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

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Court decides Koffa and others' bond today

-Amid heated argument **P11**

Police probe death of Canadian-Liberian

P11

-At least five suspects arrested

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Continental News

Kenya protests turn violent as court, activists demand justice for victims of police brutality

Two people were shot dead and several others injured on Wednesday as fresh protests erupted in Nairobi and across major Kenyan cities, marking the anniversary of last year's deadly anti-tax demonstrations that left over 60 people dead.

Protesters clashed with police who fired tear gas and live rounds to disperse the crowds. In Nairobi, human rights activist Hussein Khaled led calls for justice for those killed last year. "64 Kenyans were killed in cold

blood. Not a single officer has been held to account," Khaled said. "We want justice in terms of arrests, compensation, and real police reforms."

Angry demonstrators, many of them young people, denounced what they described as President William Ruto's poor leadership and growing authoritarianism.

"You can see people have gathered here to say Ruto's governance is very bad. People are being abducted and killed," protester Derrick Mwangi said. "We are fed up."

Businesses in the capital remained shut, and access to the city center was heavily restricted. The protests have spread to Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru, and Nyahururu.

Despite a government warning that Wednesday would be a "normal working day," thousands took to the streets, honoring the victims of past police crackdowns and voicing their frustration with corruption, rising living costs, and unaddressed human rights abuses.



Uganda's Museveni breaks African silence on Israel-Iran war

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has publicly blamed Iran, Israel, and Western powers for fueling the Israel-Iran conflict, outlining his position in a five-page letter released Tuesday, June 24, as diplomatic tensions continue to rise.

Museveni, who also chairs the influential Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), is one of the first African leaders to comment publicly on the ongoing conflict in the Middle East since Israel first launched a missile strike on Iranian military targets on June 12th.

Responding to an alleged criticism by the Iranian Ambassador to Uganda concerning the President's silence on the conflict, Museveni took to X to share the lengthy letter addressing the situation.

"In our long history of resistance, we abhor chauvinism of identity (race, tribe, religion, etc) or gender (looking down upon women) [...] With that outlook, we have noticed and told most of the concerned actors, the following mistake – makers", Museveni

said. In the letter, the President names four actors that he claims are responsible for the conflict. Both Iran and Israel are among the listed perpetrators. Museveni said Iran had failed to recognise Israel, and blamed Israel for refusing to implement the two-state solution.

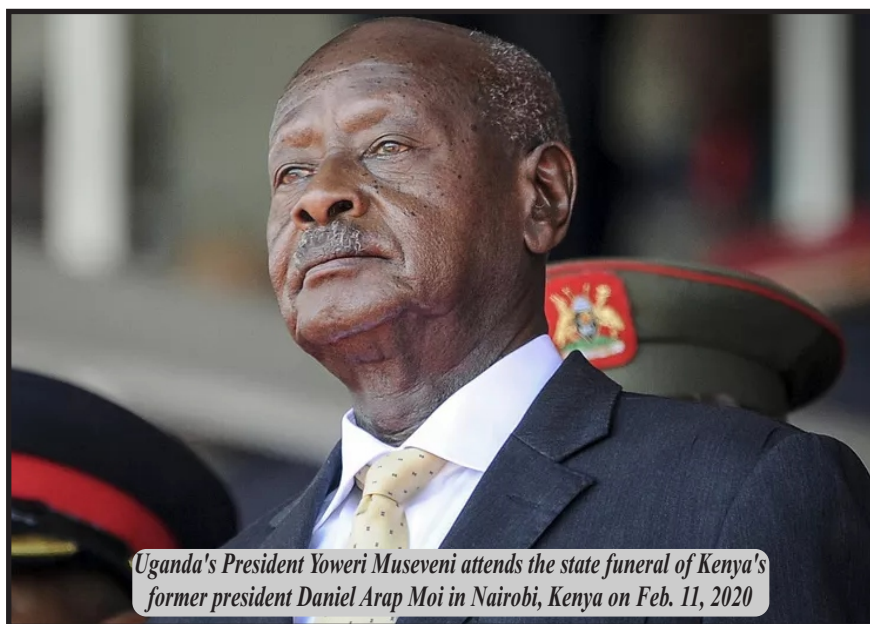
Museveni also said "Western Imperialists" – particularly the U.S Central Intelligence Agency – were responsible for the overthrow of Iran's former leader Mohammad Mosaddegh, leading to the establishment of Iran's current theocratic government:

"It is them that created that huge

resentment that produced these clerics who have their own mistaken positions", he said.

Lastly, Museveni urged foreign "interventionists" to draw back the use of force in the Middle East, arguing that military involvement only provokes further escalation.

As the 2024-2027 Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, Museveni's comments carry substantial weight. The NAM organisation has 121 members, including all African states apart from Sudan, and has historically upheld neutrality in conflicts involving superpowers like the U.S and Russia.



Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni attends the state funeral of Kenya's former president Daniel Arap Moi in Nairobi, Kenya on Feb. 11, 2020

17 soldiers killed as gunmen raid army bases in northern Nigeria

At least 17 Nigerian referred to as "bandits" in the soldiers were region, are part of heavily armed coordinated attacks by terrorizing northwestern armed gunmen on three Nigeria. They have been blamed army bases in northern for frequent abductions, attacks Nigeria, security sources on villages, and assaults on and local officials security installations.

confirmed on Wednesday. Local authorities say the gunmen The attacks, which took arrived in large numbers and place on Tuesday, targeted were well-coordinated, forward operating bases in overwhelming military Kwanar Dutse Mariga and personnel at the remote posts.

Boka in Niger State, as well Niger State and much of the as another base in northwest have suffered years of neighbouring Kaduna insecurity, with limited state State. According to security presence and frequent attacks by officials, the gunmen both criminal gangs and Islamist engaged troops in militants. Efforts by the prolonged firefights that government to contain the lasted several hours.

violence have faced repeated "These were surprise setbacks, with troops often attacks, and the soldiers under-resourced and stretched fought back fiercely," one thin across vast, difficult terrain. of the security sources said. The Nigerian army has yet to "Unfortunately, we lost 17 issue an official statement men in the battles."

regarding the latest attacks. The assailants, commonly



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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 cannot wait, but to see the machines here to create jobs across the country, as the bargaining include training opportunities and long- time benefits for the country.

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COMMENTARY

By Charles A. Kupchan

Only Diplomacy Can End the Iranian Nuclear Threat

WASHINGTON, DC – Neither Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu nor US President Donald Trump has shown himself to be a prudent and levelheaded actor on the world stage. Both regularly indulge reckless impulses and approach statecraft as a matter of political opportunism. Nonetheless, the joint military campaign they have launched against Iran is reasoned and reasonable. Israel was justified in attacking Iran’s nuclear installations, and the United States was right to join the fight, using its bunker-buster bombs to hit Fordow (Iran’s deeply buried uranium enrichment plant), as well as two other nuclear facilities.

But now that Israel and the US have demonstrated their overwhelming military power, they should set their sights on a diplomatic, not a military, endgame. Airstrikes may be able to take out Iran’s existing nuclear facilities, but they also give Iran an even greater incentive to rebuild those facilities in pursuit of a nuclear deterrent. Accordingly, Israel and the US should use their joint military campaign as a tool of coercive diplomacy. Military action must lead to a deal at the negotiating table to permanently neutralize the threat that Iran poses to Israel and the region.

Prior to the start of Israel’s military campaign on June 13, Iran had been stockpiling near-weapons-grade uranium. In May, the International Atomic Energy Agency determined that it would take only three weeks for the Fordow plant to turn the current stockpile into enough weapons-grade uranium for nine nuclear weapons. While Iran would need additional time to master the process of building such weapons, the fact that highly enriched uranium has no civilian uses – combined with evidence of Iran’s past efforts to build nuclear weapons – was cause for not just grave concern but military action.

Before Israel’s initial strikes on Iran, this grave concern had led both the Biden and Trump administrations to try to neutralize the looming Iranian nuclear threat at the negotiating table. But the Islamic Republic refused to make a deal.

