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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2025	L\$200.0194/US\$1.00	L\$202.2440/US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

French Version Inside

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"Complete act of national carelessness"

-Gongloe blasts Boakai, others

Cllrs. Gongloe Pres. Boakai



LDEA Ops chief suspended over leaked audio

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Continental News

France returns slain king's skull to Madagascar

The head of a Malagasy king killed by French troops during a

dignity and in a context of colonial violence," French Culture Minister Rachida Dati



Descendants of King Toera have been pushing for France to return his skull, which was handed over at a ceremony at the French culture ministry

colonial-era war has been formally returned to Madagascar. The handover of King Toera's skull - and those of two other members of his court - took place at a ceremony at the culture ministry in Paris. The skulls had been brought to France at the end of the 19th Century and stored at the Museum of Natural History in the French capital. It is the first use of a new law meant to expedite the return of human remains from collections in France. "These skulls entered the national collections in circumstances that clearly violated human

is quoted by the AFP agency as saying at the ceremony. In August 1897, a French force sent to assert colonial control over the Menabé kingdom of the Sakalava people in western Madagascar massacred a local army. King Toera was killed and decapitated: his head sent to Paris where it was placed in the archives of the Museum of Natural History. Nearly 130 years later pressure from the king's descendants as well as the government of the Indian Ocean nation has opened the way for the skull's return. There is no DNA proof that the skull is King Toera's - tests

carried out several years ago were inconclusive. Ultimately it was a traditional Sakalava spirit medium who confirmed the skull was that of the monarch. Madagascar's Culture Minister Volamiranty Donna Mara, who also gave a speech at the handover, said the return of skulls was a "significant gesture", AFP reports. "Their absence has been, for more than a century... an open wound in the heart of our island," she said. It is not the first time human remains from the colonial era have been given back by France. Most famous was the South African woman cruelly nicknamed the "Hottentot Venus" who had once been put on display in Europe and whose body was taken home in 2012. But this is the first return under a recent law which makes the process much easier. It is estimated that at the Museum of Natural History alone there are more than 20,000 human remains brought to France from around the world for supposedly scientific reasons. BBC

Diamond-rich Botswana declares national public health emergency

Botswana has declared a public health emergency as it faces a shortage of essential medicines and medical equipment. President Duma Boko made the announcement in a televised address on Monday, setting out a multimillion-dollar plan to rectify the supply chain involving military oversight. Managing the shortages would be "highly price sensitive due to our limited coffers", he told the nation. The economy of Botswana, which has a population of 2.5 million, has been hit by a downturn in the international diamond market, as it is one of the world's leading diamond producers. This strain, further fuelled by US aid cuts, has seen high levels of unemployment and poverty, according to media reports. "The work shall remain nonstop until the entire value chain of procurement has been fixed," Boko said in his address,

announcing that the finance ministry had approved 250m pula (£13.8m, \$18.3m) in emergency funding. The president, a 55-year-old Harvard-trained lawyer, made history when his Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) won a landslide in elections at the end of last year, ousting the party that had governed for 58 years. Before taking office, he said his main focus would be to fix an

economy too reliant on diamonds. Earlier this month, the country's health ministry said that it was facing "significant challenges", including medical shortages and debts of more than 1bn pula (£55.2m). The bulk of these debts was due to patients being admitted to private hospitals for services that were not publicly available. BBC



President Duma Boko took office in November last year promising to fix an economy too reliant on diamonds

Three sisters drown in migrant boat in Mediterranean, rescuers say

Three young sisters have drowned in a rubber boat carrying migrants in the central Mediterranean after waves of up to 1.5m (4.9 ft) repeatedly washed over the vessel, a German rescue charity has said. About 65 people were rescued, including the sisters' mother and brother, as well as three pregnant women and a seven-month-old baby, RESQSHIP added. The "dangerously overcrowded" rubber boat had departed from Libya's Zuwara city and "started taking on increasing amounts of water" a few hours later, the charity said. Libya is a major launching pad for migrants who make the treacherous journey

were bodies underneath the surface," Ms Sartore said. "The boat was dangerously overcrowded, it was pitch-dark, water was flooding in, people were panicking. In that chaos, it was impossible to see that the three sisters, sitting deep inside the boat, had already drowned. When the survivors realised, it was sheer horror," she added. RESQSHIP said that many of the survivors suffered severe chemical burns caused by the mixture of seawater and petrol inside the boat, and required medical treatment. One person who had earlier fallen overboard was still missing, the charity added. Italy's coastguard evacuated 14 people on Saturday afternoon and took them to Lampedusa, while the rescue ship arrived later with the rest of the survivors and the bodies of the girls.



The bodies of the girls were taken to the southern Italian island of Lampedusa

across the Mediterranean, hoping to reach the Italian island of Lampedusa. The sisters who drowned were aged nine, 11 and 17 years, RESQSHIP said in a statement. Recalling how their bodies were discovered early on Saturday, Barbara Sartore, the charity's communications coordinator onboard the rescue ship Nadir, said that while survivors were being evacuated one by one, she heard "screams and someone pointed to the water inside the boat".

