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# Startling revelation:

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*-As VP Kourouma meets Governor Zhou and Shandong Provincial leaders*

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# Continental News

## Father of shooting victim calls for Kenyan police to be held accountable

The father of a young man allegedly shot in the head by Kenyan police has called for the officer to be charged. Boniface Kariuki, 22, remains in intensive care after undergoing surgery on Tuesday night. He is believed to have been caught up in a confrontation with two officers in Nairobi at a protest against the alleged killing of a blogger while in police custody. One officer, who had concealed his face with a mask, reportedly shot him in the head. Jonah Kariuki said the bullet

pierced his son's skull just above the ear, but the surgery had been "successful" and "his heart was beating." "I would say that those police officers need to take responsibility because they also have children and the person they hurt is somebody's child, Jonah Kariuki told reporters on Wednesday. "That police officer has committed a crime and stern action should be taken against him." 'Rogue men' In a statement, police said the officer had been arrested. But senator Okiya Omtatah said the

problem of police violence goes beyond a single officer. "There are so many people who were injured by police and injured by those goons. We need accountability for these people. We cannot live in a country like this. This country is called the Republic of Kenya, being a republic it means a country governed by law not governed by rogue men and so we are demanding that tomorrow's demonstrations be peaceful, be massive until we get accountability for all the excesses that have been unleashed upon us by the regime of [Kenyan President] William Ruto and his acolytes."

Tuesday's protests in the Kenyan capital followed the death of blogger Albert Ojwang who died while in police custody. Ojwang was arrested on June 6 in western Kenya for what police called publishing "false information" about a top police official on social media. Police attributed his death to him "hitting his head against the cell wall," something activists have questioned.



Protesters scatter as police fire teargas at them during a demonstration over the death of blogger Albert Ojwang in police custody, in downtown Nairobi, Kenya, June 17 2025

## Tinubu pardons the Ogoni Nine activists, 30 years after their execution

Nigeria's president on Wednesday conferred a posthumous national honour on the late activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and fellow campaigners, 30 years after their execution by the then-military regime. Saro, along with eight other fellows, popularly referred to as the Ogoni nine, were convicted of murder and later hanged in 1995, sparking global outrage. The nine activists were convicted by a secret special

military tribunal over allegations that they killed four pro-government Ogoni chiefs in 1994. The chiefs were killed during an intracommunal riot in Ogoniland during the reign of the late junta president Sani Abacha. Saro-Wiwa was an author and activist who led the Ogoni people to protests against Shell and other oil companies. They accused the oil companies of polluting the land, barring them from farming and rearing

animals. Their execution prompted suspension from the British Commonwealth in 1995. Shell and other oil companies have fought legal battles in Nigeria and the UK over oil spills and environmental damage, especially in the Niger Delta region, over the years. The family of Saro Wiwa and Amnesty International have said that the clemency granted to the Ogoni nine falls short of the justice they needed.



A portrait of late human right activist Ken Saro Wiwa seen at the office of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, on Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2

## Kenya: protests rock Kakuma refugee camp amid US humanitarian aid cuts

Widespread around 200 000 refugees and asylum demonstrations seekers, according to Amnesty International. The camp mainly houses refugees from neighbouring South Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia. Mama Kayembe, a Congolese refugee in Kakuma Refugee Camp said: "Since (Donald) Trump became (US) president, now Kenyans have shifted all the blame on him. Workers are not getting paid and it is blamed on Trump. No medication in hospital - it's Trump, now we have to pay for school fees and it's Trump, everything is Trump. We are tired of The aid cuts have not only led to been reduced following hunger but have also contributed to funding cuts from the US rising insecurity within the camp.



Sudanese refugees wait for processing at Dadaab refugee camp, one of the camps neighbouring Kakuma refugee camp.

Agency for International Without alternative sources of funding, there are concerns that the The camp, which is one of the situation in the camp could spiral largest in the world, is home to further out of control.

## Senegal signs historic peace deal with Casamance separatists

Senegal Signs Historic Peace Deal with Casamance Separatists Senegal has reached a landmark peace agreement with the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC), ending one of Africa's longest-running conflicts. The deal, brokered by Guinea-Bissau's President Umaro Sissoco Embalo, was announced at a joint press briefing in Bissau alongside Senegalese Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko. The Casamance conflict, which began in 1982, has claimed thousands of lives and disrupted the region's economy. The agreement marks a crucial step towards lasting peace in Senegal's southern region, which is separated from the north by Gambia. Prime Minister Sonko conveyed President Bassirou Diomaye Faye's gratitude to Guinea-Bissau for mediating the negotiations, which had been ongoing for three days. "We had to close the work on the negotiations between the MFDC and the state of Senegal," he stated. The MFDC has been fighting for Casamance's independence for over four decades, but recent years have seen progress toward peace. In May 2023, at least 250 MFDC fighters surrendered their weapons in Mongone, signaling a shift towards reconciliation. This agreement brings hope for stability and economic recovery in Casamance, marking the end of one of Africa's most enduring conflicts.



The agreement marks a crucial step towards lasting peace in Senegal's southern region, which is separated from the north by Gambia. Prime Minister Sonko conveyed President Bassirou Diomaye Faye's gratitude to Guinea-Bissau for mediating the

# 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 Carl Bildt

## Trump's Nuclear Fool's Gold

STOCKHOLM – Will US President Donald Trump's vision of building an impregnable missile-defense system be the final nail in the coffin for strategic nuclear arms control? Given that his proposed “Golden Dome” could trigger an expensive and destabilizing strategic arms race, Trump's dream could be the world's nightmare.

At a minimum, Trump's proposed system would represent a dangerous paradigm change. Through the final decades of the Cold War, and for another decade thereafter, dramatic reductions in nuclear arsenals led to strategic stability. Throughout this period of progress on arms control, peace was maintained through deterrence, which itself rested on the shared recognition of mutual assured destruction. This concept (appropriately abbreviated as MAD) was explicitly codified in the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, according to which the United States and the Soviet Union agreed *not* to build any defensive shields against strategic nuclear strikes.

Despite the seeming recklessness of the concept, the persistent risk of a nuclear attack is widely seen to have prevented a nuclear exchange during the Cold War. MAD had made a direct conflict too dangerous to countenance. Neither side had any interest in allowing for a war that would guarantee its own destruction. Instead, the Cold War was waged on the margins, often through proxies. And though there were exceptionally dangerous moments – like the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, when both the US and Soviet Union went on nuclear high alert – no direct violent confrontation ever took place.

Occasionally, political leaders would dream of alternative arrangements. US President Ronald Reagan, for example, envisioned a world without nuclear weapons, and launched the ambitious Strategic Defense Initiative (“Star Wars”) to create a space-based missile-defense system. But the idea proved prohibitively expensive, and it probably never would have worked in practice.

Then, in 2002, US President George W. Bush abandoned the agreement to limit strategic defenses, allowing for the system that America has in place today. But these defenses are quite limited, mostly unproven, and oriented largely toward intercepting a couple of North Korean missiles. Should Russia ever decide to launch nuclear-armed warheads en masse, current US defenses would be easily overwhelmed.

Nonetheless, Bush's decision led Russian President Vladimir Putin to pour resources into developing weapons that could bypass future US defenses. These include a nuclear torpedo with near global range, which could certainly evade conventional missile defenses, and a nuclear-powered cruise missile with unlimited range, which could perhaps sneak in from Mexican airspace. Despite decades of work, neither of these weapons systems is close to being operational. But all that remains from the previous decades of arms-control efforts is

the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which Russia suspended in 2023 and which is set to expire in February next year if nothing happens.