Iran has also been quite transparent about its malign strategic intentions. It has spent years building up its military, openly calling for Israel’s destruction, and actively supporting Hamas, Hezbollah, and other extremist groups. Iran’s own military capabilities, as well as those of its proxies, pose a direct and active threat to US interests in the region – including US bases and troops, international shipping, the flow of oil and gas, and the security of America’s partners in the Gulf. Under these circumstances, it would have been foolhardy to stand by as Iran’s nuclear program continued to advance.

But while Israel and the US have sound reasons for seeking to destroy Iran’s nuclear facilities, military force alone will not bring about a lasting resolution. Iran’s nuclear program may end up being only partly damaged, and even if it has been set back substantially, it can still be reconstituted,

perhaps more stealthily. Moreover, if Iran has no diplomatic offramp, and if its theocratic regime fears for its survival, it will likely expand the war out of desperation, potentially leading to a region-wide conflict.

Now that the US has entered the war, it should try again to arrive at a diplomatic endgame. Iran has strong incentives to make a deal and accept stringent constraints on its nuclear program, as well as intrusive inspections. Iran’s regional proxies have been devastated, and its own military leadership and infrastructure are facing withering attacks. With Israel and the US effectively controlling the country’s airspace, Iran’s ability to fight back will diminish by the day. Simply put, Iran’s hand is uniquely weak, making this the perfect moment to extract concessions at the negotiating table.

Trump also has strong incentives to return to diplomacy. Although he decided to enter the war, he faces strong pushback from the broad cadre of neo-isolationists in his own political base. Even if Israel wants to continue the campaign (perhaps aiming to bring down the Iranian regime), Trump has no interest in another Middle East quagmire. His game is to show strength, and then to be the dealmaker who brings peace to the Middle East.

Aiming at regime change may be tempting, but taking down the Islamic Republic by force would be a cardinal mistake. It is impossible to predict what kind of government would come next, let alone to contain the regional spillover that might accompany political chaos in Iran. Given the unstable neighborhood, regime collapse in Iran could easily radiate sectarian and ethnic violence far afield.

The US has already learned this lesson the hard way. Its interventions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria cost trillions of dollars and produced little good. Whatever happens in Iran, one thing is certain: Trump should not, and will not, engage in any nation-building. If Iran falls apart, the Trump administration is certainly not coming to the country’s rescue.

To be sure, most of Iran’s population has had enough of this theocratic government, which has presided over economic collapse, social repression, and violent crackdowns against protests and dissent. But the current war has also rallied Iranians around the flag, and the regime’s brutal security apparatus has kept it secure and intact, at least for now.

After almost a half-century, the regime may be nearing its end. But if it does fall, change needs to come from within, not be imposed from outside. The best way to facilitate this objective is to end the war at the negotiating table. Then, it would be up to Iran’s citizens to remove a leadership that has failed on every front. This outcome – though far from assured – might then produce a moderate government that could clear the way for the broader regional peace that Trump is so hungry to claim credit for.

Charles A. Kupchan is Professor of International Affairs at Georgetown University and Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

OP-ED

By Stephen S. Roach

War and Tariffs Are a Double Shock to the World Economy

NEW HAVEN – The outbreak of a new war in the Middle East, together with a destructive tariff war, makes for a lethal combination in a sluggish world economy. Notwithstanding the possibility of a tentative ceasefire, the odds of imminent global recession have increased sharply.

One shock was bad enough. US President Donald Trump’s tariffs, wherever they eventually settle, imply downside risks to global growth. But the potential for a second shock – a war between Israel and Iran that has now ensnared the United States – compounds the problems for an increasingly vulnerable world economy. It fits with my theory of cyclical risk: it doesn’t take much to tip an economy nearing “stall speed” into outright recession.

This simple rule has worked remarkably well in predicting global recessions over the past 45 years. Unlike a recession in an individual economy, which generally reflects a contraction of real output, one at the global level typically involves about half the world’s economies contracting while the remainder continue to expand. As a result, a worldwide recession is usually associated with global GDP growth slowing to the still positive 2-2.5% range – a shortfall of 0.8 to 1.3 percentage points from the post-1980 trend of 3.3%. The exceptions were in 2009 and 2020, when the global financial crisis and the pandemic, respectively, caused outright contractions in global output.

The stall speed holds the key to cyclical risk assessment. It can be thought of as a zone of vulnerability, measured by significant downside deviations from trend growth. Looking back over the past 45 years, I would place the global economy’s stall speed in the 2.5-3% range: when in this zone, the world lacks the resilience needed to withstand a shock. That is what happened in each of the past four global recessions.

Fast-forward to today. According to the International Monetary Fund’s latest World Economic Outlook, global GDP growth is expected to slow to 2.8% in 2025 – right in the middle of the stall-speed zone. Whereas recent global recessions were the result of single shocks, today the world economy could be hit by two: a tariff war and a kinetic war in the Middle East. The possibility of a double-shock combination only increases the odds of global recession; in forecasting circles, it’s as close to a smoking gun as you can get.

As always, the devil is in the details – in this case, the specific transmission effects of the two shocks to global growth. The trade war, by now, is old news. My assumption is that the Trump tariff package that eventually emerges from ongoing legal disputes will feature something close to a 10% global tariff, a considerably higher tariff rate for China, and steeper product-specific tariffs aimed at protecting America’s legacy industries, such as motor vehicles and parts, steel, and aluminum.

The 10% global tariff represents a roughly five-fold increase from the 1.9% average effective tariff rate during the 30 years before Trump’s “Liberation Day” back in early April – a shock by any standards. That creates downside risks for the still export-dependent Chinese economy and major uncertainty for the US economy, almost surely leading to pullbacks in capital spending and hiring, both of which are dependent on businesses’ stable expectations of the future. With the US and Chinese economies collectively accounting for a little more than 40% of cumulative global GDP growth since 2010, one should not underestimate a tariff war’s potential damage to the world economy.

As for the Middle East, the macroeconomic impact of wars is typically measured through oil prices. Following Israel’s launch of strikes against Iran on June 13, oil prices initially soared, but from three-year lows, and remained well below post-2022 averages. Then, in the immediate aftermath of Trump’s June 23 ceasefire announcement, oil prices retraced much of the war-related run-up. If hostilities continue – always a possibility in the Middle East – there will be significant upside risks to energy and other commodity prices as markets start to worry about Iran’s options for retaliation, which could include disruption of oil production and distribution, as well as of shipping lanes. On balance, the US bombing of Iranian nuclear enrichment facilities on June 21 has injected a new element of uncertainty into an already hyper-volatile world.

It is far too early to foretell how US entry into Israel’s war against Iran will affect global energy prices. But in one sense, the situation is reminiscent of Saddam Hussein’s invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, which led to a doubling of oil prices within three months. Significantly, the world economy was already slowing toward a 2.5% stall speed in 1991, and the war-related energy shock led to a mild global recession in 1992-93.

The key to the near-term outlook is not US tariffs or the Iran war, but their geopolitical interplay. These shocks have the potential to feed on each other, threatening a vulnerable world economy that is already at risk of stalling out. Cyclical calls are never a sure thing. But this year’s twin shocks make a global recession look increasingly likely.

Stephen S. Roach, a faculty member at Yale University and former chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia, is the author of Unbalanced: The Codependency of America and China (Yale University Press, 2014) and Accidental Conflict: America, China, and the Clash of False Narratives (Yale University Press, 2022).

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OPINION

By Peter Singer

The Ethics of Carbon Pricing

MELBOURNE – In 2009, US President Barack Obama appointed Harvard Law School Professor Cass Sunstein to be the administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA). Sunstein was the co-author, with the Nobel laureate economist Richard Thaler, of Nudge, a widely acclaimed bestseller showing that small changes in how choices are put to people increase the likelihood that they will make healthy, prudent, or socially beneficial choices.

Under Sunstein’s leadership, OIRA sought to change government regulations in ways that would acknowledge the reality of global warming and seek to minimize the harm it would cause. To make these changes consistent across the government, it was essential to assess policies affecting greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions – for example, closing coal-fired power stations, or subsidizing electric cars – on the basis of an agreed price for a ton of carbon. Only then could the social cost of GHG emissions be reflected in assessments of the costs and benefits of regulations.

Once a price is put on carbon, other emissions that contribute to climate change, like methane, can be priced in terms of their equivalent impact. That is why Sunstein has called the price of carbon “the most important number you have never heard of.”