"It became clear that there

"What happened to the three sisters is unimaginable, as is the danger that people on the move face in search of safety," said Katja Schnitzer, a crewmember of the rescue boat. The charity did not give the nationalities of the girls or the survivors. UN agencies say that more than 700 people have died trying to cross the central Mediterranean from North Africa this year. They say that search and rescue operations need to increase, and the safety of survivors guaranteed when they disembark. BBC

EDITORIAL

Failing the next generation of leaders

It seems as if strong moral values and positive leadership examples are rapidly becoming things of the past in Liberia, as current national leaders care very less or do little, if any all, for the next general to learn from.

It was very disappointing here on Monday, August 25, 2025 during official commemoration of Liberia’s 178th Flag Day when poor and hungry students were hurriedly mobilized under heavy downpour as early as 5:00 a.m. to hoist the national emblem at the Barclay Training Center (B.T.C. barracks) in Monrovia in readiness for street parade and subsequent indoor program that was boycotted by the entire government except three members of the Cabinet.

Neither President Joseph Boakai nor Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koug or Senate President Pro-tempore Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, House Speaker Richard N. Koon, and members of the 55th Legislature, including the Judiciary showed up for the Flag Day celebration.

The Minister of Education was visibly absent but her deputy spoke on her behalf at an occasion that is meant to inspire students, who are usually referred to in Liberia as future leaders. The deputy minister might have done so out of pressure to save face in what was clearly a national embarrassment.

The poor students were left along to parade in the rain and gathered subsequently at the Centennial Memorial Pavilion in Monrovia only to see poor attendance of officials, who should have been there to portray or to indicate the significance of the national emblem and why it should be commemorated.

We wonder what example our national leaders are sending out there to members of the Diplomatic corps, who take up time to attend these national events, when they treat them with cool shoulders.

Fortnight ago, at the retirement program for former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Her Honor, Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, the Executive and the 55th Legislature similarly failed to show up, in a style of payback for Justice Yuoh and her entire bench boycotting the President’s Annual Message in January before the Legislature, sitting in Joint Chamber.

The youth, including students are watching these missteps that are presented by leaders as acceptable and normal. But no! They are not normal for one or two of the three branches of the government to be conspicuously absent from a national or a state function without any excuse.

President Boakai needs to intervene by ensuring that the government acts as a united body and do so responsibly or else, we are teaching the next generation a very bad lesson about leadership.

It is odd for officials to stay away from official functions with no explanation. Doing so wrongly indicate that it is ok and students will copy that for leadership.

A national occasion such as celebrating the National Flag should not be treated anyhow by those in leadership. If the theme for the 2025 National Flag Day Celebration, “The Flag We Raise, The Values We Uphold,” is to carry its true meaning, leaders should act accordingly than the other way around.

COMMENTARY

By James A. Goldston

The Shared Fate of Democracy and International Justice

NEW YORK - The architecture of international justice - the rules, norms, and institutions that have guided efforts to hold accountable the perpetrators of grave crimes - was largely built upon the presumption that the world was moving toward greater respect for democracy and human rights.

To be sure, progress was not linear: there were steps sideways and backward. But from the Nuremberg and Tokyo war crimes trials, which prosecuted German and Japanese perpetrators after World War II, to the adoption in 1998 of the Rome Statute, which established the International Criminal Court (ICC), the general trajectory was proceeding in the direction of accountability. Despite their flaws and crimes, some of the world’s oldest and most powerful democracies helped lead the push for justice in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone.

But recent events have reversed this trend. Authoritarian leaders who scorn human rights have come to power in several democracies, including the United States. Donald Trump’s election as US president in 2016, and his re-election in 2024, have been particularly concerning. Already under Trump’s second administration, the US - whose leadership of the international justice system is as essential as it has been inconsistent - has gone so far as to impose sanctions on the ICC’s prosecutor, two deputy prosecutors, and six of its judges.

The US is not the only democracy under pressure from authoritarian forces that fear any form of accountability. According to news reports, even before the current war in Gaza, the then-director of Israel’s Mossad intelligence agency allegedly threatened the ICC’s then-prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, as part of a years-long pressure campaign to prevent an investigation into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Palestine. In 2019, the Philippines withdrew from the ICC following the court’s investigation of then-President Rodrigo Duterte’s drug crackdown. And earlier this year, proudly illiberal Hungary announced its intention to do the same, shortly after it refused to execute an ICC arrest warrant.

Of course, international justice is not only a concern for democracies. After all, Joseph Stalin was one of the Allied leaders who agreed to establish the International Military Tribunal that sat in Nuremberg after WWII. As Robert Jackson, the US Supreme Court justice who served as the chief American prosecutor at Nuremberg, observed in his opening statement, the trial was “part of the great effort to make the peace more secure.” The Rome Statute, whose signatories include governments of all stripes, similarly recognizes that “grave crimes threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world.”

Even so, the global turn toward authoritarianism makes the world a less welcoming place for the independent judges and lawyers trying to bring justice to victims of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression. When elected heads of state seek to expand their power beyond traditional bounds, when governments remove and criminally charge the leadership of bar associations, when judges in national courts are threatened for acting as a bulwark against executive overreach, the rule of law suffers - to the detriment of everyone.

The question now is whether the project of holding high-level perpetrators to account will survive at all. Amid the challenges and disappointments, I find hope in the many expressions of courage, resistance, and faith in the law as an instrument for pushing back against arrogations of power. Such progress is contagious: advancing the rule of law anywhere makes a rule-of-law culture possible everywhere.