This is the context in which Trump has proposed his Golden Dome. While his [boisterous talk](#) of “forever ending the missile threat to the American homeland” bears no relation to reality, his administration is sure to allocate hundreds of billions of dollars to develop systems of increasing sophistication but questionable effectiveness. Worse, Russia and China will see these initiatives as threats to their own strategic nuclear arsenals' viability. If they conclude that they are vulnerable and the US is not, the nuclear calculus will change. This is especially true for Russia, whose strategic nuclear strength is central to its claim to still be a superpower. The risk of negating Russia's nuclear-strike capability could instill near-existential fear in the hearts of Russian strategic planners. And the view from China would be similar, though the fear would be less acute, since Chinese power has a much broader base.

If the US spends tens of billions on missile defense, Russia will have to spend whatever it can on trying to neutralize those new capabilities. Whether Russia can afford such an effort is far from certain. Obviously, it would have to abandon other priorities. Its faltering space program exposes the financial difficulties it is already facing. Still, such changes would not necessarily be conducive to global stability. While the old strategic arms control regime made clear where everyone stood, the situation would now be more fluid and uncertain.

The bilateral strategic relationship between the US and Russia was difficult enough to manage. A trilateral one that also included China – with its growing nuclear arsenal – would be far more complicated, and one that also involved France and Britain would be downright messy. And the messier the arrangement, the more likely it is that misunderstandings or marginal conflicts will escalate into something more dangerous.

For their part, Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping both [describe](#) the Golden Dome proposal as “a complete and ultimate rejection of the recognition of the inseparable interrelationship between strategic offensive arms and strategic defensive arms.” They are not wrong. But nor do they offer any ideas about how to manage the risks better. With Russian and Chinese fears growing, the Golden Dome, ironically, is unlikely to ensure US security. We have just seen that not even hyper-sophisticated Israeli and US systems together can prevent numerous Iranian missiles from hitting central Tel Aviv. And with nuclear warheads, it only takes one missile.

There are no simple solutions. Although the dream of creating an impregnable defensive system will never die, the logic of nuclear stability is straightforward. Even in these difficult times, at least some form of dialogue between the relevant powers is a must. *Carl Bildt is a former prime minister and foreign minister of Sweden.*

# OP-ED

By Dambisa Moyo

## The Sources of Global Economic Uncertainty

LONDON – The recent surge in government bond yields has forced business leaders and investors around the world to confront a critical question: Should corporations lock in debt at current interest rates before they rise further? At the same time, higher capital costs and persistent market volatility are compelling investors to reassess their portfolios.

The question has become increasingly urgent as the yield on ten-year US Treasuries has [climbed](#) 50 basis points to 4.5% in less than a month. The yield on 30-year Treasuries is [approaching 5%](#) after rising 30 basis points in May alone. Beyond short-term market swings, at least five structural shifts could reshape the global economic landscape, with the potential to upend corporate strategies, erode investment returns, and further undermine growth prospects.

First, there is the United States' deteriorating fiscal position. The Congressional Budget Office's [latest forecast](#) assumes a ten-year Treasury yield of 4.1% in 2025, falling to 3.8% by 2035. But given that the ten-year yield is already hovering around 4.5% and interest rates are expected to stay elevated, the federal deficit could expand far more quickly than previously anticipated.

America's fiscal trajectory is already unsustainable, with the CBO [projecting](#) that the federal budget deficit will increase from 6.2% of GDP in 2025 to 7.3% by 2055. Even more alarming, the debt-to-GDP ratio – currently [124.3% of GDP](#) – could [reach 156% by 2055](#) if current trends persist.

The second source of uncertainty involves credit default swaps (CDS), which helped fuel the 2007-08 global financial crisis. Since Moody's [downgraded](#) America's sovereign credit rating from triple-A to Aa1 in May, the cost of insuring against a US default has risen sharply, as markets increasingly treat US government debt as a higher-risk asset. In fact, US CDS spreads now exceed those of countries with a similar credit rating, such as the United Kingdom, and are trading at levels comparable to those of Greece and Italy, both of which are rated BBB. Similarly, insuring US government debt now costs more than insuring Chinese government bonds, despite China's lower A1 rating.

A third issue is the opacity of private credit markets, which represents a long-term structural vulnerability. BlackRock [predicts](#) that private credit assets under management will more than double to \$4.5 trillion by 2030. As more capital flows into private markets – both equity and debt – pricing becomes less transparent, making it harder for investors to value assets.

The continued expansion of opaque private markets also increases the risk of leverage building up unnoticed. Much of this debt lies beyond the reach of regulatory oversight, leaving analysts and policymakers without the data needed to assess or model the true extent of systemic risk.

Unregulated credit markets may be especially vulnerable to cascading failures, while persistently elevated interest rates heighten the risk of default. If left unaddressed, these vulnerabilities could result in widespread financial distress and job losses, ultimately triggering an economic downturn.

Fourth, the relationship between the US dollar and interest rates appears to be changing. Historically, rising bond yields have supported a stronger dollar, while falling yields tended to weaken it. Since late March, however, bond yields have climbed even as the dollar has [declined by 6%](#) against the euro. This divergence suggests that global markets are repricing the premium on holding dollars and are now demanding higher returns.

US stocks have also been volatile, suggesting that the repricing of risk premiums on dollar-denominated assets extends to equity markets. Rising yields reduce the value of existing bonds, signaling that Treasuries are no longer viewed as a reliable hedge against stock-market turbulence.

Lastly, many Americans remain heavily exposed to equities. According to one estimate, stocks account for [more than 70%](#) of US households' financial assets. This makes the recent surge in bond yields and the rise in economic uncertainty particularly concerning, as both developments point to fundamental shifts in market dynamics.

The business leaders and investors most likely to succeed in this rapidly shifting landscape will be those who grasp the far-reaching implications of economic and geopolitical trends. In an environment marked by growing uncertainty, they must be prepared to adjust their portfolios and capital-allocation strategies to account for a wider range of risks and potential outcomes.

*Dambisa Moyo, an international economist, is the author of [–Edge of Chaos: Why Democracy Is Failing to Deliver Economic Growth and How to Fix It](#) (Basic Books, 2018).*

# OPINION

By John F. Kerry

## Finishing What the World Started at the UN Ocean Conference

NICE – As the sun sets on the third United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice, there is much to celebrate, but also much unfinished business for the world to address at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, later this year.

Against a backdrop of global uncertainty and questions about whether multilateral processes can still deliver, the countries represented in Nice were largely united on the need for a more ambitious response to the challenges facing our ocean. But this was only the first leg of the journey. To protect this life-preserving global commons in time, much more must be done ahead of COP30.

Among the outcomes to celebrate, the High Seas Treaty has made remarkable progress. With 19 countries [ratifying](#) it in Nice, and another dozen committing to do so, we are now on course to make this landmark global agreement operational by the start of 2026, enabling the creation of marine protected areas on the high seas. That will plug an enormous hole in ocean governance.

Achieving the goal of protecting at least 30% of the world's ocean by 2030 is not possible without setting aside large areas of the vast high seas – an area [representing](#) two-thirds of the ocean and half our planet's surface. Establishing effective marine protection is especially urgent in the polar regions, which are on the front line of the climate crisis. The situation in the Southern Ocean is dire, demanding immediate action to advance long-stalled proposals for marine protected areas. Such protections will both safeguard the ocean's ability to help mitigate climate change (by absorbing carbon) and increase marine species' resilience against warming temperatures (such as by removing pressures from overfishing).

In Nice, several countries also announced significant new marine protections in their national waters, with French Polynesia announcing what, at nearly [five million](#) square kilometers (1.9 million square miles), will be the world's largest network of protected areas. And the conference delivered welcome progress toward combating plastic pollution and restricting the most harmful fishing practices.

But none of these milestones should be mistaken as a turning of the tide for ocean protection. Rather, each must be part of a broader shift: a rising tide of higher ambitions that still has further to go.

Consider what remains to be done. First, we are still falling woefully short in designating and enforcing marine protection. Even after Nice, [only 10%](#) of the ocean is now protected in some fashion. That is a long way from the 30% we need to protect by the end of the decade. Worse, many protected areas are protected in name only. For example, many hoped that an environmental champion like France would have announced a strict ban on bottom trawling in its protected areas. Still, there is time for more countries to set an example, including at COP30.

