés devant la Cour suprême. « Cette dernière met souvent beaucoup de temps avant de se saisir des dossiers. Entre-temps, nous ne pouvons rien faire, car la loi interdit toute action avant l'examen du recours », a-t-elle expliqué. Elle a plaidé pour des réformes juridiques concrètes, citant l'exemple de la Cour commerciale où, une fois le jugement prononcé, les montants dus sont immédiatement consignés dans un compte séquestre. « Ce sont des réformes pratiques dont nous avons besoin dans la lutte contre la corruption », a-t-elle insisté. Me Zoe a fait valoir que, malgré des mois d'enquêtes approfondies menant à l'émission d'actes d'accusation, les affaires peinent à avancer en raison de l'engorgement du système judiciaire. Elle



estime qu'un tribunal spécialisé permettrait des poursuites plus rapides et faciliterait la récupération des biens publics détournés. Actuellement, les affaires de la LACC sont traitées par la Cour criminelle « C », déjà surchargée par un grand nombre de dossiers, ce qui limite considérablement les possibilités de poursuites dans des délais raisonnables. La présidente de la Commission a également révélé que plusieurs affaires majeures sont en cours, impliquant notamment l'Autorité des télécommunications du Liberia (LTA), la Commission pour le rapatriement et la réinstallation des réfugiés (LRRRC), ainsi que des allégations de corruption dans les comtés de Lofa, Gbarpolu et Bong. Concernant l'affaire dite « **LIGIS** », elle a indiqué que le tribunal a fait savoir qu'il ne pouvait poursuivre les procès avec jury en raison de l'encombrement de son calendrier. En conséquence, le procès a été reporté à la prochaine session, prévue en août. Par ailleurs, la LACC travaille actuellement sur quatre nouvelles mises en accusation. Me Zoe a précisé que la Commission a déjà entamé des consultations avec les parties prenantes et les partenaires techniques et financiers afin de soutenir la mise en place du tribunal spécialisé dès que la loi sera adoptée. « Il est crucial que nos lois intègrent des mécanismes applicables après les verdicts, comme c'est le cas dans les juridictions commerciales. Nous devons doter la lutte contre la corruption des outils nécessaires à son efficacité », a-t-elle conclu.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberian Red Cross welcomes additional \$592,000 Funding for GIRL Project from Swedish Embassy

Monrovia, Liberia -December 13, 2024 - The Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) has expressed profound gratitude to the Embassy of Sweden for its confirmation of an additional \$592,000 in funding to support the ongoing Green, Inclusive, and Resilient Liberian Communities (GIRL) Project in the southeastern region. The GIRL project which began in 2023 aims to enhance community resilience, promote climate change adaptation, and

addressing disaster risks, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and improving community-based health care and with the additional funding, the Liberia Red Cross will further expand the project from 12 communities to 45 communities in the three counties. The Secretary General of the Liberian Red Cross, Gregory Blamoh, stated: "This additional funding from the Swedish Embassy is a true testament to the progress we have made together

serious threat to vulnerable communities in Liberia but added that the new funding enables the Red Cross to equip more communities with the tools, knowledge, and resources they need to adapt and thrive. "By expanding our efforts, we are not only responding to immediate needs but also laying the groundwork for sustainable, long-term development." The LNRCS acknowledges the pivotal role of its partners, particularly the Swedish Embassy



strengthen local capacity in health and disaster risk reduction in communities in Sinoe, Grand Kru, and River Gee counties. The Swedish Embassy, as a key donor for the three-year GIRL project, was impressed by the significant progress made since the project began in 2023 and confirmed the additional funding during the December 9 annual review meeting with the Liberian Red Cross. The annual review meeting was organized for both partners to assess the project's progress, impact, and challenges. The GIRL Project, has already made substantial strides in

under the GIRL Project and also underscores the Swedish Government's commitment to empowering Liberian communities and building resilience". Mr. Blamoh added that the additional funding will allow the Red Cross to reach and address the needs of more communities facing the harsh realities of climate change. "With these resources, we will strengthen community structures, enhance livelihoods, and improve access to safe water and health care, while building resilience against future disasters", he added. Mr. Blamoh further noted climate change continues to pose a

and the Swedish Red Cross, in making this project a success. "We are deeply grateful to the Swedish Embassy and the Swedish Red Cross for their unwavering partnership and trust in our work." Looking Ahead; The Liberian Red Cross remains committed to addressing local needs and fostering sustainable development through innovative and impactful initiatives like the GIRL Project. As the project scales up, it will bring transformative change to more communities, improving lives and fostering resilience in the face of climate change.-Press release

GAC signs MoU with US accountability Office

The Auditor General of Liberia, P. Garswa Jackson Sr., and his team, were invited to Washington, DC.