Before Obama came to the White House, no US government had ever tried to put a price on carbon. To determine what that price should be is no easy task. It requires complex estimates of the effect of GHG emissions on average temperatures, extreme weather events, changes in rainfall patterns, rising sea levels, and many other factors on which the livability of our planet depends. When that is done, one needs to put a price on the impact of these changes on the well-being of those whose interests the US was willing to consider.

The first of these tasks, estimating the physical effects of GHG emissions, was for scientists, who had models for calculating the answers. The second task, determining the impact of these effects on well-being, is not only a matter of economic calculation. It also raised a crucial ethical question: is the US willing to consider the well-being of those who live outside its borders, and of those yet to be born?

The Obama administration priced a ton of carbon at \$42. That was cut to \$5 during President Donald Trump’s first term, and under Joe Biden, it jumped to \$190. One can debate what the price should be, but it cannot be seriously questioned that CO2 emissions do have a cost, even if we consider only the costs to US residents. Unless the US sets that price centrally, policies issued by different departments and agencies will lack coherence, incurring unnecessary expense in reducing emissions which could have been reduced more cheaply by policies issued by a different department.

Notwithstanding the facts and logic behind putting a price on carbon, last month Jeffrey B. Clark, the acting administrator of OIRA, issued a memo stating: “[I]t is no longer federal government policy to maintain a uniform estimate of the monetized impacts of greenhouse gas emissions.” Clark’s memo referred to “supposed changes in the climate,” as if there were still doubts about whether the climate is changing, and also to doubts about whether human GHG emissions are contributing to those changes.

Even if it is still possible to harbor doubts about the role of human emissions in global warming, to act on those doubts is to ignore the views of the vast majority of climate scientists, as expressed in the thoroughly referenced reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Clark and the president he serves are gambling with the future of our planet.

After Sunstein left his position in the Obama administration, he continued to think about the ethical questions raised by climate change. His thoughts on that topic have now been published in Climate Justice: What Rich Nations Owe the World – and the Future. (Sunstein has compared the timing – three weeks after Trump’s second inauguration – to publishing a book about folk music the week after Bob Dylan went electric.)

On the key question of whose interests the US should consider when calculating the cost of carbon, Sunstein defends the view that he says is in accordance with both the utilitarianism of John Stuart Mill and the golden rule of Jesus of Nazareth: The US should set a carbon price that reflects, as closely as possible, the net costs emissions impose on everyone they affect or will affect, now and in the future. In addition, Sunstein writes, justice requires wealthy countries to compensate the poor for the damage that climate change causes them.

In addition to those moral claims, however, Sunstein insists that it is in our own strategic interests to care for others: “If the world is to solve the climate problem, each country needs to consider the interests of people who live in other countries.”

I believe Sunstein’s moral arguments are completely sound. Yet to seek to implement them fully and immediately would, in many affluent countries, open a path to power for populist politicians who deny either the science or the moral arguments. Until that changes, it may be sound strategy for politicians to make the case for reducing emissions on the basis of the damage that climate change is already doing to their citizens, and the more severe damage it is likely to bring in the future.

Peter Singer, co-host of the podcast Lives Well Lived, is Emeritus Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University and V.K. Rajah Visiting Professor at the Centre for Biomedical Ethics at the National University of Singapore. His books include Animal Liberation, Practical Ethics, The Life You Can Save, and Ethics in the Real World.

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FEATUREARTICLE

The Impact of Illicit Mining on the Liberian Economy

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Introduction

Liberia is a country richly endowed with a variety of mineral resources, including gold, diamonds, iron ore, and bauxite. These resources have historically formed the backbone of Liberia’s economy, dating as far back as the 1950s, when iron ore exports contributed significantly to the national GDP and foreign exchange earnings. Mining, both large-scale and artisanal, has long been seen as a promising pathway for economic recovery and transformation particularly in a post-war context where the government seeks to diversify income streams, reduce poverty, and generate employment.

However, over the past two decades, Liberia has witnessed an alarming surge in illicit mining activities, particularly artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) operations that operate outside of the legal framework. These unauthorized and largely unregulated activities are concentrated in resource-rich counties such as Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Grand kru, Grand Cape Mount, Rivercess, Sinoe, and Nimba, where limited state presence and weak enforcement have allowed informal mining networks to thrive. While these operations provide short-term income for thousands of impoverished Liberians, the long-term economic, environmental, and governance costs are devastating.

Illicit mining has emerged as one of the most pressing threats to Liberia’s economic integrity. The Liberian government, through institutions such as the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI), has reported that although the country earned over US\$1.63 billion from its legal extractive sector between 2009 and 2021, a substantial portion of the country’s actual mineral output is never taxed or recorded. For instance, as much as 90% of Liberia’s gold production is believed to be smuggled out of the country, contributing to annual revenue losses estimated between US\$150 million to US\$450 million. These losses deprive the government of critical resources needed to fund public infrastructure, health services, and education, and they severely constrain national development planning (LEITI 2022).

Beyond revenue loss, illicit mining contributes to currency instability by fueling informal trade networks that operate outside the central banking system. The proliferation of such underground economies undermines the country’s macroeconomic framework, pushes inflation trends, and reduces investor confidence. International donors and responsible investors are increasingly concerned about the implications of weak governance and the lack of accountability in Liberia’s natural resource management.

The environmental degradation caused by illicit mining is equally severe. Unauthorized miners frequently clear forests, divert rivers, and use harmful chemicals such as mercury and cyanide—actions that lead to deforestation, water pollution, soil erosion, and the destruction of habitats in some of Liberia’s most ecologically sensitive areas, including Sapo National Park. These practices threaten not only biodiversity and food security but also the livelihoods of local communities who rely on the land for farming, fishing, and hunting. At the community level, illicit mining brings about widespread social disruption, including the breakdown of traditional authority structures, the displacement of families, increased conflict, and the rise of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in unregulated mining camps. Vulnerable populations particularly women and children face exploitation, trafficking, and abuse, while the lack of formal employment opportunities drives many into dangerous and unsustainable work conditions.

Moreover, illicit mining is now closely tied to illicit financial flows (IFFs), with proceeds from untaxed mineral exports being laundered through criminal networks.

These unregulated financial transactions further erode the government’s tax base and facilitate corruption, weakening Liberia’s institutional capacity to manage its resource wealth responsibly.

This article titled: The Impact of Illicit Mining on the Liberian Economy provides a comprehensive analysis of how an illicit mining activity is offering short-term economic relief to marginalized populations thereby eroding the very foundations of Liberia’s economic progress. Drawing on government data, international reports, academic research, and field evidence, it explores the economic ramifications of illicit mining across five major dimensions: revenue loss, environmental degradation, community disruption, illicit financial flows, and policy failure. In doing so, it aims to offer a clear picture of the stakes involved and to contribute to the urgent national and international conversation about responsible resource governance in Liberia.

Economic Ramifications: Revenue Loss

One of the most significant and measurable impacts of illicit mining on the Liberian economy is the enormous revenue loss sustained by the government due to the circumvention of formal legal and tax structures. Liberia, a resource-rich country, particularly in gold, diamonds, iron ore, and other minerals, continues to struggle with translating its natural resource wealth into sustained national development. This struggle is exacerbated by the pervasive presence of unregulated and illegal mining operations that operate outside of the state’s fiscal and regulatory control. According to the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI), from 2009 to 2021, the Liberian government officially accrued approximately US\$1.63 billion in revenue from its extractive sector. This figure represents taxes, royalties, surface rental fees, and other payments from large-scale mining companies that operate under legal concessions. However, this official amount only reflects a fraction of what could have been realized had Liberia successfully regulated and formalized the entire mining landscape including artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), which accounts for a significant share of the country’s mineral output.

The LEITI and the Ministry of Mines and Energy have consistently reported that a large volume of minerals particularly gold and diamonds are produced informally and smuggled out of Liberia without any documentation, valuation, or taxation. Industry experts and international studies estimate that as much as 70 to 90 percent of gold produced in Liberia annually is not recorded in official export statistics. In monetary terms, the smuggled gold alone may represent a loss of between US\$150 million to US\$450 million per year, depriving the government of millions of dollars in taxes, royalties, and fees that should otherwise be invested in infrastructure, health, education, and social development (LEITI 2022, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Liberia 2023)

Moreover, the absence of proper documentation and export permits means that these minerals are often undervalued, or not valued at all, when leaving the country. They enter the international market through informal channels, often fetching premium prices that benefit foreign buyers and smugglers while leaving local communities impoverished and the government empty-handed.