Second, dollars still count. There remains a big gap between what has been pledged and what has been delivered. Globally, only [\\$1.2 billion](#) annually is going toward ocean protection, less than 10% of what is needed, even when studies show that protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030 could unlock [\\$85 billion](#) annually by 2050. In fact, redirecting the money allocated to harmful fishing subsidies in just ten countries would plug the financing gap for ocean protection. Government spending must rehabilitate, not debilitate, this critical resource.

Third, the silence in Nice on ending our fossil-fuel addiction was deafening. Although the world committed two years ago, at COP28 in Dubai, to [“transition away”](#) from fossil fuels, this issue seems to be relitigated at every multilateral convening. With the climate crisis providing an existential threat to all life on our blue planet, new unmitigated offshore oil and gas development is antithetical to all our stated goals. Still, one bright spot was the [Blue NDC Challenge](#) – launched by Brazil and France and supported by eight inaugural countries – which is pushing for ocean-based measures to be included in national climate plans.

The Nice conference must become a springboard for greater ocean action in Belém. COP30 is the ideal platform to announce new marine protections and financing for conservation efforts in developing countries, and for resilience-building in vulnerable island and coastal countries.

As the COP30 president and a coastal country itself, Brazil has the opportunity to use the momentum generated in Nice to integrate the world's response to our connected climate and ocean crises. We have a choice. We can be the generation that turned ambition into action, or we can let our most important global commons collapse irretrievably. The ocean cannot wait. COP30 must deliver.

*John F. Kerry is a former US secretary of state and special presidential envoy for climate.*



Republic of Liberia  
Ministry of Health

National Health Summit  
Royal Ambassador Hotel, April 25, 2025



Communique of the  
National Health Summit with the theme:  
“Unlocking the Potentials for Improved Health  
Outcomes: A Pathway to Maternal and  
Neonatal Mortality Reduction”

Preamble

Reaffirming the inalienable rights to Health in Liberia and hence, the concerted efforts of the Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Health, aimed at strengthening the health system as enshrined in the National Health Policy and Strategic Plan, the Primary Health Care approach encompassing decentralization, community empowerment, and partnership shall be followed in the implementation of the policy & strategic plan.

Context

Liberia remains among the countries with the highest maternal and neonatal mortality rates globally—with an estimated 742 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, neonatal mortality of 37 per 1000 live births and Under-five mortality estimated at 93 per 1,000 live births (LDHS, 2020). This is compounded by systemic weaknesses in primary health care, workforce shortages, limited financial resources, fragmented data systems, and persistent socio-economic challenges. However, the Ministry of Health, under the steady leadership of Dr. Louise M. Kpoto, has seized the moment, created by the nation's democratic renewal to reassess, realign, and revitalize the sector.

WHEREAS, H.E. Joseph Nyuma Boakai, President of the Republic of Liberia, declared Maternal and Neonatal Death as a National Health Emergency in 2024.

RECOGNIZING the important contribution that the implementation of the National Health Plan makes towards saving lives in Liberia and achieving the goals of the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID), the Ministry of Health and its Partners convened from April 23-25, 2025 to hold its First Health Summit and review the implementation of the National Health Plan and Policy for the fiscal year 2024-2025.

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that “Every Mother Matters, Every Birth Counts” there is an urgent and imperative need to accelerate maternal and neonatal health improvements in Liberia, and grounded in the principles of equity, resilience, and national ownership, we—representatives of the Government of Liberia including the county superintendents, County Health Teams, health professionals, UN Agencies, NGOs and INGOs development partners, civil society organizations, and private sector stakeholders—gathered at the 1st National Health Sector Summit. The summit serves as a defining moment for collective action under the new and dynamic leadership of the Ministry of Health, committed to driving transformation through accountability, transparency, and results-driven service delivery.

KNOWING that partners and donor organizations appreciate the invaluable achievements of the Ministry of Health in reforming the health sector and the delivery of the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS II) in Liberia, the partners and donors also hailed the Government of Liberia through the Minister of Health for progress to date. The presence and active participation of their

representatives further demonstrates their unflinching support to the health sector.

The First National Health Summit had broad based representation at all levels and brought together over 250 participants including: members of the Executive, county superintendents, county health boards, county health teams, development partners, Private Sector, Civil Society organizations, donor agencies, United Nation's Family, health training institutions, non-governmental organizations, referral medical hospitals, Regulatory body, among others.

In partnership with all stakeholders, the Champion for the Reduction of Maternal and Neonatal mortality in Liberia, the First Lady, Madam Kartumu Yarta Boakai, launched the catchphrase “Every Mother Matters, Every Birth Counts” further reaffirming the government of Liberia's commitment to making maternal and newborn health a high priority as indicated in the AAID Vision 2029 and SDGs 2030.

Cognizant of Liberia's commitment to improving health outcomes, the Conference reviewed, amongst other things, progress made in implementation of the Ministry of Health National Policy (2022-2031) and the National Health Sector Strategic Plan (2022-2026), with specific reference to each of the components of the National Health Strategic Plan:

1. Essential Package of Health Services EPHS II
2. Essential Package of Health Services for UHC
3. Human Resources for Health
4. Child Survival Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2 028

Now, therefore, in view of the foregoing, the Summit resolved on the following recommendations and National Call to Action for the reduction of Maternal and Neonatal Mortality:

- Strengthen the national inter-sectoral steering committee under the leadership of the First Lady of the Republic of Liberia for accelerating Maternal and Newborn Mortality reduction.
- Increase attention for newborns, the most vulnerable citizens and especially preterm babies, linking to our ongoing commitment to Every Mother Matters, Every Birth Counts.
- Accelerate interventions for maternal and newborn mortality reduction through strengthened linkages between communities and health facilities.
- Recognizing the high unmet need for family Planning and unacceptably high adolescent pregnancy, the Ministry of Health
- Commits to ensuring responsive family planning services for women and girls in Liberia.
- Pledge, through national action and international cooperation, to accelerate progress on newborn, child and maternal survival. We hold ourselves accountable for our collective action towards this goal. And on behalf of all children and women everywhere in Liberia, we recommit the efforts of our respective organizations to give every child and woman the best possible start in life.
- Increase resources from the Government of Liberia, partners, other sectors including private sector for the implementation of the Road Map

for acceleration of Reduction of maternal and newborn deaths.

- Accelerate the re-orientation and re-engineering of health system strengthening, using the primary health care approach including the Revolving Drug Fund (RDF) for the reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality and the attainment of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- Engage the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Superintendents, National Traditional Council, and NGO community) to strengthen the development of county specific interventions for reducing maternal and newborn mortalities.

Declaration

We leave this summit with renewed urgency, a clear roadmap, and unified resolve to transform maternal and neonatal health outcomes in Liberia. We urge all national and international stakeholders to join in sustained partnership mutual accountability, equity and resiliency, with a shared vision that Every Mother Matters, Every Birth Counts.

Signed on behalf of the Summit Participants:

Representatives of Civil Society: PHIL

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

International Governmental Organizations: CHAI

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Private Sector: ELWA Hospital

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

UN Agencies: WHO

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair Superintendents' Council

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Catherine Thomas Cooper,  
Chief Medical Officer/RL  
Ministry of Health

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Louise M. Kpoto – Minister of Health  
Republic of Liberia

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Done this Twenty-fifth Day of April A.D. Two Thousand and Twenty-five at the Farmington Hotel, in the City of Harbel, Margibi County, Republic of Liberia.*

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Ministry of Health awards cash prizes

-After Maternal Health Catchphrase Competition

Monrovia, Liberia; June 19, 2025– The Ministry of Health, under the distinguished leadership of Minister Dr. Louise M. Kpoto, announces the successful conclusion of the Maternal Health Catchphrase Competition, aimed at promoting awareness and advocacy for maternal health across Liberia.