Just look at the judges who, in recent years, have defended the integrity of democratic elections in Senegal, India, Brazil, and other countries - often at great personal risk. Or consider the US courts that have rejected unlawful attempts to punish law firms for whom they represent and university students for what they say.

At the global level, the International Court of Justice has bravely taken the lead in shining a light on grave crimes in Myanmar, Syria, and Gaza. Over the past year, rulings by the ICJ, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights have affirmed that states have a legal obligation to address climate change.

The current struggles for international justice and for democracy, though not identical, are related. And while hope alone is not enough to prevail in either fight, it is essential - for the victims of grave crimes, and for all those who worry that their next expression of dissent may be their last. In an atmosphere of pervasive fear, every decision to sign a letter, join a peaceful protest, or file a legal complaint against authoritarian measures is a step toward justice.

This commentary is adapted from James A. Goldston’s acceptance speech for the 2025 Joshua H. Heintz Award for Humanitarian Achievement.

OP-ED

By Raghuram G. Rajan

The Tradeoffs of AI Regulation

CHICAGO - The problem with European regulators, a German businessman recently told me, is that they are too scared of downside risks. “In any innovative new business sector, they overregulate and stifle any upside potential.” In contrast, he argued, Americans care more about the upside potential, and thus hold off on regulation until they know much more about the consequences. “Not surprisingly, the United States has much more of a presence in innovative industries.”

AI is a case in point. The European Union enacted the world’s first comprehensive AI regulation in August 2024, establishing safeguards against risks such as discrimination, disinformation, privacy violations, and AI systems that could endanger human life or threaten social stability. The law also assigns AI systems different risk levels, with different treatments for each. While AI-driven social scoring systems are banned outright, higher-risk systems are heavily regulated and supervised, with a list of fines for non-compliance.

But Europe has little presence in the burgeoning AI industry, especially relative to the US or China. Those leading the charge in generative AI are US-based firms such as OpenAI, Anthropic, and Google; no European firm meets the mark. Such a glaring gap seems to speak for itself. For now, the Trump administration’s AI Action Plan, which seeks to limit red tape and regulation in AI, looks like the better approach.

The problem with the European way is that it burdens fledgling firms with the costs of regulatory compliance before the technology’s potential has become clear. A chatbot that spreads falsehoods or discriminates against certain ethnic groups is certainly not desirable, but there must be some tolerance for such errors in the early stages of a system’s development.

Moreover, when developers can explore a system’s positive possibilities more freely, they also have time (and possibly resources generated from successful but error-prone launches) to figure out cost-effective ways to address issues that undermine the system’s reliability. Demanding near-perfection from the outset does not safeguard society so much as it stifles the trial-and-error process through which breakthroughs emerge.

Of course, errors such as racial discrimination can be extremely costly, especially if made by chatbots that interact with millions of people. Recognizing this risk, some regulators allow new products to be tested only in tightly controlled settings. Innovators can experiment with a limited group of users, and always under the regulator’s watchful eye. This “sandbox” approach helps to contain any harms from spilling over to the broader public - Europe’s main concern.

But sandboxes might also limit what can go right. Trials with small, restricted groups cannot capture the benefits of network effects, whereby products become more valuable as more people use them. Nor can they reveal unexpected breakthroughs that come when the “wrong” people adopt a product (for example, online pornography drove early innovations in web technology). In short, sandbox trials may keep disasters at bay, but they also risk stifling discovery. They are better than outright bans, but they may still cause innovators to bury too many promising ideas before they can scale.

What then are the costs of the laissez-faire American approach? Most obviously, the system can blow up because of rogue products, as happened with subprime mortgage-backed securities before the 2008 global financial crisis. Today, one hears similar fears about generative AI and the crypto industry (with FTX’s implosion cited as an early warning signal).

Historically, the US, with its deep fiscal pockets, may have been more willing to take such risks, while the fragmented EU may have been more cautious. But with fiscal space shrinking in the US, a rethink may be in the offing.

Even if the US wants to regulate more, though, can the authorities really pull it off? The American way is to wait until an industry is large enough to matter. But by that point, the industry will have grown powerful enough to shape any rules meant to rein it in. Consider crypto: flush with cash, armed with lobbyists, and laser-focused on its interests, it has proven adept at swaying politicians - and public opinion - in its favor. The consequence invariably is under-regulation, even when the risks to the public are glaring.

Risk-averse Europe, by contrast, steps in early, when an innovative sector is still small and its voice barely audible. At this stage, it is the incumbents - the banks threatened by crypto, for example - who dominate the debate. Their influence pushes the needle toward excessive caution and heavy-handed rules. The US tends to regulate too little, too late, whereas Europe does too much, too soon. Neither gets the balance quite right.

Even though there is a case for each side moving toward the other, it is worth emphasizing that regulation does not stop at national borders. In fact, the world

OPINION

By Ajay Shah

Trump’s Tariffs and India’s Economic Future

NEW DELHI - US President Donald Trump’s decision to impose new tariffs on a wide range of imports from India, ostensibly a penalty for buying Russian oil, represents another shock to the international trading system - and a sharp reversal of good relations with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. These tariffs could disrupt the Indian economy, which has benefited immensely from global integration. But the greater risk lies in their potential to influence the country’s long-term strategic direction.