Monrovia, December 16, 2024/ On Thursday, December 12, 2024, Liberia's Auditor General P. Garswa Jackson signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). GAO is the gold standard of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) renowned for providing top-notch capacity-building initiatives to SAIs globally. As part of the MoU, the General Auditing Commission (GAC) of Liberia will benefit from capacity-building initiatives from the U.S. GAO Center of Audit Excellence through online and in-person training, and at least one auditor from the GAC will benefit from a three-month secondment program through the prestigious International Auditor Fellowship Program of the GAO annually beginning in April 2025. "We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the

Honorable Comptroller General of the United States and Head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office, Mr. Gene L. Dodaro, and his team, for the recognition, collaboration, and invaluable opportunity to enhance the capacity of our staff at the GAC. Special thanks also go to the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Embassy in Liberia for the respective roles they played in validating the impact of our work, leading towards the signing of this MoU," a statement from the GAC released on Friday said. The Auditor General and his team will hold several other high-profile profile meetings with the following institutions: Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC);The Global Anti-Corruption Office, U.S. Department of State; Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), U.S. Department of Treasury; and The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



Senate ends 2025 Revenue budget hearing

-anticipates implementation in January

The Senate on Capitol Hill has completed hearing on the revenue component of the draft National Budget for 2025.

By Lincoln G. Peters Chairman of the Senate Committee on Ways, Means, Finance and Budget, hearing on Saturday, the Senator Prince Moye of



Bong County, indicated that the 2025 draft Budget was well structured by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, considering major needs of the Liberian people. According to Senator Moye, in the spirit of transparency and an open budget process, the revenue hearing which had long been held in "closed door", was opened to the public based on instruction of President Pro-Tempore, Nyonblee Kargba Lawrence. Chairman Moye states that considering the analyses done on the revenue component of the draft

instrument, especially domestic revenue and International contributions, the 2025 budget, which accounts for over eight hundred and fifty-one Million United States dollars, will have a safe landing. Based on the conclusion of the revenue hearing, he adds that the Committee has reverted to the committee room for any other revenue consideration or discussion. Responding to an inquiry on the failure of the National Port Authority and National Fishery and Aquaculture Authority to contribute their proposed contributions to the national Budget, Chairman Moye notes that the Liberia Revenue Authority will further make an

assessment and inform the committee with respect to said decision. He discloses that with the level of work being done by the committee, there is a prospect for the discovery of other revenue sources that may further push the national budget to over Nine Hundred Million United States Dollars. Following the conclusion of the revenue hearing, the Senate Ways, Means, Finance and Budget Committee Chairman revealed that the hearings for the expenditure component of the budget will commence today, Monday, December 16, 2024, adding, "We want to ensure that the Budget is passed before January 2025"

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Boakai's commits Liberia

President Joseph N. Boakai has committed Liberia to the AfCFTA trade Representatives, among agreement at the ECOWAS Summit indicating that the country's others. programs are aligned with the initiative.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Abuja, June 23, 2025: President Boakai, while pledging Liberia's President, Joseph N. Boakai's has pledged Liberia's support to the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, noted that Liberia is investing in road networks and port infrastructure