This chronic revenue leakage has broader macroeconomic implications. Liberia continues to experience budget shortfalls, with the national budget consistently failing to meet developmental demands. In FY2022/2023, for instance, the government projected revenue of around US\$786 million, with a significant portion expected from the extractive industries. However, the persistent failure to capture revenues from illicit mining undermines these projections and forces the government to either cut essential services or increase borrowing, which leads to higher public debt (MoFD 2023).

Additionally, the economic distortion caused by illicit mining weakens investor confidence in the formal mining sector. Multinational companies that operate legally in Liberia often complain about unfair competition from illicit operators who do not bear the same regulatory or fiscal burdens. This environment creates a disincentive for legitimate foreign direct investment, limiting the potential for job creation, technology transfer, and infrastructural development that could otherwise come from a well-regulated mining industry.

Furthermore, revenue loss from illicit mining erodes the government's ability to invest in regulatory enforcement and environmental protection. The Ministry of Mines and Energy, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), are often under-resourced, making it difficult to monitor and control the vast network of informal mining sites scattered across the country from the dense forests of Grand Cape Mount to the mountainous regions of Nimba and the riverbanks of Rivercess, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Gbarpolu, and Sinoe Counties.

In summary, the economic cost of illicit mining to the Liberian economy extends beyond simple figures on lost revenue. It affects national development planning, macroeconomic stability, fiscal policy, governance, and public service delivery. The longer these leaks persist, the greater the cumulative setback to Liberia’s quest for economic independence and sustainable development (EPA 2021).

Illicit Financial Flows: A Drain on Liberia’s Economic Sovereignty
One of the most damaging yet less visible consequences of illicit mining in Liberia is the surge in illicit financial flows (IFFs), particularly through the artisanal.

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An awkward farewell for Nancy and Doe?

Bad blood still seems to be running deep onto the Doe Family despite mourning the recent death of former First Lady Nancy B. Doe and alongside a reburial ceremony by the State of slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe here.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia; June 26, 2025 - What appears to be a month of grief and sorrow for Liberians, as they bid farewell to former First Lady Nancy B. Doe and memorialize slain President Samuel K. Doe, is turning into an awkward farewell occasion for members of the Doe Family, who look certainly divided despite mourning their passing. The rift seems not to be settling anytime soon, as Family of the deceased, appears to be divided. A daughter of the former

President and the former First Lady, Veronica Mamie Doe, had accused Senator Zoe Pennue, a family member, of having a role play in her mother's death, something that has risen eyebrows among family members.

Drawing to the final funeral and subsequent burial of Nancy and reburial of Doe, posture of the family capture in photography at the opening of the Book of Condolence indicates that they remain divided and are not working to settle their differences not even for the funeral.

The indifference appears to continue as Doe's daughter, Veronica Mamie Doe, is annoyed with relative over the demise of her mother, Nancy B. Doe.

Mamie, as she is widely known, had openly accused Senator Zoe Pennue, a close family member of killing her mother, while turning down condolence gifts from former President George Manneh Weah, who is regarded as a son of slain President Samuel K. Doe.

At the signing of the Book of Condolence on Tuesday, this week at the Centennial Pavilion, in honor of the slain President Samuel K. Doe and former First Lady Nancy Doe, visible bitterness seemed to still exist between Veronica and Senator Pennue, as they mutely sat together in the row of seat reserved for the family. The mood had since gone wide as the two look not to be ready in settling their differences anytime soon, despite their broken moment.

Senator Pennue, has refused to comment on the rift, while Mamie Doe, drove off immediately at the close of the signing the Book of Condolence on Tuesday. Meanwhile, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai has conveyed heartfelt condolences to the

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Liberians reaffirm trust in NEC

-Survey highlights democratic gains and inclusion goals

Monrovia, Liberia; June 26, 2025 - A nationwide public perception survey has illuminated an overwhelming vote of confidence in Liberia's electoral body, the National Elections Commission (NEC) - inspiring a level of trust and reinforcing its pivotal role as a guardian of the country's democratic journey. According to NEC, in a powerful testament to democratic progress, a national public opinion survey conducted in May and June 2024 has revealed overwhelming public confidence in the Commission, with 91% of Liberians affirming trust in its ability to conduct free and fair elections, solidifying the Commission's role as a cornerstone of Liberia's growing democracy.

The release says the latest findings indicate a rising public confidence in the NEC, revealing a similar survey conducted before the 2023 elections found that 66% of respondents expressed confidence in the NEC.

The survey, conducted by the Business Start-up Center (BSC) with analytical data support from

the University of Michigan, and accountability. informed by insights from 2,650 "Following the successful citizens across all 15 counties, conduct of the 2023 elections, paints a picture of improved we are encouraged to know that electoral participation and most Liberians believe in the administration. NEC's ability to deliver quality

The data reflects a nation elections. We take seriously that increasingly engaged in its one in ten expects us to do democratic process and better—and we will", Madam Browne Lansanah said.

Commissioned by the NEC and NEC Chairperson, Davidetta supported through the UNDP- Browne Lansanah, celebrated led Liberia Electoral Support the high levels of public trust, emphasizing both gratitude and

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Liberia and China commit to deepening cooperation

-As several Liberian students graduate in China

By Lincoln G. Peters

Bejing, China; June 26, 2025 The People's Republic of China and the Government of Liberia have committed to deepening friendship cooperation and exchanges in the areas of poverty reduction, health and public welfare, amid graduation of several Liberian students benefiting from various Chinese government scholarships and China-Liberia bilateral scholarship.

The Director General of China-Africa Cooperation at the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Du Xiaohui and Liberia's Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister for International Cooperation and Economics Integration, Dr.

enjoy a long-standing friendship that has been growing stronger overtime.

According to him, the amicable ties between the two peoples serve as the bedrock for the growth of China-Africa relations, and people-to-people exchanges continuously fueling the vitality of this enduring friendship across generations.

He pointed out that to implement the important consensus reached by Chinese and African leaders and the outcomes of the FOCAC Beijing Summit, the two sides will host a series of people-to-people exchange activities under the theme of Consolidate All-Weather Friendship, Pursue Shared Dream of Modernization,



Ibrahim Al-barkri Nyei, in separate interviews with the New Dawn expressed appreciation over the strategic diplomatic cooperation between China and Africa, expressing interest for further cooperation.

Over the weekend, several Liberian students benefiting from several Chinese government scholarships and China-Liberia bilateral scholarship graduated from the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) and several other public universities in China.

At UIBE, Mr. Nathan S. Harris, graduated with Ph.D. in Finance, with emphasis in Asset Allocation, while Jevon K. Kawala, earned Ph.D. in International Relations.

Furthermore, Chelreo P. Saye-Geh, of the China-Liberia bilateral scholarship graduated with Master's in International Relations, while Daniel Gman and Ansumana Dukuly both graduated with Master's in Economics with

emphases on International Finance and Investment, from separate Chinese government scholarships. The Director General of China-Africa Cooperation at the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Du Xiaohui said that China and Africa

as they celebrate in 2026 the 70th anniversary of the start of diplomatic relations between China and African countries.

He further indicated that these activities aim to promote exchanges and mutual learning among the Chinese and African civilizations and strengthen people-to-people bonds, amity and cooperation, thus solidifying the public support for China-Africa friendship.

"In this process, China will act upon the principles of sincerity, real results, amity, and good faith guiding its Africa policy, and tap the potential for further cooperation in various fields, so as to reinvigorate the joint endeavors of China and Africa to advance modernization, and make contributions to building the all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era and pursuing the shared dream of modernization" he the Chinese diplomat said.

Quoting the Chinese paramount leader, President Xi Jinping, he disclosed that President Xi pointed out that "The foundation and lifeline of China-Africa relations lie with the people.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Liberians reaffirm

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The survey, conducted by the Business Start-up Center (BSC) with analytical data support from the University of Michigan, and informed by insights from 2,650 citizens across all 15 counties, paints a picture of improved electoral participation and administration.