To be sure, several factors will mitigate the immediate impact of Trump’s tariffs. Despite being India’s largest trading partner, the United States is a distant country, and high transport costs have led India to diversify its trade relationships. Moreover, international markets are not static, and Trump’s global tariff war will redirect trade flows and reconfigure supply chains all over the world. Indian exporters - like their counterparts in other countries - will invariably find new markets, though the transition costs implied by this shift are likely to be high.

Consider also that the new US tariffs apply to roughly \$65 billion in annual merchandise exports from India. With the country’s total merchandise exports reaching around \$441 billion in the last fiscal year, the affected goods constitute less than 15% of these trade flows. While not insignificant, this figure is unlikely to cripple India’s export economy.

A narrow focus on merchandise also overlooks the most dynamic component of India’s trade portfolio: services. With annual services exports now exceeding \$380 billion and growing robustly, this sector is the true engine of India’s global economic ascent. Crucially, these exports - which include IT services, financial services, business-process outsourcing, and research and development - are not subject to tariffs.

As an added benefit, the policy uncertainty created by Trump’s tariff war could accelerate multinational firms’ diversification of operations away from America. India is well-positioned to capitalize on this shift, and I know from my own experience that Indian exporters of both goods and services have already begun to intensify their efforts to develop business links in OECD markets other than the US.

But beyond trade economics, Trump’s tariffs raise a larger question: What is India’s place in the world? Two competing visions have long animated domestic debate on this issue. One vision presents the country as outward-looking and confident, pursuing growth by embracing globalization and leveraging Western technology, finance, and markets. To realize its potential, India must embrace deeper integration into the world economy.

This vision reflects the closer ties that India has forged with the West in recent decades - and which underpinned its economic success between 1991 and 2011. The Indian diaspora has grown in size and prominence throughout the Western world, while India itself has come to rely on Western technology and business networks. For all the talk of enhancing economic links with Russia or China, good luck finding an elite family in India whose kids are studying in either country.

The opposing view portrays international engagement not as an opportunity for India, but as a source of vulnerability. This defensive posture is shaped by skepticism toward the West - a holdover from the colonial period - and a belief in self-reliance to the point of autarky, often at the expense of efficiency and growth.

Trump’s new tariffs have provided ammunition to the proponents of this more insular vision by bolstering the narrative that the global system is unreliable, and that engagement with the West is ultimately harmful to India’s interests and security. To the extent that these arguments find purchase among India’s leaders, the country risks embracing protectionism and nativism. Such a shift would be detrimental to India’s long-term prosperity, Asian security, and what remains of the liberal world order.

Fortunately, there are signs that the outward-looking view remains dominant. The free-trade agreement that India just signed with the United Kingdom commits it to reducing protectionist barriers. It also illustrates India’s willingness to pursue deeper economic links with OECD countries when they are based on mutual interest and respect. One can only hope that ongoing negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement with the European Union will follow a similar trajectory, further anchoring India to the principles of economic openness.

America’s tariff attack has created an opportunity for India to clarify its strategic priorities. The country’s optimal response to US protectionism is not to retaliate or retreat, but to seek and cultivate other partners that remain committed to rules-based international trade. By deepening trade and investment ties with the UK, the EU, Japan, and Australia, India can recalibrate its economic relationships and reaffirm its commitment to the globalized economy that has served it so well.

Ajay Shah, Co-Founder of XKDR Forum, a non-profit research organization in Mumbai, is the co-author (with Vijay Kelkar) of In Service of the Republic: The Art and Science of Economic Policy (Penguin Allen Lane, 2022).

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA) IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT "ANNEX"
MONTERRADO COUNTY) FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY, SITTING IN ITS
JUNE A.D. 2025 TERM

BEFORE HIS HONOR:Scheaplor R. DunbarASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING

ALFRED TAWHEN TOMAH OF LOWER VIRGINIA, MONTERRADO
COUNTY, LIBERIA PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

AMIE SIAH TOMAH OF 1250 WEST FORD ROAD, LOWELL MA, 01851)
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA..... DEFENDANT

ACTION OF DIVORCE FOR
INCOMPATIBILITY OF
TEMPER

WRIT OF RE-SUMMONS

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, TO: THE SHERIFF OR HIS DEPUTY FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMONED THE DEFENDANT(S) IN AMIE SIAH TOMAH IN
THE ABOVE ENTITLED CAUSE OF ACTION, TO APPEAR BEFORE THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL
LAW COURT "ANNEX" FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, SITTING IN ITS JUNE
A.D. 2025 TERM ON THE 3RD MONDAY, SAME BEING THE 15TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D. 2025, AT
THE HOUR OF 10:00 A.M. IN THE MORNING.

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED TO NOTIFY THE SAID DEFENDANT TO FILE HIS FORMAL
APPEARANCE AND/OR ANSWER TO THE PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT FILED ON OR BEFORE 30TH DAY
OF AUGUST A.D. 2025, THAT UPON HIS FAILURE TO APPEAR, JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE
RENDERED AGAINST HIM.