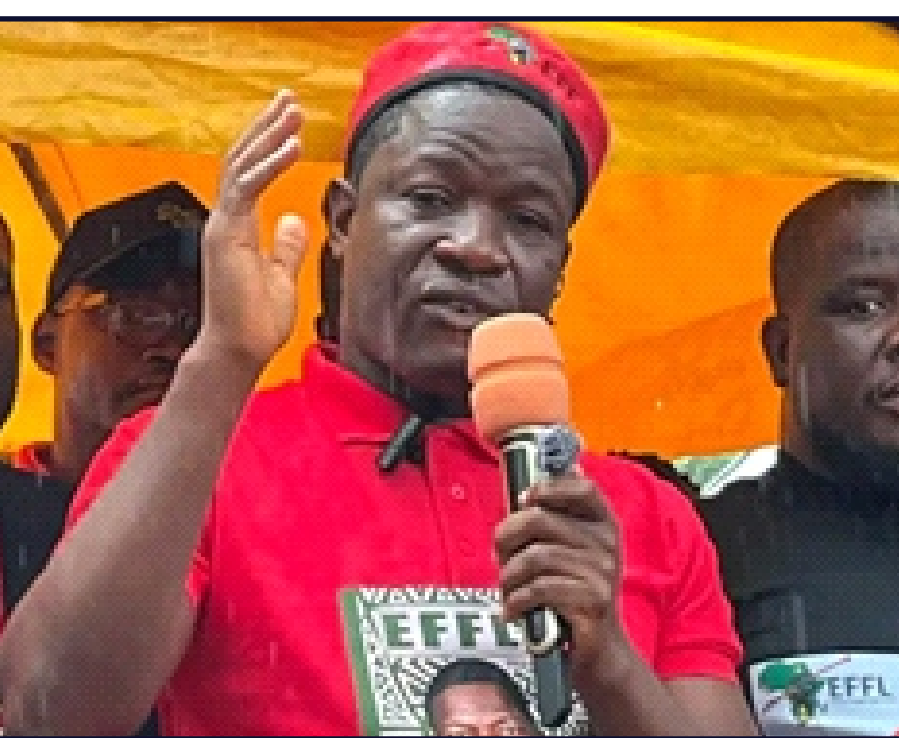
to support the seamless movement of goods and services across its borders. Addressing the West Africa Economic Summit (WAES) 2025 at the Abuja International Conference Centre, Saturday, June 21, 2025, President Boakai said that the Summit, being held in the ambience of the Community's Golden Jubilee, provides a vital platform for reflection, coordination, and renewed commitment to the economic transformation of the sub-region. According to him, even after 50 years of the regional body's existence and work, the challenges they face are still present and complex, but they are not insurmountable. "As we chart a path toward economic renewal, consistent with the well thought out theme of this Submit, Liberia strongly

supports the African Continental Free Trade Area as a transformative platform for economic integration. Our budgetary priorities are increasingly focused on sustainable agriculture and rural transformation, aligning with the AfCFTA's goals. We are investing in road networks and port infrastructure to support the seamless movement of goods and services across our borders," President Boakai noted. On June 21, 2025, President Boakai joined several African leaders at the West Africa Economic Summit (WAES) 2025 held in Abuja International Conference Centre, Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria. The gathering was graced by Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairperson of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government. The program was also graced by esteemed Leaders of the ECOWAS Commission, Ministers, representatives of International Organizations, the Private Sector and NGOs and

The Liberian leader further indicated that these actions reflect Liberia's determination to play an active role in the regional and continental value chain, while adding that Liberia has also identified several priority sectors for strategic investment: "Agriculture, where we seek to scale productivity, increase food security, and promote agribusiness. Ports and Logistics, where efforts are underway to modernize the Free Port of Monrovia and other key gateways to improve competitiveness and trade efficiency. Energy, where we are expanding access to affordable and reliable electricity to support economic diversification and industrial development. Digital Economy, where we are investing in infrastructure and human capital to enable innovation and position Liberia as a destination for technology-driven enterprise." President Boakai disclosed. He further pointed out that Liberia is working in close coordination with ECOWAS and the Mano River Union to harmonize policies, reduce trade barriers, and enhance competitiveness. "Through the implementation of our recently launched ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development, Liberia is pursuing comprehensive reform to foster economic growth, strengthen institutions, and improve public service delivery. Our vision is to transform Liberia into a stable, transparent, and attractive destination for private sector investment and inclusive development" he concluded.

"We are coming with organized resistance"

By Lincoln G. Peters
Monrovia, June 23, 2025: A constituent member of the ruling Unity Party, the Economic Freedom Fighter of Liberia (EFFL), has threatened to resist the Unity Party over its alleged abuse of power and the hard living conditions conditions of the Liberian people. The EFFL said those who once criticized CDC now violate the same rules they claimed to uphold. Delivering a statement, Mr. Emmanuel C. D. Gonquoi, Commander-in-Chief (CIC), EFFL at the commissioning Ceremony of Montserrado County District Leadership held under the theme: "The Revolution Has No Room for Pretenders" expressed disappointment in the administrative affairs of the state. According to him, there is no more time to sugarcoat anything because in Paynesville, children sell cold water when they should be in school, while in West Point, families sleep on bare floors with no toilets, no light, and no safety. He further indicated that also in Bong, Nimba, Rivercess, and millions. "We are tired. The people are tired. To the corrupt officials, the career politicians, and the economic vampires: We are watching you. We are coming—not with violence—but with organized resistance. We will. We don't talk politics. We make commitments. We don't make promises. We deliver action" Gonquoi stated. Accordingly, he informed the government that only the EFFL stands with the people, fights for them, and leads by example, adding that when two of their appointed officials were named to public positions, they ensured their resignation from party leadership, respecting the Code of Conduct. "Those who once criticized CDC now violate the same rules they claimed to uphold. Expose your theft, Challenge your policies, awaken the people. And when the people rise, no wall will be high enough to protect you. What we begin today in Montserrado will not end here. We will induct leadership in all 15 counties—Grand Bassa, Nimba, Margibi, Lofa, Maryland, Sinoe,



Bomi, people are dying from simple diseases due to empty clinics and impassable roads, meanwhile, those he described as the so-called "leaders" build estates, fly business class, and steal Bomi, and beyond. We will organize everywhere. We will raise a generation of revolutionaries who will not sell their future for a bag of rice or a few U.S. dollars" Gonquoi concluded.