The data reflects a nation increasingly engaged in its democratic process and motivated to enhance inclusivity.

NEC Chairperson, Davidetta Browne Lansanah, celebrated the high levels of public trust, emphasizing both gratitude and accountability.

“Following the successful conduct of the 2023 elections, we are encouraged to know that most Liberians believe in the NEC's ability to deliver quality elections. We take seriously that one in ten expects us to do better—and we will”, Madam Browne Lansanah said.

Commissioned by the NEC and supported through the UNDP-led Liberia Electoral Support Project (LESP) alongside international partners—including the European Union, Irish Aid, and the Embassy of Sweden—the landmark

survey, “Public Perceptions of Elections and Women's Political Participation in Liberia,” captures the spirit of a nation energized by democratic participation and striving toward greater inclusivity.

The survey illuminated several success indicators, including 94% of voters reporting a positive election day experience, and 88% praising the credibility of the newly introduced biometric voter registration (BVR) system—a reform designed to boost accuracy and limit fraud.

Rather than shy away from these challenges, the NEC says it has responded with purpose. The Commission has intensified its Civic and Voter Education (CVE) efforts and reaffirmed its dedication to removing structural obstacles to inclusive participation.

While 18% of respondents expressed concerns about the rollout, the NEC quickly responded by scaling up its Civic and Voter Education (CVE) through 83 outreach cells nationwide.

Despite these positive strides, the survey also spotlighted persistent challenges. Only 57% of voters felt polling locations were accessible to persons with disabilities, and significant barriers to women's political participation remain.

“This positive experience sets a high standard, and these findings will help guide NEC's next steps. We pledge to ensure that Liberians continue to vote safely and securely, while expanding opportunities for every voice to be heard,” stated Commissioner Ernestine Morgan Anwar.

The collaborative spirit behind the survey was widely celebrated, with European Union Program Officer Marie Paul Neuville, applauding it as “a strong demonstration of partnership between Liberian institutions and international actors working together to strengthen democracy.”

UNDP–LESP Chief Technical Adviser Katherine Green, lauded the survey as a pivotal

Accountability Lab Liberia launches Phase 2 of its Social Accountability Project

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia, June 26, 2025 - In a bid to track corruption and enhance transparency across Liberia, Accountability Lab Liberia has announced the launch of Phase Two of its National Social Accountability Project, running from July to December 2025.

The project, according to Accountability Lab, is the second phase which builds on previous efforts (Phase I- August-December, 2024) to strengthen transparency, accountability, and citizens' participation in governance across all 15 counties of Liberia.

The project that is being funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and partners, seeks responds to ongoing governance challenges in Liberia, including widespread corruption, weak public service delivery, and limited citizens' engagement.

Addressing reporters Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at the organization head office on Carey street in central Monrovia, Accountability Lab Liberia Executive Director, Mr

authorities, and citizens.

Other areas include building the capacity of 30 representatives from selected CSOs, youth groups, women's rights organizations, and the media to promote transparency and demand accountability, ensure strong local ownership and impact. One local implementing organization per county has been selected to lead project activities on the ground, using context-specific approaches to engage citizens and authorities. Regional Implementation Structure:

Mr. Yealue names Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Montserrado as Western Region , while Central Region covers Bong, Nimba, Lofa; South Eastern Region included Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Grand Kru, Maryland; and South-South Eastern Region: Grand Bassa, Margibi, Rivercess, and Sinoe, respectively.

He said while the project serves all citizens, it pays particular attention to the inclusion of women and girls, youth, persons living with disabilities, and



Lawrence Yealue, said Liberia continues to rank low in global accountability and transparency indices, even with a two-point increase in its 2024 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (CPI) score, moving from 25 to 27.

"Phase Two of this project, as the previous phase, focuses on monitoring and tracking corruption-related cases and public contracting processes at both the national and sub-national levels", he said.

These efforts according to him, is aimed at increasing transparency in how public resources are managed, exposing procurement irregularities, and strengthening oversight in the use of public funds.

Key Focus Areas of the Project: The exercise involves tracking and documenting corruption-related cases across all counties, monitoring public contracting and procurement processes, increasing citizens' engagement and active participation in local governance, strengthening collaboration between civil society, local

marginalized communities, ensuring they are empowered to participate meaningfully in shaping public policies and services.

"By amplifying citizen voices and building sustainable accountability mechanisms, the National Social Accountability Project aims to restore public trust and foster a more inclusive and responsive governance culture in Liberia"

The project also seeks to, by amplifying the voices of citizens and building sustainable accountability mechanisms, the Social Accountability Project will particularly aim to restore public trusts and foster more inclusive and responsive governance culture in Liberia. “This is our approach as the new project is launched today. We will be kicking off basically on July 1. The teams will be in Nimba and Tuchmanburg.” Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Liberia and China commit

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The Director General of China-Africa Cooperation at the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Du Xiaohui said that China and Africa enjoy a long-standing friendship that has been growing stronger over time.

According to him, the amicable ties between the two peoples serve as the bedrock for the growth of China-Africa relations, and people-to-people

Français

Medtech & LRA : Pas de traces pour 6,7 millions de dollars de redevances gouvernementales

Un bras de fer oppose l'Autorité fiscale du Liberia (LRA) et le Sénat libérien concernant la somme de 6,7 millions de dollars américains issue des

tenu une audience publique sur les accords liant le gouvernement aux entreprises CTN et Medtech, mettant particulièrement l'accent sur la part de 20 % que Medtech devait

auprès de la LRA et de Medtech Scientific a mis au jour plusieurs irrégularités, notamment des violations de la Loi sur la gestion des finances publiques (PFMA) et des règles de la Commission des marchés publics (PPCC).

Selon l'audit, Medtech aurait collecté des frais d'inspection à destination (DI) dont 6,7 millions USD représentant les 20 % dus au gouvernement, ont été transférés à la LRA. Cependant, ces fonds ont été utilisés par la LRA pour ses propres opérations, ce que la GAC considère comme une violation flagrante de la PFMA.

« Selon la Réglementation B de la Loi sur la gestion des finances publiques, les institutions autorisées à collecter des fonds pour le compte de l'État ne peuvent les utiliser que si une loi le prévoit expressément. En

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redevances de 20 % dues par Medtech Scientific au gouvernement, mais dont la trace demeure introuvable.

Mardi 24 juin, la Commission des comptes publics et d'audit du Sénat a

reverser à l'État. Cette affaire suscite une vive controverse.

Lors de l'audience, l'Auditeur général de la Commission générale d'audit (GAC), M. P. Garswa Jackson Sr., a révélé qu'un audit de conformité mené

Procès pour incendie au Capitole : l'opposition dénonce des manipulations de témoins et un traitement judiciaire partial

Plusieurs partis politiques d'opposition, dont l'ancienne coalition au pouvoir Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), le Congress National Alternatif (ANC), et le Mouvement Citoyen pour le Changement (CMC), dénoncent des dérives judiciaires dans le procès en cours de l'ancien président de la Chambre des représentants, Me Jonathan Fonati Koffa, et de trois autres accusés dans l'affaire d'incendie criminel du Capitole.

Dans une déclaration conjointe rendue publique ce mardi, les partis d'opposition ont qualifié les procédures judiciaires de « gravement entachées d'irrégularités ». Ils alertent sur des cas de manipulation de témoins, de traitements discriminatoires, ainsi que d'abus de la part de la police et des services de sécurité, et appellent à la nomination urgente d'un procureur spécial.

« L'enquête a été marquée par des événements troublants qui, si aucune mesure n'est prise, risquent de conduire à la condamnation de

personnes innocentes – ce qui constituerait une grave erreur judiciaire. Nous attirons l'attention du peuple libérien et de nos partenaires internationaux sur des faits préoccupants concernant l'enquête et l'arrestation de certains parlementaires et citoyens libériens dans l'affaire de l'incendie du Capitole, qualifié d'acte criminel par la police », ont écrit les partis.

Accusations de torture et pressions sur les témoins

Le communiqué pointe du doigt des cas précis, notamment le traitement infligé à Thomas Etheridge, l'un des co-accusés. Selon les partis, le 9 janvier 2025,

Etheridge s'est volontairement présenté à la Police nationale libérienne (LNP) pour un interrogatoire, accompagné de son avocat comme le prévoit la Constitution. Cependant, après que les autorités ont décidé de le maintenir en détention pour complément d'enquête, son avocat a quitté les lieux.