MEANWHILE, YOU WILL RETURN THE ORIGIANL WRIT OF RE-SUMMONS TO MY OFFICE ON/OR
BEFORE THE 30TH DAY OF AUGUST A.D. 2025, WITH THE OFFICIAL RETURNS ENDORSED ON THE
BACK THEREOF AS TO THE MANNER OF ITS SERVICE.

AND HAVE YOU HERE THIS WRIT OF RE-SUMMONS.

GIVEN UNDER MY HANDS AND SEAL OF
THIS HONORABLE COURT THIS 20TH DAY
OF AUGUST A.D. 2025

COURT'S SEAL:

MR. ALFRED N. MORRIS
CLERK OF COURT

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA) IN THE CIVIL LAW COURT, SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTERRADO COUNTY,
MONTERRADO COUNTY) SITTING IN ITS MARCH TERM, A. D. 2025

BEFORE HIS HONOR: J. KENNEDY PEABODY.....RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE

Alfred Tawhen Tomah of Banjor, Lower Virginia, Montserrado County Republic of)
Liberia..... PLAINTIFF) ACTION OF DIVORCE
VERSUS) FOR
Amie Siah Tomah of 1250 West Ford Street, Lowell MA, 01851 United States of) INCOMPATIBILITY OF
America..... DEFENDANT) TEMPER

PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT

AND NOW COMES PLAINTIFF in the above entitled cause of action and complains of the Defendant in the
following manner and form to wit:-

1. That the Plaintiff and the Defendant were joined in the Bond of Holy Matrimony on February 6,
2011 in Sinkor, in the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia.
2. That Plaintiff says and maintains that they after a brief period of marriage, Defendant became so
quarrelsome and pugnacious to the extent that the Plaintiff has decided after some sober
reflection, to put an end to this marriage which has become a living nightmare for him.

3. That Plaintiff further avers that the Defendant has totally no regards for this marital relationship
subsisting between the Plaintiff and Defendant and that to continue with this relationship will
certainly render his life useless.

4. That the Plaintiff has done everything humanly possible to save their marriage to no avail and
has painfully realized that it would certainly be in their best interest to dissolve and annul this
marriage.

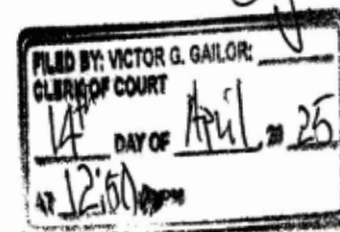
WHEREFORE AND IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES, Plaintiff prays Your Honor
and this Honorable Court to annul and dissolve this Contract of Marriage which now subsist between the
Plaintiff and the Defendant and declare them two separate and distinct individuals both in law and in
equity as though no such contract ever existed and further grant unto the Plaintiff any and all further
relief(s) that Your Honor and this Honorable shall deem legal, just and equitable.

Respectfully Submitted: Plaintiff by and thru His Legal Counsel

The Century Law Offices
Harmon Field, Paynesville
Monrovia, Liberia

Willie D. Barclay, Jr.
COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW

Subscribed this 10th day of April, A. D. 2025



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA) IN THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE FOR AND IN
MONTERRADO COUNTY) MONTERRADO COUNTY, R. L.

Alfred Tawhen Tomah of Banjor, Lower Virginia, Montserrado County Republic of)
Liberia..... PLAINTIFF) ACTION OF DIVORCE
VERSUS) FOR
Amie Siah Tomah of 1250 West Ford Street, Lowell MA, 01851 United States of) INCOMPATIBILITY OF
America..... DEFENDANT) TEMPER

PLAINTIFF'S AFFIDAVIT

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME, a duly qualified and commissioned Justice of the Peace for and in
Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, at my Office in the City of Willie D. Barclay, Jr., COUNSELLOR-AT-
LAW and one of counsels for the Plaintiff in the above entitled cause of action and made OATH according
to law that all and singular the averment of both law and Facts as set forth and contained in the annexed
complaint are true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief as to those matters of information
he verily believes them to be true and correct.

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED TO BEFORE ME THIS
14th DAY OF April A. D. 2025

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
MONTERRADO COUNTY
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Willie D. Barclay, Jr./Deponent

\$5.00 Revenue Stamp Affixed on the Original

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Bong County: LDEA mobility crisis threatens Liberia's Drug War

By Edwin N Khakie

As Liberia's war on drugs gathers momentum, the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) Bong County Detachment is appealing for



urgently logistical support to strengthen its operations, with mobility being the top priority among critical needs. The call was made by Special Agent Alassan Dolly, Chief of Operations for the Bong County Detachment, who disclosed that the unit currently has no operational motorcycles for field activities. Speaking to reporters in Gbarnga, Dolly said the lack of mobility is

severely undermining efforts to track and apprehend drug traffickers, particularly in rural communities where the trade is most active. He emphasized that many of these areas are

been stepping up operations in recent months amid growing concerns about drug abuse and its social impact on young people in the county. However, Dolly noted that without logistical reinforcement, the gains made so far could be short-lived. He therefore called on both county authorities and the central government to prioritize support to the agency if the fight against illicit drugs is to achieve meaningful results. "The drug problem is not just an LDEA issue; it is a national security and public health concern. Stronger support at the local and national levels will enable us to save more lives and protect our communities," he stressed. The appeal comes as civil society organizations, parents, and religious leaders in Bong County continue to raise alarms over the growing presence of narcotic substances, especially among young people. Meanwhile, residents have expressed hope that the government will respond swiftly to the LDEA's request, warning that a lack of timely intervention could further expose the county to drug-related crimes.