Starts from back page Extreme rainfall to hit Liberia's

He explained that the western to northwestern regions are expected to experience a short dry spell at the start of the season, while the central to southern regions could face long dry spells. He also revealed that most parts of the country are projected to experience a longer dry spell toward the end of 2025, which may result in an early end to the cropping season. Kollie clarified that a dry spell refers to the number of consecutive days the country will go without a rainfall, and it is refers to as long dry spell when it last for a longer time, and short dry spell when it last for few months. However, he says specific areas, including Bomi, southern Gbarpolu, central and southern Bong, central Nimba, northern Montserrado, Margibi, and Grand Bassa counties are anticipated to have a late end to the farming season. As precautionary measures, he urged farmers to Adjust their planting schedules to match the short cropping season; Choose early maturing crop varieties; Cultivate drought and flood resilient crops; Relocate animals to higher ground in case of flooding; Strengthen pest and disease surveillance systems. Additionally he advice that farmer Monitor crops

and animals closely for disease outbreaks; and Coordinate with the Liberia Meteorological Service (LMS) for updated guidance. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Transport's Methodology and Seasonal Forecast Division remains tasked with the responsibility to coordinate and supervise all meteorological and climatological activities in Liberia. These include the preparation and issuance of weather forecasts, warnings of severe weather conditions, and the dissemination of relevant data for public safety and national development. The division also provides meteorological services to support national socio economic development and works in collaboration with international partners including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the African Center of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). They are also responsible for studying atmospheric phenomena and advising the Government of Liberia on all aspects of meteorology and climate.

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The Ministry of Transport, through its Methodology and Seasonal Forecast Division, has predicted extreme rainfall in central and southeastern Liberia through the end of September 2025.

By: Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, June 23, 2025: The weather forecast has projected an extreme rainfall to will have major effects on agriculture, public health, transportation, energy, and

of which could severely impact agricultural productivity, public health, and infrastructure development.

Making the disclosure during a press briefing over the weekend, Transport Ministry Weather Forecaster Steven Jones

across the country.

He further explained that while the northern, southwestern, and western regions of Liberia are expected to experience a normal start of the rainy season, an early start of the cropping season is anticipated in central to southeastern counties.

“However, during the months of June, July, and August, northern Gbarpolu and Lofa counties are expected to receive below average rainfall,” he added.

For his part, the Ministry's Agrometeorological Engineer, James Leviticus Kollie, speaking on the agricultural implications, noted that the 2025 seasonal forecast predicts a short farming season, long dry spells, and an increased prevalence of crop and livestock diseases, all of which could threaten food security and farmer livelihoods.

“These challenges pose serious risks. Farmers and stakeholders are advised to take proactive measures to maximize production,” Kollie said.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



infrastructure sectors across the country.

According to the Ministry, the anticipated heavy rains are expected to trigger floods, increased disease outbreaks, prevalence of crop and livestock diseases, and a shortened farming season, all

presented a PowerPoint slide highlighting pictorial graphs of the 2025 seasonal weather forecast.

Jones emphasized that this new rainfall pattern is projected to have major effects on agriculture, public health, transportation, energy, and infrastructure sectors

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A person with dark hair and glasses is seen from the back, reading a newspaper. The newspaper is the 'New Dawn' and features several headlines. The background is a solid yellow color, and a rainbow-colored door frame is visible on the right side. The text 'PLEASE! KEEP THE DOOR CLOSE' is written in bold black letters in the upper right corner. The newspaper headlines include 'Dawn raises red-flag', 'Uncertainty dangles over schools', and 'Nephew butchered uncle'.

A hand holding a stylus is shown pressing down on a tablet. The word "PRESS" is written on the tablet, and a vibrant, multi-colored splash of paint erupts from the point of contact, symbolizing the creative output of the device.

A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline "JSS\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections", a calendar titled "New Dawn CALENDAR", a brochure titled "New Dawn BROCHURE", and a magazine titled "New Dawn Sports". The publications are overlapping and set against a background of colorful abstract shapes.