Toujours selon la déclaration, M. Etheridge aurait ensuite été transféré de nuit au siège de l'Agence nationale de sécurité (NSA) à White Plains, où il aurait subi plusieurs formes de torture et d'intimidation pendant plusieurs jours.



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 mondial. 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 **Medtech & LRA : Pas de traces pour 6,7 millions**

l'occurrence, aucune disposition ne permettait à la LRA d'utiliser ces fonds », a expliqué l'Auditeur général Jackson.

Il a ajouté que la LRA a tenté de requalifier ces montants en « frais liés aux douanes » afin de justifier leur utilisation dans le renforcement des capacités douanières. Pourtant, un examen du budget annuel de la LRA ne fait mention nulle part de ces 6,7 millions USD.

« L'audit recommande que la LRA justifie l'usage de ces fonds et, à l'avenir, veille à ce que toute somme collectée au nom du gouvernement soit intégralement versée dans le compte consolidé de l'État », a-t-il insisté.

Autre point soulevé : le compte transitoire censé recueillir les recettes issues des services de Medtech n'a jamais été créé, en dépit des dispositions contractuelles.

« Les fonds ont été directement encaissés et conservés par Medtech jusqu'en juin 2024. La LRA sollicitait ensuite des décaissements auprès de la société pour financer ses activités douanières. Cette situation doit cesser et le compte transitoire doit être ouvert immédiatement », a conclu Jackson.

Par ailleurs, l'audit a révélé que Medtech ne respectait pas la grille tarifaire approuvée dans le contrat, percevant jusqu'à 100 000 USD de frais supplémentaires sans qu'aucun centime ne revienne à l'État. Aucune preuve d'un avenant contractuel n'a pu être fournie.

Le Commissaire général de la LRA, M. James Dorbor Jallah, a rejeté certaines conclusions du rapport de la GAC au cours de la même audience, en répondant aux interrogations des sénateurs.

Les sénateurs ont soulevé des questions cruciales : pourquoi les 20 % dus n'apparaissent pas dans le budget 2024 ? Pourquoi l'État n'a-t-il pas renégocié l'accord afin d'alléger la charge sur les citoyens ?

Depuis 2021, Medtech n'a pas reversé sa part de 20 % sur le compte transitoire, rendant impossible le transfert au compte consolidé par la LRA, comme le prévoit le contrat.

« Nous parlons ici de 6,7 millions USD non versés dans le compte du gouvernement uniquement parce que le compte transitoire n'a jamais été mis en place. Au total, c'est plus de 33 millions USD qui pourraient être en jeu », ont affirmé les sénateurs, exigeant des explications claires de la part de Medtech et de la LRA.

Ces fonds constituent un revenu extra-budgétaire non déclaré, alors qu'ils pourraient contribuer à atténuer les besoins budgétaires que la LRA évoque régulièrement pour obtenir des hausses d'allocation.

Réagissant aux accusations, le patron de la LRA a indiqué que le contrat avec Medtech était en place bien avant l'arrivée de l'actuelle administration. Il a aussi souligné que le Code des recettes de 1822 accorde à la LRA le droit de percevoir les frais douaniers et de les utiliser pour le renforcement des capacités douanières, renvoyant la responsabilité au Parlement.

Concernant les 20 % dus à l'État, M. Jallah a expliqué que des conflits internes au sein de Medtech avaient conduit la Cour suprême à geler ses comptes bancaires, empêchant ainsi le transfert des fonds.

Boakai et Nyonblee conduisent une délégation officielle à la signature du livre de condoléances

Le président de la République, Joseph Nyuma Boakai, accompagné de la présidente du Sénat par intérim, Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, a dirigé une importante délégation gouvernementale à la signature officielle du livre de condoléances en mémoire de l'ancien président Samuel Kanyon Doe et de son épouse, l'ex-première dame Nancy B. Doe.

La cérémonie solennelle s'est tenue ce mardi matin au Centennial Memorial Pavilion à Monrovia, en présence des membres de la famille Doe, de hauts responsables de l'État et de nombreux sympathisants venus rendre hommage à l'ancien chef d'État, tué en 1990 au plus fort de la guerre civile libérienne.

S'exprimant brièvement devant la presse après la cérémonie, le président Boakai a salué la mémoire du défunt président, qu'il a qualifié de « figure centrale de l'histoire complexe du Liberia ». Il a appelé à une réflexion nationale sur les leçons du passé en vue de renforcer la paix et la réconciliation.

« Aujourd'hui, nous nous souvenons d'un homme qui, malgré les controverses de son époque, a joué un rôle déterminant dans l'évolution politique de notre pays », a déclaré le président Boakai.

« Nous honorons sa mémoire et exprimons nos plus sincères condoléances à sa famille. »

Cette initiative s'inscrit dans un contexte de renouvellement des efforts de réconciliation nationale engagés par l'administration Boakai, près de 35 ans après la mort tragique de Samuel Doe,



premier président issu d'un coup d'État militaire en 1980.

Le livre de condoléances restera ouvert au public toute la semaine, offrant à l'ensemble des citoyens et aux personnalités publiques l'occasion de rendre un dernier hommage.

Pour rappel, le président Doe avait pris le pouvoir le 12 avril 1980 à la suite d'un coup d'État militaire qui mit fin à plus d'un siècle de domination politique américano-libérienne. Il devint le 21^e président du Liberia et gouverna jusqu'à sa capture et son exécution en 1990, pendant la première guerre civile.

La famille Doe s'est dite reconnaissante pour ce geste du chef de l'État, qu'elle considère comme un pas important vers la reconnaissance nationale et la guérison collective.

Par ailleurs, la présidente par intérim du Sénat, Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, a également conduit mardi une délégation de sénateurs au Pavillon du Centenaire pour signer le livre de condoléances au nom de l'institution législative.

Cette signature s'inscrit dans une série d'activités officielles conjointement organisées par le gouvernement et la famille Doe en vue d'accorder à l'ancien président des funérailles dignes dans son comté natal de Grand Gedeh.

Le président Boakai était également accompagné à cette occasion d'un grand nombre de ministres du gouvernement, témoignant de la volonté des autorités de s'unir au peuple libérien dans ce moment de mémoire et de recueillement.

Starts from page 8 **Procès pour incendie au Capitole : l'opposition dénonce des**

« Il lui a été demandé d'incriminer son supérieur hiérarchique, l'ancien président de la Chambre, à travers une déclaration pré-rédigée. Il a refusé de signer ce document, et a été reconduit à la police, avant d'être officiellement inculpé d'incendie criminel », dénonce l'opposition.

Traitement inégal et détention arbitraire
Le communiqué cite également le cas de deux autres accusés, Andrew Lawson et Albert Weah, arrêtés par l'unité anti-vol à main armée de la police le 4 janvier 2025. Tous deux auraient été détenus pendant huit jours au siège de la NSA et y auraient également été soumis à des actes de torture.

Les partis rappellent que le Code pénal libérien, aux articles 12.40 et 12.41, criminalise toute tentative de manipulation de témoins, d'altération d'informations ou d'entrave à une enquête. Ils appellent à une enquête indépendante pour faire toute la lumière sur ces accusations, estimant que l'intégrité du système judiciaire est en jeu.

Biais politique dans le traitement des députés inculpés

Les partis d'opposition critiquent également une application discriminatoire de la justice à l'encontre de certains élus.

« Les cinq députés ont été inculpés sous le même chef d'accusation dans le même mandat d'arrêt. Pourtant, leur traitement a différé selon leur affiliation politique : quatre députés de l'opposition ont été placés en détention dans des conditions oppressives, tandis que le seul député affilié à l'alliance au pouvoir Rescue Alliance a été libéré sur la base d'une simple reconnaissance personnelle », ont-ils dénoncé.

Ils estiment que cette disparité soulève de sérieuses questions sur l'impartialité de la Police nationale libérienne, et rappellent que l'Article 21(i) de la Constitution de 1986 garantit à tout accusé la possibilité d'être libéré sous caution, sauf dans le cas de crimes capitaux ou passibles de la réclusion à perpétuité.