Liberian Journalist Urges UN to Safeguard Media Freedom and Digital Rights

Liberian journalist and media development practitioner Wremongar Joe has presented three key recommendations to United Nations member states during the ongoing pre-sessions of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The UPR info organizes the UPR pre-sessions. The UPR Pre-sessions are meetings held by the UPR info that bring national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) together with Permanent Missions (the diplomatic representations of UN Member States) to discuss the human rights situation in a country before it is reviewed by the UN's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group. The main goal is for CSOs and NHRIs to provide first-hand information and context to diplomats, ensuring that recommendations made during the actual UPR accurately reflect the realities on the ground and address key human rights issues. Speaking on behalf of the Center for Media Studies and Peacebuilding (CEMESP) at the UN in Geneva on Tuesday, Joe, a program officer, urged the international community to

press Liberia to strengthen its democratic governance by adopting critical media and digital rights reforms. "Liberia urgently needs comprehensive internet freedom, data protection, and cybersecurity laws," Joe said. "We also need an independent broadcast regulator, and the transformation of state radio into a genuine public service broadcaster that serves all Liberians, not just the government of the day."



Elder folks benefit from free medical checkups & treatment from WLI

Over thirty elderly individuals in the Pipeline Community, Paynesville, have benefited from free medical check-ups, treatment, personal hygiene education, and environmental cleanliness education.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, August 27, 2025: The initiative, undertaken by the faith-based World of Life International (WLI), aimed to promote sustainable and healthy longevity. The free medical checkup and treatment were held at the WLI Ministry in Paynesville on Monday, August 25, 2025, as part of the 178th Flay Day Celebration. The event provided check-ups for major illnesses, including malaria, colds, diarrhea, typhoid, body pain, and infectious diseases, among others. However, sickness discovered during the checkup and treatment sessions that were beyond the medical team's capacity were referred to other

nationwide. Delivering the keynote address, Madam Yassah Sumo from the Ministry of Health (MOH) encouraged the elderly to undergo regular medical check-ups to maintain a healthy and strong life, promoting longevity. According to her, as people age, it's similar to when a child's body is not yet strong; as such, a person's strength and health decline with age. Therefore, it's essential to undergo regular medical check-ups. She warned that early check-ups can prevent the worsening of illnesses, reduce expenditure, and even save lives, as they often involve minimal medication. "When you are getting older



health centers and provided and you are old, it's good to do with drugs for suppression. regular checkups. It will help During the medical session, the prevent sickness from elderly were called one after another and asked some when you go to the hospital medical questions, followed by sooner, even small a physical examination and medications can resolve your diagnosis. problem. Additionally, it Preventing an introductory prevents sickness from overview for the initiative worsening. Sometimes, you can say this thing is not earlier, Ms. Rebecca KG. serious yet, but the time you Nyamndo WLI Ageing Support wait for it to get serious is the Coordinator expressed time it brings a dead body and appreciation and excitement to consumes more money; the elderly for their therefore, it's better to act participation, while adding early and be safe, rather than that the program is designed to live in regret. Going to the ensure the elderly remain hospital sooner saves you healthy and strong. from spending plenty of According to her, the initiative money because when you are was born out of the Executive sick, even transportation Director and Funder's desire to from your house can add up." bolster government efforts, as She stated. there is no prescribed and Speaking on behalf of the accurate national initiative to beneficiary, Mr. Aloysius address the illnesses and concerns affecting older adults

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Death toll from drugs rises

-As community residents mourn

Rise in drug-related deaths in Liberia is raising concern among citizens, as two or three persons reportedly died from dangerous substances, leaving many to wonder which community will be the next to mourn the loss of a member.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

In less than a month, Liberia has witnessed a rapid increase in drug-related deaths among disadvantaged youths across Montserrado County. The rising number of deaths of disadvantaged youths, or Zogos, is a result of a new phenomenal drug called “Sparking Android”, this paper has learned.

According to reports, when consumed, these drugs either kill instantly or leave consumers insane or crazy.Since President Joseph Nyuma Boakai declared drug abuse a “national health emergency” at the inception of his government, very little has been done except a recent nationwide anti-drug campaign to draw attention



authorities.

At least fifty (50) Zogos or disadvantaged youths have died from drugs in the past week or so.

The rising death toll has spread across every community, including Kemah Town, Soul Clinic, and Parker Paint communities in Paynesville, which have seen a combined total of over 34 deaths so far. Other communities include Boulevard-Police Academy gap (3), Red Light (5), and (2) from ELWA and LBS-Lover Street Community.

Apart from these highly affected communities in Montserrado and its environs, investigators have highlighted at least one death in each and every community, including Johnsonville Graveyard, Gardnerville Supermarket, Caldwell, Old Road, 12th & 5th Streets Sinkor, Congo Town, Logan Town, King Gray Grave Site, Du-port Road Grave Site, Duala Market, Chicken Soup Factory, and Soniwein, among

others.The recent deaths include Crenshaw (not his real name), Cradle (his street name), Jerah Doe, Archie Korpue, Alex, and Philemon Tarpeh, among others.