In a ceremony held at the respective campuses of the winners, Atty. Malayah Tamba Chieyoe, representing the Minister of Health, presented cash prizes to the outstanding participants, who demonstrated exceptional creativity in crafting impactful maternal health slogans.

According to a press release, winners of the competition are as follows:



System) 3rd Place:– Awarded LRD 50,000m respectively. Atty. Chieyoe commended the winners for their innovative contributions, emphasizing the importance of student engagement in improving maternal health outcomes.

“Your catchphrases will serve as powerful tools in our nationwide campaign, echoing the message that we don't want pregnant women or babies to die”, he said. The competition, organized by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with public and private schools, sought to inspire young minds to contribute to maternal health awareness through creative messaging. The winning slogans will be incorporated into national health campaigns to amplify their impact further.

The Ministry extends its gratitude to all participants, schools, and partners who supported the initiative and reaffirms its dedication to advancing maternal and child health across Liberia. Press Release

7032 Liberian jobs awarded to foreigners

-CSA boss names AML, Bea Mountain as major violators of Decent Work Act

By Lincoln G. Peters

Civil Service Agency Director General Josiah F. Joekai, Jr. has listed Arcelormittal Liberia, Bea Mountain Mining Company as leading companies that have awarded Liberians jobs to foreigners.

He alleged that the companies are in violation of the country's Decent Work Act and the Liberianization Policy, while noting that seven thousand thirty-two jobs secure for Liberians were awarded to foreigners in 2024.

Providing a PowerPoint presentation on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at the Liberian Senate on the analysis of the Work Permit report sent to the Senate Plenary, he provided a comprehensive report on the three categories of work permit, namely the Regular, ECOWAS, and the expatriate work Permit.

According to him, their report shows that out of eight hundred seventy-three of the work permits issued for these jobs, Liberians are qualified for them, but they were not allowed to compete for them.

He added that seven thousand thirty-two are average jobs that should be reserved for Liberians



Josiah F. Joekai, Jr.

Senate probes AML US\$1.4 bn concentration plant

By Lincoln G. Peters

The plenary of the Liberian Senate has unanimously agreed and ordered its relevant committees to initiate immediate investigation into the actual cost of ArcelorMittal Liberia's Iron Ore Processing Plant in Yekepa, Nimba County.

The plenary of the Liberian senate took the decision on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, during its regular session, mandating and requesting its Joint Committees on Concession & Investment and Public Works, and Public Account to probe the company and report to plenary in two weeks.

The decision of the Senate is based on a communication from Nimba County Senator, Nya D. Twayen, Jr. which was read in open Session captioned and Subject: "Request for Plenary Instruction to Joint

According to public disclosures and corporate submissions, AML claims an estimated investment of US\$1.4 billion, spread over four years. This translates to approximately US\$350 million per annum, which is directly recorded as an expense on their Profit & Loss account. Given the Corporate Income Tax (CIT) rate of 35%, these expenses represent an estimated annual loss of US\$123 million in potential government tax revenues" he disclosed.

The Nimba lawmaker argued that what makes this even more concerning is, AML has reported operating losses consistently over the years and these newly declared capital investments will only deepen the trend of reported losses.

"As a result, not only will AML avoid paying CIT now, but these



Sen. Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence

Committees on Concession & Investment and Public Works to Investigate the Actual Cost of ArcelorMittal Liberia's Iron Ore Processing Plant in Yekepa, Nimba County".

Senator Twayen, Jr. in his communication which was further elaborated by him, presented his compliments to the plenary, while respectfully requesting plenary's timely intervention and instruction to the Committees on Concession and Investment, and Public Works, in collaboration with the committee on Mines and Energy, to immediately summon key government institutions.

However, those listed includes, the Chairman of the National Investment Commission (NIC), the Minister of Public Works, the Minister of Mines and Energy and the Country Representative or Chief Executive of ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML).

"This urgent inquiry is necessitated by the need to verify and establish the actual cost of the iron ore processing plant recently constructed by ArcelorMittal Liberia in Yekepa, Nimba County.

inflation losses will be carried forward, further reducing any future profits upon which CIT could be assessed. This tactic effectively shifts the financial benefit away from the Liberian people especially Nimba County, which hosts the resource and towards a prolonged tax shield for the concessionaire" Sen. Twayen asserted.

He further contended that with the depletion of Liberia's finite iron ore resources looming, there is a legitimate fear that the country will realize no meaningful revenue from this project before the end of the concession period.

"In light of the above, I call on plenary to urgently mandate the relevant committees to investigate and audit the actual cost of the iron ore processing plant, determine its alignment with AML's contractual obligations, and assess the tax and economic implications to the Government of Liberia. I trust that you will see the national interest at stake in this matter and act accordingly" he concluded.

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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### 7032 Liberian jobs awarded

These permits are issued for humanitarian or non-profit jobs. This brings the total work permit issued to ten thousand one hundred and thirty-one permits," he stated.

According to him, work permits issued by nationality, Indians constitute the highest number of work permits in the Liberian Society, which is four thousand six hundred and twenty-five, amounting to 45.7%. This number within the category of the top highest, averaged 51.79% for Indians.

Other top highest are Chinese, German, Turkish, South African, Zambian, Nigerian, Guinean, among others, as nationalities have received the most work permits.

"The highest employer of foreign employees in Liberia during the period under review, 2024, is the group of icons, which received a total of three thousand three hundred nineteen work permits. Bea Mountain received one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five work permits, while AML received seven hundred and twenty-five work permits. Also, Sethi Brothers, Duroplast, and others are listed," he stated.

He also named positions held in the country by foreign nationals as engineers, mechanical engineers, civil engineers, managers, senior managers, financial officers, deputy chief, semi-accountant, among others.

" So, what is important is that the Decent Work Act provides protection and security for Liberians and foreigners to compete for those jobs, but they depend on Liberians who have the local expertise. So, don't Liberians have the expertise, skills, and qualifications for these jobs, which is the major question? So, in category one of the regular permits, or long-term

job, out of eight thousand seven hundred ninety-two work permits issued in 2024, we realized that total of six thousand one hundred fifty-six of those jobs are reserved exclusively for Liberians who are qualified for those jobs that foreigners are occupying," he noted.

Expanding on eligibility check number two, on Economic Community of West African States, he said that ECOWAS work permit shows out of the four hundred and thirty-eight, three hundred fourteen Liberians are qualified for the jobs, and they should be reserved for Liberians, contrary to the current reality.

" So, for ECOWAS work permit, looking at the protocol, we also need to ensure that this protocol doesn't contravene the Decent Work Act, which provides for unless a Liberian is not qualified that is the only time the jobs should be given to foreigners. When we did the inquiries, we found that three hundred and fourteen, out of four hundred thirty-eight are jobs that we have locally that Liberians can benefit from.

Now, on the Expatriate work permit, he noted that within international organizations or nongovernmental organizations, there are jobs that Liberians and foreigners should compete for.

" This report shows that this is not happening. The report shows that out of eight hundred seventy-three of the work permits issued for these jobs, Liberians are qualified for them, but they were not allowed to compete for them. Seven thousand thirty-two are the jobs that should be reserved for Liberians out of the average of ten thousand jobs that were issued. We did our analysis and inquiries from the experience and education that Liberians have based on our educational and vocational training institutions", he concluded.

### Shree Mahant Trading launches spear parts center

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia, June 19, 2025 - One of the most recognized Motorcycle brands in Liberia, Shree Mahant Trading (SMT), has unveiled a new motorbike spare parts center in Paynesville. Located in Cocola Factory, Paynesville, the new TVS Motorcycle store will retail spare parts, and other technical services.

According to Dhaval Korat, Managing Director, the new state-of-the-art sales center is aimed at transforming TVS Motorbike parts market globally, while creating

hundreds of jobs for Liberians. Korat said SMT commitment "Today is a pivotal moment to the market signals a for the automotive landscape transformative step forward and this will help create more for TVS motorcyclists seeking jobs for Liberians", Director Dhaval Korat said.