« Nous demandons que lumière soit faite, dans le respect du droit, afin d'éviter que cette affaire ne devienne un précédent dangereux pour notre démocratie », concluent les partis.

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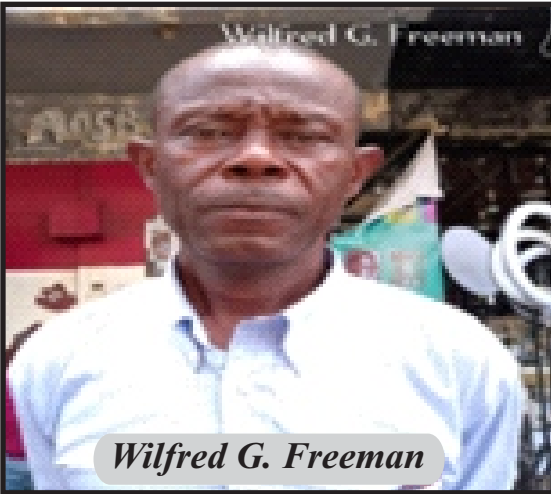
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LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: **Call for Muslims Holiday in Liberia** *By Naneka A. Hoffman*

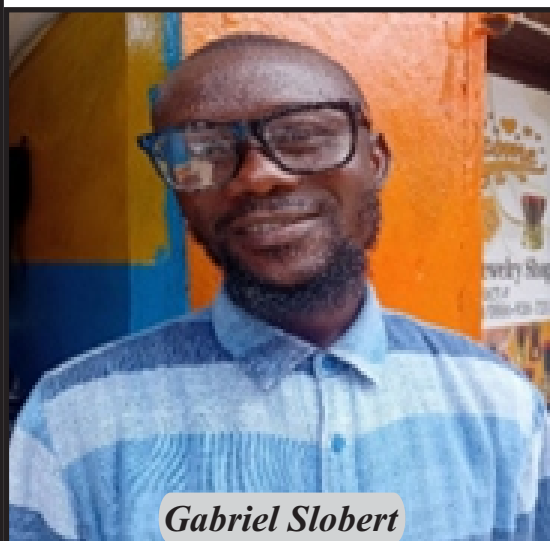
Three Liberians senators, including Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe, Jr., of Bomi County, recently suggested a need to legislate holidays for Muslims in the country. In a random sampling in Monrovia, The NEW DAWN asked several residents what they think of the call? Should there be religious holidays or not? Read their comments, as compiled below.



Wilfred G. Freeman

“Those senators are completely out of order; there is no religious holiday in our country. Whenever the Muslims

are celebrating their Ramadan, some of us, who are Christians, celebrate with them, and that is the only holiday that I know is very major from the Muslims. As for the Christians, they don't have holiday that is enacted by the House. Christmas isn't a holiday for the country; it is a holiday just as Ramadan is a holiday for the Muslims. The other major holiday in the Christian world we call Easter; we celebrate it on Sunday, so the few senators that are saying this thing, they are completely out of order; let them look for different thing to develop this country.”



Gabriel Slobert

“I think the proposal of these three senators on Muslim holiday isn't necessary. For Edwin Snow, Amara Konneh and Joseph Jallah to come

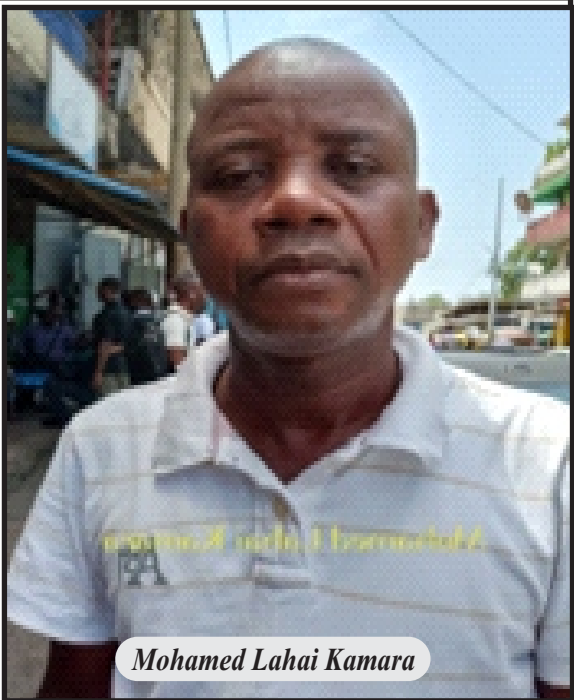
publicly and even proposed a bill to establish Muslim and Christian holidays, I think they are doing it to cause conflict among the citizens of this country, because the Muslims and Christians have been living together for decades in peace; there has been no confusion among those people. Who recommended to them that they want holiday? Christians didn't go to him to say they want holiday, so they shouldn't use the Christians to gain political relevance, no! We don't need them to pass legislature for holidays. We have general holidays; it is the behavior of the people that gives them holiday.

“Senator Darius Dillon came there and he brought that issue up, and I am one of those that speak against it. I say we need not document or we don't need anybody to declare a holiday, because the reason is very sample: We have our own holidays in our hand, which are Abraham Day and Ramadan. If we're having to go and have a prayer and finished the prayer as Muslims, what we do, we close our businesses and go home and sit. It is a complete holiday; we don't need to go and request for holiday so, what (Senator) Edwin Snowe is doing is just like a sour on your skin; on top of it is dry and under it wet. He's trying to look out for relevance, to draw out the Muslims and bring out conflict, and that will not happen. We will have our own holiday.”



Momolu V. Fahnbulleh

“The people are out of order, and they don't mean well for the Muslims community, because the holiday they are talking about, you don't need to hold poster sheet to put children in the streets to ask for holiday. The holiday has to be declared by yourself before other people follow, so the people who are calling for holiday, are not serious, because the Muslims holiday you're talking about, Ramadan Day and Abraham Day, you as a Muslim, you need to declare that day as a holiday for yourself. Non-Muslims will look at it and say yes; today is your day but, you can't go to work at the same time as non-Muslims people. They're going to work then you say no; they must declare holiday before you sit down home, then it means that you don't value your culture and your religion, so you have to value your religion before other people value it. So, the people are not serious and the people will not get religious



Mohamed Lahai Kamara

relevance on the Muslims side; we will not standby them. Let them look for something else to do; Muslims supposed to declare the holiday by themselves.”



Richard K. Quelmin

“Well, you know that everybody is entitled to their views but, to my own of view personally, first of all, we don't have Christian holiday in our Constitution, and they will bring conflict in our Constitution, so I don't buy that idea. It brings division, so I don't buy that idea. So, I will prefer that we don't test it, and we not even think about it. From 1847 up to now, that has not been done.”



Sheikh Yusuf Ahmed Dukuly

“Muslims holiday should be given to them without delay, because from the Bible, it is clear; it is a memory from the Bible which is

clear then we go to the legal aspect which is clear. Muslims received the Christians, so if the Christians can have some days, why the Christians can't be so humble to look at their stranger father and say look, let us just forget about this; we will give you people the two holidays. And mind you, there are more tolerant Muslims in the world than Liberia, can you imagine Sunday isn't a mediated holiday. But Muslims will never talk that because as a whole, I think we need to accommodate the Christians, so they have 52 Sundays. It isn't holidays, but you ever heard Muslims talking about that? It accommodates us too, because Sunday, we can have wedding programs but, why the Christians can't close their eyes and accommodate us? We are not using force.”