Dozen others' names withheld were discovered dead and immediately buried, while some bodies were retrieved home by family members and others buried under cover.

Reports suggest the rising number of deaths among Zogos has raised concerns about the government's fight against drugs and illicit substances, amid the proliferation of narcotics here.

Further reports state the death toll is increasing daily in communities, which raises a need for the government to intensify efforts to address the issue of illicit drugs across the country.

Augustine Joemah, preferably known as Kapagee, Chairman of Parker Paint Community in

Paynesville, said rising and fearsome deaths from drugs addiction in his community are of serious concern that demand urgent attention.

“Every day these people are dying, and I can tell you for the last month, more than 30 have died. Even this week, we have over seven,” Kapagee said.

He indicated that there have been at least 19 deaths in the community since August 7, 2025, the day of the Anti-Drugs Campaign, with bodies being retrieved and buried after 72 hours.

He expressed fear about the huge presence of At-risk youths in the Parker Paint Community, while calling on the government to come to their aid.

“We are living in fear in this community because every day the Zogos are increasing, and we fear for our children.”

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Elder folks benefit from free medical

Tokpa expressed appreciation to the this gesture. We will try even though team and WLI for the continuous we do not have money to do our assistance, adding that it's due to the regular checkup and keep our teaching and treatment they are environment clean to prevent receiving that sustain their health. mosquitoes and malaria." He " We want to thank you for helping us. concluded. -Edited by Othello B. We are old people, but you have never Garblah. forgotten us. We appreciate you for



LIBERIA PEACEBUILDING OFFICE,
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

VACANT POSITION

Position	Finance Manager
Duty Station	Monrovia, With need for extensive field travel
Duration	1 year (Subject to renewal based on satisfactory performance and available resources)
Reporting Line	The Executive Director, Liberia Peacebuilding Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs
Advertisement Period	August 26, 2025 (1 Day)
Deadline for Application	September 18, 2025

Duties and Responsibilities (Administrative and Accounting)

- Administrative:** represent the Liberia Peacebuilding Office at all financial functions; informs the Executive Director on all and every financial matters including delays in liquidation of advances and remunerations for actions;
- Provide monthly draft report to the Executive Director and the Senior Program Manager for comments and actions; provide weekly briefings on the financial status; and prepare and submit monthly financial report of the PBO to the Executive Director.
- The Finance Manager in consultation with the Administrative Assistant will supervise petty cash custodian; do daily and weekly cash count of petty cash along with petty cash custodian; sign petty cash count sheet and file; and review petty cash requests for possible payment.
- Accounting:** the Finance Manager is responsible to carry out financial planning and strategy; do risk analyses of donors and GoL’s funds for projects;
- Produce financial reports based on approved process and seek approval as appropriate from the Executive Director or designate for circulation;
- Maintain records of approved and dully signed contracts between PBO and other partners, as well as staff; prepare and execute payment for staff advances for field trips; prepare and execute monthly staff payrolls taking into consideration the Government of Liberia’s revenue and tax laws;
- Perform the daily accounting services and prepare donor monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports.
- Analyze financial information useful for decision making; perform financial statistical analysis based on annual work plan; identify weaknesses in internal control procedures and systems and assess the adequacy of the accounting, financial and operating controls;
- Prepares and submit to the Executive Director monthly bank reconciliations statement of all PBO’s funds; highlights material errors in the accounts and assess compliance with established financial procedures, laws and taxes and safeguard the PBO’s financial resources and assets against misuse or misappropriation.
- The Finance Manager is also responsible to provide financial decision-making information by gathering and analyzing financial information; developing projections and alternatives; prepare annual statement of financial position, income and expense statement for use by the PBO;
- Perform additional task as may be assigned with a variety of actors including government representatives, donors and civil society;
- Close the monthly journal to the individuals and close the ledger to income summary and perform other evolving tasks assigned by the Executive.
- The Finance Manger will report directly to the Executive Director except otherwise advised.

Qualifications

Bachelor’s degree in Accounting and Graduate degree in Finance and or Management, with at least five years of professional experience. Applicant must have good standing in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and QuickBooks; Applicant must demonstrate his/her ability to learn quickly in a fast-paced environment and be able to manage tension and potential conflicts where he/she is directly or indirectly working with and answerable to multiple actors based upon the nature of the partnership. Critical thinking with working in a similar environment.

How to Apply

All interested candidates should submit a one-page cover letter and CV to: shadlotti@yahoo.com / ckfayia@yahoo.com with the Subject: **Application for Finance Manager.** Qualified female applicants are encouraged to apply. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Deadline for application is September 18, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. Absolutely, no application beyond this deadline will be accepted.

Français

Les officiels boudent la célébration du 178 anniversaire du Drapeau

Dans une atmosphère discrète et sobre, le Liberia a célébré ce lundi son 178 anniversaire du Drapeau national au Pavillon

cérémonie entendait honorer le symbole durable de l'« Étoile solitaire », reflet de l'indépendance et de l'unité du pays. Mais l'événement a été marqué par une absence

n'ont pris part aux festivités. Ce boycott quasi généralisé des trois pouvoirs de l'État a jeté une ombre sur cette commémoration nationale.