He shared his motivation plans for SMT, stating that about the establishment SMT within three years, the in Liberia, stressing the company aims to establish a critical gap in the availability local assembly facility for of TVS motorcycle parts. motorbikes in Liberia.

He expressed concern that He said SMT will continue to local riders had been contribute to the nation's constrained to embark on economic growth and self-arduous journeys to Sierra sufficiency in the automotive Leone to procure spare parts, a sector.

situation he deemed untenable Currently, SMT operates in and a hindrance to the two counties, Nimba and motorcycle riding experience Montserrado, laying the in Liberia.



groundwork for expanded services and greater reach. The launch event symbolizes not just the opening of a business, but a new chapter for Liberia's automotive community.

Meanwhile, several commercial motorcyclists have hailed SMT for the motor parts centers, which will enhance their operation.

"We are happy that this center has opened and we will be able to buy our parts without going to Sierra Leone or Guinea, Patrick Mason, a commercial bike rider, said. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

### We'll ensure the War Crimes Court is established

– INCHR Chair Cllr. Browne

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

The Chairperson of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) Cllr. T. Dempster Browne, has affirmed government and partners' commitment to establish a War Crimes Court for Liberia to prosecute those who committed hideous crimes and crimes against humanity during the Liberian civil war.

Speaking at a memorial dedicatory event in Behn Town, Grand Bassa County, on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, Cllr. Browne emphasized the need to end a "culture of impunity" that has allowed perpetrators to go unpunished.

Cllr. Browne stated that President Boakai has signed an Executive Order for the establishment of the Economic and War Crimes Court, acknowledging that the 14-year civil crisis stemmed from human rights violations.

He highlighted the INCHR mandate to monitor, promote, and

Programme, Mr. Louis Kuukpen, underscored the importance of the event for reflection, healing, peace building, and reconciliation.

He noted that an estimated 250,000 people lost their lives during Liberia's civil war from 1989 to 2003.

The INCHR, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has constructed nine memorials at massacre and mass grave sites across the country, aligning with Recommendation 17.0 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) which calls for reparations and memorialization.

Five of these memorials are in Grand Bassa, Rivercess, Lofa, Gbarpolu, and Bong counties.

Mr. Kuukpen explained that these memorials humanize and honor the victims, serving as sites of remembrance and symbols of the nation's collective rejection of violence.



protect human rights and advise the government on violations.

However, Cllr. Browne expressed concern that individuals, who were involved in the killings are now in positions of power within the Senate and the House of Representatives, and are actively undermining the establishment of the court.

He specifically mentioned that the Office of War Crimes Cour is currently facing issues with staff payment, raising questions about who is withholding the necessary funds.

Despite these obstacles, he declared, "Enough is enough; those people days are over," asserting that perpetrators will face prosecution.

The memorial dedication in Behn Town honored over 700 people massacred on December 24, 1994. For his part, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative for

He suggested that the INCHR work with local authorities and communities to manage and maintain these facilities, and train community members as storytellers for visitors, offering UNDP's commitment to assist in this endeavor.

The dedication ceremony in Behn Town was attended by the INCHR Chairperson and Commissioners, dignitaries from the European Union and the Swedish Embassy, community and religious leaders, civil society organizations, women and youth leaders, local officials, and members of the Memorial Committee.

Subsequent ceremonies are scheduled for Bloee Town (Rivercess County), Bopolu City (Gbarpolu County), Kpotomai Town (Lofa County), and Gbonyea (Bong County). **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# Français

## Le Gouvernement du Liberia et l'Union européenne signent un accord de financement de 25 millions de dollars US

Le Gouvernement du Liberia et l'Union européenne ont signé un nouvel accord de financement d'un montant de 25 millions de dollars américains visant à stimuler le développement du secteur privé. Cet accord

la transformation agroalimentaire. La cérémonie de signature officielle s'est tenue le lundi 16 juin 2025 au ministère des Finances à Monrovia. À cette occasion, l'ambassadrice de l'Union européenne accréditée au Liberia, Mme Nona Deprez, a

« Ce programme soutient non seulement les chaînes de valeur du manioc, du poisson et du bois, mais il s'aligne également sur l'Agenda A M E S pour le développement industriel. Il complète aussi notre programme dans l'enseignement technique et professionnel, notamment dans la transformation du bois », a-t-elle déclaré.

Mme Deprez a souligné que l'initiative s'insère également dans le cadre de l'Initiative Équipe Europe pour la durabilité alimentaire et l'agriculture, en appui aux programmes de pêche EP1 et EP2. Elle a rappelé que ce projet correspond à la stratégie “Global Gateway” de l'UE, une approche à 360 degrés centrée sur le travail décent et les conditions de travail favorables induites par le développement du secteur privé.

« Nous voulons collaborer

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

stratégique met l'accent sur le renforcement des chaînes de valeur dans les secteurs du manioc, de la pêche et de

exprimé sa fierté quant à cette initiative, qui s'inscrit, selon elle, dans une approche holistique et intégrée.

## Le Parlement de la CEDEAO se réunit à Monrovia pour aborder la question du chômage des jeunes et promouvoir la création d'emplois

Le Parlement de la CEDEAO s'est réuni ce lundi à Monrovia pour examiner les défis croissants liés au chômage des jeunes dans la sous-région, et évaluer l'efficacité de la politique d'investissement de la CEDEAO (EIP) comme outil de création d'emplois durables.

Prenant la parole lors de la cérémonie d'ouverture, le chef de la délégation libérienne au Parlement de la CEDEAO, le sénateur Edwin M. Snowe Jr., a salué la tenue de cette session au Libéria, la qualifiant de « grande fierté nationale ». Il a rappelé que le pays a récemment franchi une étape historique en étant élu, pour la deuxième fois de son histoire, membre non permanent du Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies.

« C'est une confirmation éclatante de l'engagement du Libéria en faveur de la paix mondiale, de la diplomatie et de la coopération internationale », a-t-il déclaré.

Le sénateur Snowe a souligné que le chômage

des jeunes représente aujourd'hui, dans toute la sous-région, bien plus qu'un simple défi économique. « Il s'agit d'une urgence sociale qui compromet la paix, alimente la migration et détruit l'espoir. »

Selon les données les plus récentes, le taux de chômage chez les jeunes en Afrique de l'Ouest figure parmi les plus élevés au monde, malgré les vastes ressources naturelles, le capital humain et le dynamisme entrepreneurial don't regorge la région.

Pour lui, cette réunion du comité conjoint constitue une plateforme essentielle pour

évaluer la politique d'investissement de la CEDEAO, en identifier les forces et faiblesses, et proposer des réformes concrètes et efficaces.

« Notre tâche commune est de faire en sorte que cette politique tienne réellement ses promesses, en attirant des investissements de qualité, en soutenant la croissance du secteur privé, et en créant des emplois décents et durables pour nos populations », a-t-il poursuivi.

En ce qui concerne le Libéria,

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## 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 Le Gouvernement du Liberia et l'Union européenne

avec les petites et moyennes entreprises, les associations professionnelles, le ministère du Commerce, l'Agence nationale d'investissement, le ministère des Finances, le ministère des Affaires étrangères... Cela profitera tant aux travailleurs qu'au peuple libérien. Nous espérons également renforcer le dialogue entre les secteurs public et privé », a-t-elle ajouté.

De son côté, le ministre libérien des Finances et de la Planification du développement, M. Augustine K. Ngafuan, a remercié l'Union européenne au nom du Président Joseph Boakai et du peuple libérien.

« Si nous voulons un développement équitable sur le plan géographique, sans laisser aucune région ou secteur à la traîne, nous devons faire en sorte que les ambitions du projet soient pleinement réalisées, notamment par un soutien accru du gouvernement lorsque cela s'avère nécessaire », a-t-il affirmé.