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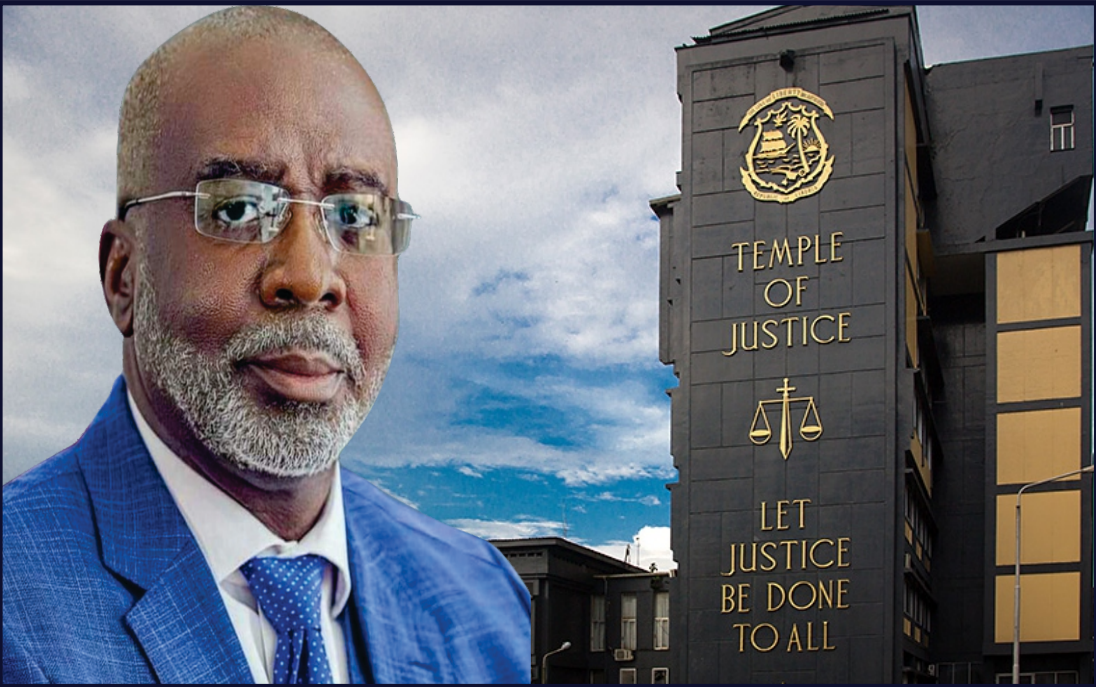
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Court decides Koffa and others' bond today

The Monrovia City Court under Judge L. Ben Bacon, is today, deciding fate of the bond recently filed by former Speaker Fonati Koffa and his three colleagues in the Capitol Building arson case.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia; June 26, 2026 -The Presiding Magistrate of the Monrovia City Court, L. Ben Bacon, is expected to today, June 26, 2025, decide former Speaker Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa and three of his colleagues' bond filed before the court in the Capitol Building's arson



trial. On Tuesday, Magistrate Bacon after listening to both sides' heated arguments, reserved his ruling and announced that a final decision on the bond's validity will be delivered by midday today, Thursday, June 26, in the arson case involving former Speaker Koffa and three of his colleagues. The Capitol Building arson case continues to generate widespread attention, not only due to the high-profile defendants involved, but also the legal back-and-forth over bond sufficiency. The outcome of today's ruling could determine whether the lawmakers remain free or are ordered back into custody, pending trial. The Monrovia City Court on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, heard evidence in the much-anticipated bond justification proceedings, involving former Speaker J. Fonati Koffa and Representatives Dixon W. Seboe, Abu B. Kamara, and Jacob C. Debee, following a mandate from Criminal Court “A” to determine the sufficiency of their US\$2.24 million bail. The hearing followed the Monrovia City Court's order issued on Monday, June 23, for the former Speaker and his Co-defendants to justify the validity of their US\$2.24 million bond or face immediate rearrest. “The defendants are hereby ordered to produce their sureties to justify their bond... Otherwise, the bond will be set aside and the defendants will be rearrested, consistent with our statute,” Magistrate Barco declared in open court. Representative Koffa presented his daughter, Ms. Jonda Janet Koffa, the General Manager at United Command Inc., and Marjan Mona Koffa, as sureties with a US\$1.8 million property bond.

Initially, Koffa and Co-defendants were released from the Monrovia Central Prison on June 9, 2025, after filing a combined bail package comprising a US\$440,000 criminal appearance bond - backed by sureties Jonda Janet Koffa and Marjan Mona Koffa, and a US\$1.8 million property bond. The City Court accepted the bond and released the lawmakers without a formal hearing on its adequacy, prompting the prosecution to challenge its legitimacy. But the prosecutors filed exceptions to the bond, claiming it was insufficient and questioning the legitimacy of the sureties. However, instead of hearing arguments, the City Court transferred the matter to Criminal Court “A,” which has now remanded the case back to Magistrate Barco for determination. Meanwhile, during the surety hearing, Magistrate Barco granted the defense's motion to proceed with the qualification of sureties listed in the original bond. The court immediately qualified the first witness, Ms. Jonda Janet Koffa, who appeared on the stand and testified under oath. She identified herself as the General Manager at United Command Inc., residing in Sinkor's 7th Street community. Ms. Koffa confirmed that she served as one of the sureties and disclosed that she is the elder sister of co-surety Marjan Mona Koffa. During her testimony, Ms. Koffa also confirmed that she is personally acquainted with all four defendants, establishing a direct connection with the parties she is guaranteeing. After her testimony, the defense moved that both oral and documentary evidence presented during the justification be admitted into the court record. The court granted the request and officially marked the evidence as part of the proceedings. Following the presentation of evidence, the court permitted both prosecution and defense to deliver their legal arguments, allotting thirteen minutes to each side. The defense referenced several sections of the Civil Procedure Law of Liberia, including Chapters 25 and 63, and cited relevant legal precedents to support the legitimacy of the bond. Prosecutors, however, sharply

Police probe death of Canadian-Liberian

The death of a Liberian-Canadian returnee, Sianneh Goe Ricks, in Margibi County has sparked Police investigation following arrest of five suspects.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia; June 26, 2026 -The Liberia National Police (LNP) has launched an investigation into the death of a Liberian-Canadian returnee, Sianneh Goe Ricks, whose burnt body was discovered on Friday in her room in Ben Town, Marshall, Lower Margibi County. Madam Ricks, was discovered dead during s flammable fire incident in the Marshall Community. Sources said the decease had recently returned home at the completion of her dream home in Marshall, but met her unfortunate demise, covered in a burning mattress in her bedroom under circumstances residents described as deeply suspicious. “This is unfortunate and sad, too terrible for our country; how can a fire just catch up like that? We suspect something wrong.” “We had come to help cut the fire off, but then the police drove everyone out of the yard,” one

resident said. “No one has told us what the police found or what really happened”, one resident said. Further reports say she was apparently beaten, rape and tied up in the mattress, before the hidden suspect set her ablaze. According to family sources, the late Sianeah had lived and worked in Canada for most of her life, but decided to relocate to Liberia after successfully constructing her dream home. She had been living in the house for about a year and a half the before tragedy struck. An Anonymous resident told the New Dawn there might be suspected foul play in her death, as the deceased was murdered and her home set ablaze in a calculated attempt to destroy evidence. Meanwhile, the Liberia National Police has confirmed the arrest of five suspects in connection with the horrifying death of 45-year-old Sianneh Goe Ricks. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

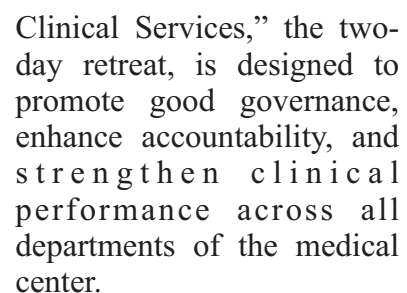
of the accused and calling on the court to uphold the bond already accepted and release them from further scrutiny. Magistrate Barco, after listening to both sides, reserved his ruling and announced that a final decision on the bond's validity will be delivered by midday today, Thursday, June 26. The Capitol Building's arson case continues to generate widespread attention, not only due to the high-profile defendants involved but also the legal back-and-forth over bond sufficiency. Outcome of today's ruling could determine whether the lawmakers remain free or are ordered back into custody, pending trial. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



—to Strengthen Clinical Services and Governance

The retreat forms part of JFKMC's ongoing efforts to deliver high-quality, patient-centred care and to further its mission as a centre of excellence in health service delivery, medical training, and research. The Retreat Objective is to Review and Document Departmental Performance, Assess the current operational

The retreat is expected to yield a detailed report that will inform ongoing institutional reforms and strengthen the overall governance and performance framework of the JFK Medical Centre.



and clinical outcomes across departments to identify strengths and areas for growth, Identify Key Challenges and Develop Strategies, Highlight systemic and departmental challenges, while crafting actionable strategies to improve service