Le ministre a insisté sur la nécessité pour le gouvernement d'accompagner concrètement le secteur privé. « On ne peut pas se contenter d'en parler. Il faut mobiliser des ressources publiques, nationales ou extérieures, pour stimuler le secteur privé. Quand nous construisons des routes, c'est aussi pour permettre aux opérateurs économiques de relier les régions, d'écouler leurs produits et de

générer des profits. »

Le projet, qui s'étend sur quatre ans (2025–2029), vise à renforcer la compétitivité et la durabilité environnementale des secteurs ciblés, favorisant ainsi la création d'emplois, la croissance économique et la compétitivité des entreprises à l'échelle nationale.

Outre le développement des chaînes de valeur, l'accord prévoit également une amélioration du climat des affaires à travers le dialogue public-privé et des réformes réglementaires. Il entend aussi promouvoir une croissance économique inclusive et durable, notamment dans les zones rurales et défavorisées.

L'exécution du projet sera confiée à Expertise France et à l'Organisation internationale du Travail (OIT), a précisé le ministre Ngafuan. Il a en outre indiqué que l'initiative est alignée sur les priorités de l'Initiative Équipe Europe en matière de systèmes alimentaires sûrs et durables, de foresterie et de biodiversité. Elle s'inscrit également dans le cadre du Plan d'action genre III (2021–2025) de l'UE, en soutenant la diversification économique et le renforcement de chaînes de valeur durables, avec une forte dimension inclusive.

« La mise en œuvre de cet accord reflète l'engagement commun du Liberia et de l'Union européenne à construire un avenir économique résilient, inclusif et durable », a conclu le ministre.

## WLI exhorte le gouvernement libérien à intégrer la prise en charge des personnes âgées dans le budget national

L'organisation confessionnelle World of Life International, Inc. (WLI) appelle le gouvernement du Liberia à consacrer des lignes budgétaires spécifiques aux personnes âgées dans le cadre du budget national. Cet appel s'inscrit dans le cadre de son initiative Ageing Project Awareness, qui vise à sensibiliser à la condition des seniors, en particulier ceux exclus du monde du travail.

Le message a été lancé lors d'un programme organisé au siège de l'organisation, dans la communauté de Bassa Town à Pipeline, Paynesville. M. Augustine K. Ndorbor, coordinateur du Projet Vieillesse de WLI, a insisté sur l'importance de reconnaître et de soutenir les aînés.

« Si tout le monde aspire à vieillir, il est tout aussi crucial d'offrir aide et soutien à ceux qui parviennent à ce stade de la vie », a-t-il déclaré.

M. Ndorbor a rappelé que, bien que WLI œuvre déjà à travers divers programmes de soutien aux personnes âgées, une mobilisation plus large et des ressources supplémentaires s'avèrent indispensables. Il a exprimé l'espoir que cette campagne de plaidoyer influencera les discussions budgétaires actuellement en cours à la Chambre des représentants.

Il a également salué le soutien actif du président de la Chambre des représentants, Richard Koon, qui milite depuis plusieurs années en faveur de l'intégration de la prise en charge des personnes âgées dans les politiques publiques nationales. WLI entend renforcer son dialogue avec les



législateurs afin que cette problématique soit traitée avec le sérieux qu'elle mérite.

« Tout n'est pas perdu ; Dieu prête attention à votre situation », a-t-il déclaré à l'intention des bénéficiaires âgés présents. « Nous croyons que le gouvernement du Liberia peut faire ce que d'autres pays font déjà pour leurs citoyens âgés. »

L'événement a aussi été marqué par une reconnaissance spéciale de 35 personnes âgées, membres du réseau Ageing Project de WLI. Ces bénéficiaires ont été encouragés à maintenir leur lien avec l'organisation, qui continue d'élargir ses services et son action de plaidoyer.

Prenant également la parole, Mme Rebecca K.G. Nyamndo, responsable du projet, est revenue sur l'historique de l'initiative, lancée en 2006, et sur ses objectifs. Elle a indiqué que le programme vise notamment à lutter contre les abus envers les personnes âgées et à réduire la pauvreté parmi cette population vulnérable.

Mme Nyamndo a dénoncé les cas préoccupants rencontrés lors des actions de terrain de WLI, notamment des personnes âgées accusées à tort de sorcellerie alors qu'elles demandaient de l'aide.

« Nous demandons aux communautés de faire preuve de compassion et de soutien. Nos aînés méritent d'être traités avec dignité et respect », a-t-elle affirmé.

Elle a en outre lancé un appel au gouvernement libérien et aux bailleurs internationaux pour la mise en place de centres d'accueil sécurisés destinés aux personnes âgées. Le projet couvre actuellement plus de cinq communautés dans le comté de Montserrado, avec une extension prévue à l'appui aux personnes vivant avec un handicap.

WLI collabore avec des organisations partenaires pour venir en aide aux personnes âgées de 60 ans et plus. Selon les données du recensement 2022, mené par l'Institut libérien de statistique et d'information géographique (LISGIS), environ 2,8 millions de Libériens seraient âgés de 65 ans ou plus. Les médias présents à l'événement se sont engagés à relayer les messages de WLI afin de contribuer à la sensibilisation nationale sur les défis que rencontrent les citoyens âgés. La cérémonie marquait également la célébration par WLI de la Journée internationale de sensibilisation aux abus envers les personnes âgées, une initiative mondiale portée par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) et les Nations unies depuis 2006.

## Starts from page 8 Le Parlement de la CEDEAO se réunit à Monrovia

il a reconnu l'impact du chômage sur la jeunesse : « Nos jeunes sont talentueux et ambitieux, mais manquent cruellement d'opportunités. » Toutefois, il s'est dit confiant que, grâce à un bon équilibre entre réformes politiques, incitations à l'investissement et collaboration régionale, ce constat peut être inversé, au bénéfice de l'ensemble de la communauté CEDEAO.

Le quatrième vice-président du Parlement de la CEDEAO, M. Tunkara Billay, a, quant à lui, invité les États membres à réfléchir aux défis pressants auxquels sont confrontés les jeunes de la région.

« Mesdames et Messieurs, réfléchissons ensemble aux défis uniques et urgents qui persistent dans notre région, notamment le chômage, et à la manière don't nous pouvons exploiter la Politique d'Investissement de la CEDEAO pour y répondre efficacement. »

Il a souligné que le véritable enjeu ne réside pas uniquement dans le besoin d'investissements, mais dans la capacité des États membres à utiliser cette politique pour générer des retombées concrètes, notamment sous forme d'emplois stables et décents.

La Politique d'Investissement de la CEDEAO, a-t-il précisé, vise à instaurer un environnement d'investissement harmonisé et transparent en Afrique de l'Ouest, à attirer des capitaux privés, stimuler le commerce intra-régional et promouvoir une transformation économique inclusive.

« En tant que Parlement régional, notre rôle

est de veiller à ce que la mise en œuvre de cette politique reflète les priorités nationales, réponde aux besoins de nos citoyens et soit en adéquation avec nos objectifs d'intégration régionale », a-t-il insisté.

S'exprimant au nom du président du Parlement de la CEDEAO, M. Billay a réaffirmé l'engagement du bloc régional à soutenir les cadres politiques porteurs de résultats tangibles : « Nous sommes ici pour écouter, apprendre et mener le combat des réformes afin que les investissements aient un impact réel sur la vie de nos citoyens. »

Pour sa part, la présidente pro tempore du Sénat du Libéria, Mme Nyobebe Karnga Lawrence, a remercié la CEDEAO d'avoir choisi le Libéria pour accueillir cette session. Elle a salué l'esprit de dialogue, de respect mutuel et de consolidation démocratique qui caractérise les travaux du Parlement régional. Elle a indiqué que la thématique du comité conjoint, intitulée « Évaluer l'efficacité de la Politique d'Investissement de la CEDEAO comme instrument de lutte contre le chômage croissant dans la sous-région », est au cœur des défis auxquels sont confrontés les États membres.

Mme Karnga Lawrence a révélé que le Sénat libérien s'emploie à revoir les cadres juridiques nationaux pour combler les lacunes dans les politiques d'investissement et aligner les stratégies de manière à lutter efficacement contre le chômage, la pauvreté et les pressions migratoires.

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## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Minister Kruah breaks Silence

- Says Senator Dillon's Work Permit claims are personal

By: Kruah Thompson

Labor Minister Cllr. Cooper W. Kruah has broken his silence over recent allegations made by Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon regarding the unauthorized issuance of foreign work permits. Minister Kruah says the senator's claims are politically motivated and based on personal grudge

Decent Work Act.

"The permits issued were based on established procedures. What Senator Dillon is saying is a gross misrepresentation of the facts. This is not about policy, it's personal," Minister Kruah stated. According to the Minister, many of the foreign nationals currently working in Liberia were already

workforces through legal means.

"When we took over, those companies already had foreign staff on board. The Decent Work Act allows us to issue and renew work permits for foreigners who desire to work in Liberia," he explained. Minister Kruah revealed that in

2024 alone, the Ministry of Labor processed a total of 9,468 work permit applications. Of these, 2,884 were for new applica 2,200 permits were issued to new foreign workers. The remaining were renewals or applications from diplomatic and exempt institutions such as the United Nations and embassies.

Breaking down the figures, the Minister noted that 9,468 total applications was received, and 2,200 new work permits issued.

Of the total amount he says 2,884 new applicants was accepted under the current administration; 6080 permits issued to non-African foreign nationals (Lebanese, Indians, etc.), constituting 79% of permits; 2,699 permits issued to non-ECOWAS African nationals, mostly in the mining sector.



with the MDR rather than facts. Addressing journalists Tuesday June 17, 2025, at MICAT weekly briefing, Minister Kruah dismissed accusations that his ministry issued over 8,000 illegal work permits to foreign nationals. He clarified that all permits were processed in accordance with Liberia's labour laws and the continued to regulate existing

employed by concession companies such as Firestone, Bea Mountain, CEMENCO, and others prior to the current administration taking office. He emphasized that the government has not brought in any new concession companies since taking over but has

## LP, MDR Youth trade blows over Foreign Work Permit controversy

By: Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, Liberia: the Youth wings of the Liberty Party (LP) and the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) have traded verbal jabs over allegations surrounding the unauthorized issuance of work permits to foreign nationals, fueling a heated political controversy that is drawing national attention, an issue that is rapidly gaining national attention.

The controversy stems from recent accusations by Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon, who claims that Labor Minister Cllr. Cooper Kruah, an MDR official, issued over 8,000 unauthorized work permits to foreigners.

According to Senator Dillon, many of the beneficiaries are working in occupations such as carpentry, plumbing, driving, and other vocations where many Liberians are trained but remain unemployed.

Although Minister Kruah has appeared before Senate committees and plenary sessions to defend his actions, the matter continues to fuel tension among the political youth blocs. On Tuesday, June 16, 2025, the MDR Youth Congress held a press conference to counter Senator

Dillon's allegations.

Addressing reporters, MDR Youth Chair Edwin C. Sampson defended Minister Kruah, noting that of the 8,000 permits issued, 6,980 went to non-African nationals, and 2,699 were granted to non-ECOWAS nationals.

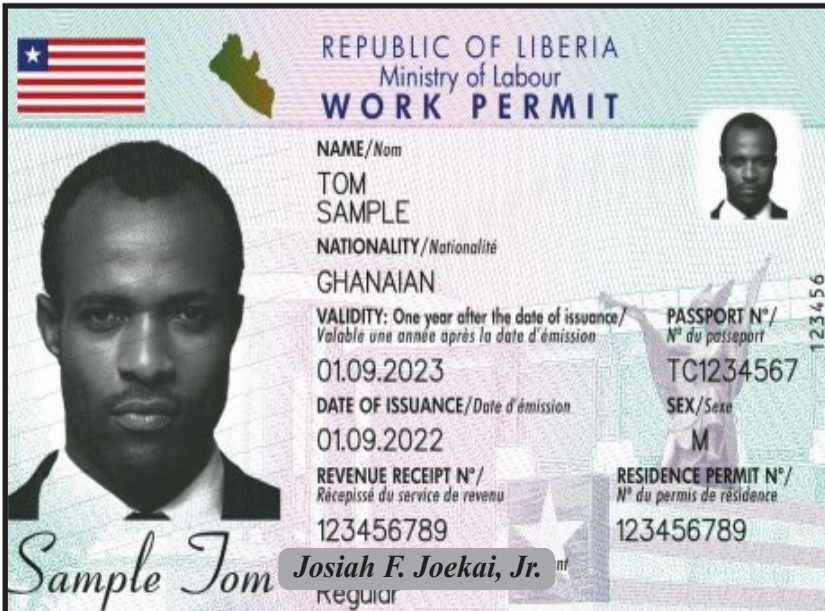
However, Sampson argue that the issuance of work permits is a "regulated, transparent, and collaborative process involving national security agencies," and added that all associated revenues are routed through the Liberia Revenue Authority and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

In their address, they MDR Youth Congress further accused

Senator Dillon of politicizing the issue to damage Minister Kruah's reputation and destabilize the Senate's mandate, which called on the Ministry of Labor to generate US\$10.5 million in statutory revenue, including work permit fees.

"How does he expect that US\$10.5 million to be generated if not through statutory fees like work permits?" Sampson questioned.

Additionally, the group condemned what it described as Dillon's ongoing attacks on MDR figures, including the late Nimba County Senator and party standard bearer, Evangelist Prince Y. Johnson.



# Bong Kwatekeh Association Donates Medical Supplies to Six Health Facilities in Bong County.

By: Edwin N. Khakie

In a significant show of support for healthcare delivery in Bong County, the Bong Kwatekeh Association (BKA) in the Americas has donated a wide range of assorted medical supplies to six key health facilities across the county.

The beneficiary institutions include Bong Mines Hospital, Handi Health Center, Sanoyea Health Facility, Mary E. Horton Memorial Health Center in Totota, Phebe Hospital and C.B. Dunbar Hospital.

The donated medical items range from reusable speculums, surgical scissors, scissor clamps, and medical-grade stainless bandage scissors, to suture scissors, hemostat forceps, kidney basins, stainless steel sponge and wash basins, adult diapers, and

Association in the Americas (UBCAA), which is currently led by Mr. Ciamon Joe Gbamokollie.

Bailey also recalled BKA's previous intervention in 2020 during the COVID-19 outbreak, when the group, in partnership with Community Transformation USA, provided substantial support to the Bong County Health Team. That effort included 40 mattresses, 40 bags of rice, 300 gallons of fuel, and assorted cleaning supplies to help combat the pandemic.

He encouraged healthcare providers to continue their dedication to service, emphasizing that the collective wellbeing of the county depends on the resilience and commitment of its medical institutions.



disposable pads (chux), among others.

Presenting the items at the various health centers, BKA's Liberia Country Representative, Moses Bailey, stated that the donation reflects the association's ongoing commitment to improving health outcomes in Bong County.

"This initiative is part of our continued efforts to make meaningful contributions toward the development of our home county. These supplies are a token of appreciation for the tireless work being done by our healthcare workers," Bailey remarked.

He added that the Bong Kwatekeh Association comprises citizens of Bong County residing in Minnesota, USA, who are passionate about giving back to their place of origin. He also reaffirmed the association's leadership, under Mr. Chester Sackie, Sr., remains committed to identifying and supporting impactful initiatives in the county. The Bong Kwatekeh Association operates as an auxiliary group under the United Bong County

Receiving the supplies on behalf of their facilities, Dr. Minnie Sankawulo Ricks of Phebe Hospital and Dr. Moses Beyan of C.B. Dunbar Hospital, along with representatives of the other health centers, expressed profound gratitude to BKA for the timely and life-saving donation.

"This support comes at a crucial time when our facilities are strained, and resources are stretched thin," Dr. Ricks stated. "These supplies will greatly enhance our ability to serve patients more effectively."

The health professionals assured that all donated materials would be utilized appropriately and transparently, and they called on other diaspora-based Liberian organizations and well-meaning individuals to follow BKA's example.

The donation was warmly received by the county's health authorities and has been widely praised by community members as a clear demonstration of diaspora engagement in local development.

Startling revelation:Chinese investors to explore Liberia

A suspect in the Capitol fire case alleges here that he is being allegedly bribed and coerced by the state to testify against former Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, and others.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia; June 19, 2025 - One of the prime suspects in the December 18, 2024 arson attack on Liberia's Capitol Building, John Nyanti, alleges here that he has been bribed and coerced by the state to testify against former Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa.



Suspect Nyanto was been arrested and brought before Criminal Court 'A' in Monrovia on Wednesday, June 18. According to an ongoing investigation by the Liberia National Police, Nyanti allegedly participated in the attack and later fled the country through Lugatuo, a border town between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, reportedly with assistance from River Gee County Representative, Dixon Seboe, also implicated in the arson attck on the Capitol. However, while briefly addressing reporters at the court on Wednesday, June 18, Nyanti made a stunning allegation that the Liberian government offered him US\$200,000 to falsely implicate former House Speaker J. Fonati Koffa in the crime. "You get evidence, then you want to give me US\$200,000 to lie on Koffa?" Nyanti said, visibly frustrated. He named former Police Director, Marc Amblard, senior officers known as "106" and "103", an unnamed ambassador, and others, as individuals, who visited him at Lifestyle and Luxury Hotel along the Robertsfield Highway in Paynesville. The suspect, who may likely become a state witness, further alleged that he was held there under surveillance, and that hotel receipts bearing his name exist to prove. The case stems from a December 18, 2024 fire that severely damaged the Joint Chambers of the Capitol Building amid heightened legislative tensions. In addition to Koffa and Rep. Seboe, Representatives Abu Kamara and Jacob Debee II, have also been charged. Charges filed by the Police and supported by Representative Priscilla Cooper, a potential state witness, include, arson, criminal mischief,

reckless endangerment, attempted murder, criminal facilitation, and conspiracy. On June 17, Nyanti's family publicly condemned what they described as his unlawful arrest and forced repatriation from Ghana. According to Madam Priscilla Nyanti, a sister and designated family

spokesperson, John fled to Ghana, fearing for his safety. She disclosed that his return to Liberia on June 6, 2025, was the result of an alleged covert operation by Liberian security agents, not a voluntary decision. "John was not returned voluntarily; he was coerced," Madam Nyanti said. "He was taken straight to Lifestyle Hotel in Thinkers Village and held under constant surveillance by agents from the NSA and LNP." She further disclosed that John had agreed to return under a verbal deal that included being treated as a state witness, a US\$50,000 payment (of which only \$2,000 has been received), and relocation to a European country of his choice. Madam Nyanti also pointed to the recent appointment of Koffa Nyanti, a relative and key liaison in the negotiation, as Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Special Envoy for Trade and Investment, describing it as part of a quid pro quo arrangement. "This is a clear abuse of power. Our brother was used and is now being discarded," she added. On June 16, just ten days after his return, John was taken to the Police and given a three-page questionnaires in preparation to testifying against the accused lawmakers. But to the surprise of investigators, he reportedly refused to cooperate. "He is not a criminal. He will not lie to bring others down for a promise already broken," his sister maintained. She confirmed that John intends to prove his innocence in court, signaling a significant shift in the government's prosecutorial strategy, which may have hinged on his cooperation.

Qingdao, Shandong, China, June 19, 2025: Chinese investors from Shandong Province are expected to visit Liberia shortly on an investment exploration mission, as part of efforts to strengthen ties between the two countries and boost investment. Shandong Provincial leaders are also keen on taking the Liberia/China relationship further by establishing a sister city relationship between Monrovia and Shandong, Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung told journalists traveling with him in an interview on Wednesday, June 18, following a closed-door meeting with Chinese Provincial leaders. Describing the meeting as fruitful and transactional, Vice President Koung said it falls in line with President Boakai's agenda and that agencies of government will follow up to ensure that the ideals of the meeting are realized. The meeting with Governor Zhou Naixiang, who doubles as the Deputy Secretary of the CPC Shandong Province and other senior members of Shandong Province and the Governing CPC is part of side events on his physical verification tour of companies which have submitted unsolicited bids to supply the 285 pieces of earth-moving equipment badly needed by the Joseph Boakai regime for vigorous roads construction work in the country. The other senior Shandong Provincial leaders in the meeting were Vice Governor Song Junji, Deputy Secretary of the CPC, Qingdao Municipal Committee and Mayor of Qingdao City, Ren Gang, Deputy Secretary-General and Director General of the General office of Shandong Provincial People Government, Sun Qisheng, Director General of Shandong Provincial State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission and Chairman of Shandong Heavy Industry



The situation has sparked significant public debate and concern over the use of state security agencies in potentially politically-motivated actions. Legal experts and human rights advocates have called for a transparent, independent investigation into Nyanti's arrest and the terms of his return to Liberia. With the Capitol arson trial set to begin in coming weeks, Nyanti's refusal to testify, and his explosive claims, could seriously undermine the case against

Group, Man Shengang. The rest were Li Hong, Deputy Director-General of the Office of Foreign Affairs Committee of CPC Shandong Provincial Committee, and Zhang Qingwei, Deputy Director-General of Shandong Provincial Committee Department. Vice President Koung was accompanied by Public Works Minister Roland Giddings, Liberia's Ambassador to China, Amb. McKinley Thomas, PPCC Executive Director, Bodger Scott Johnson, Assistant Finance Minister for Budget, Sarah Mulbah, Robert Wilson, Deputy Director of GSA, Macdonald Metzger, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Vice President, and Ephraim T. Teage Sr., Deputy Chief of Protocol. According to Vice President Koung, Shandong Province has a lot of potential that Liberia can benefit from. He named energy and agriculture as some of the areas Liberia can tap into. "We encouraged Chinese companies to invest in Liberia," he said. "Qingdao is strong in Energy and Agriculture, and we can do more together after this visit." Vice President Koung said that during the meeting, they discussed training for Liberian students in agriculture. He also mentioned that Governor Zhou spoke of trying to open opportunities for both countries and work on increasing the slots for Liberian students to study in Shandong Province. Earlier, Vice President Koung and the delegation toured Shandong Port, where they saw a completely digitalized operation with minimum human involvement at the port. Meanwhile, Vice President Koung and the delegation climaxed the day after attending the welcome banquet of the 6th Qingdao Multinationals Summit. He is expected to deliver the opening address today. -Reports Othello B. Garblah.

several top lawmakers. Political analysts warn that the controversy may prompt broader calls for judicial independence, government accountability, and a reexamination of security agencies' conduct. For now, the Nyanti Family says they are committed to pursuing every legal avenue to protect John's rights and demand justice and transparency.

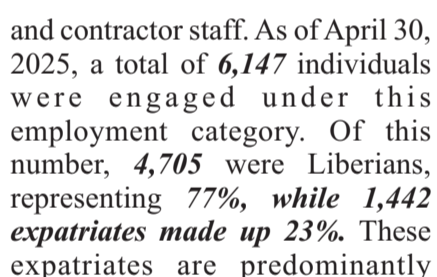
Editing by Jonathan Browne

## ***-As accusation mounts over foreign job grabs***

### Fixed-Term and Contractor Staff

In addition to permanent employees, AML also relies on a substantial number of fixed-term

Anyone with any number other than this is simply asked to show evidence and AML's says its books are open to any form of labor related audit.



A photograph of a large industrial paper shredder, a P74000 model by P74000, with a control panel and a large metal cutting mechanism.