Mémorial du Centenaire, à Monrovia. Placée sous le thème « Le drapeau que nous levons, les valeurs que nous défendons », la

remarquée : ni le président Joseph N. Boakai, ni le vice-président Jeremiah K. Koung, ni les présidents des deux chambres du Parlement, ni la majorité des parlementaires

Seuls trois membres du gouvernement ont répondu présent : le ministre des Postes et Télécommunications, Seku

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Le sénateur américain Raphael Warnock rencontre l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

- Promet de renforcer les liens économiques entre le Liberia et les États-Unis

Le sénateur américain Raphael Gamaliel Warnock, figure politique respectée et pasteur baptiste, actuellement sénateur junior de l'État de Géorgie, a effectué une visite de courtoisie à l'ancienne présidente du Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. À l'issue de cette rencontre, il a réaffirmé son engagement à œuvrer pour le renforcement des relations économiques et le resserrement des liens historiques entre Monrovia et Washington. S'exprimant dans les colonnes du New Dawn Newspaper après son entretien, le sénateur Warnock a confié que son déplacement revêtait à la fois une dimension personnelle et politique. « C'est dans le cadre d'une mission de l'Église baptiste Ebenezer

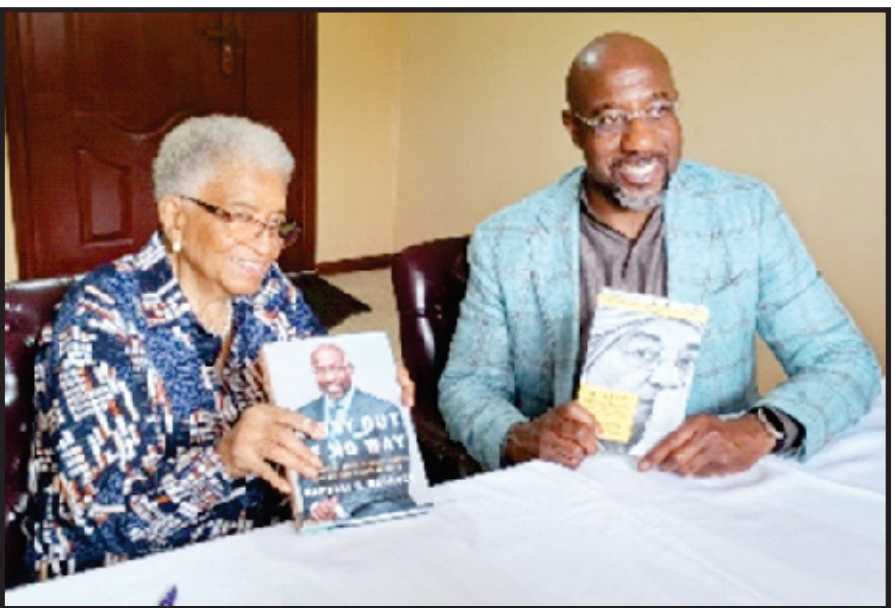
d'Atlanta que je suis venu pour la première fois au Liberia, en 2014. Malheureusement, peu après, le pays a été frappé par l'épidémie d'Ebola et je n'ai pas pu revenir cette année-là. Entre-temps, je me suis engagé dans la course au Sénat américain. Aujourd'hui, je suis heureux d'être de retour et d'avoir prêché dimanche à l'église baptiste Providence », a-t-il déclaré.

Une admiration profonde pour Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Rappelant sa première visite, effectuée à l'invitation du révérend Samuel Reeves,

pasteur de l'église Providence, Warnock a exprimé sa joie de renouer avec le pays plus d'une décennie après. Il a surtout salué la stature et l'héritage de l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf : « Elle est l'incarnation même du leadership. Je suis inspiré par la profondeur de son engagement envers le peuple libérien. Son action pour l'autonomisation des femmes et la dignité

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Un échec face à la prochaine génération de leaders

Il semble que les valeurs morales et les exemples positifs de leadership disparaissent progressivement au Liberia, tant les dirigeants actuels paraissent indifférents à leur devoir d'inspirer et de guider la génération montante.

La célébration officielle du 178 anniversaire du Drapeau national, le lundi 25 août 2025, en a été une triste illustration. Dès 5 heures du matin, sous une pluie battante, de jeunes élèves affamés et fatigués ont été mobilisés à la hâte pour hisser l'emblème national au Barclay Training Center, avant de défiler dans les rues puis de se rendre au programme officiel. Pourtant, ni le président Joseph Boakai, ni le vice-président Jeremiah Kpan Koung, ni les présidents des deux chambres du Parlement, ni même les membres du pouvoir judiciaire n'ont daigné honorer de leur présence cette journée censée exalter l'unité nationale.

La ministre de l'Éducation était absente, et seul son adjoint, visiblement poussé à « sauver les apparences », a pris la parole devant des élèves qui, au lieu d'être motivés et encouragés, ont assisté à un spectacle d'indifférence et de mépris. Dans la salle du Pavillon Mémorial du Centenaire, où ils s'étaient ensuite rassemblés, les bancs laissés vides par les représentants de l'État en disaient long sur le manque de considération accordé à cet événement.

Quel message envoient nos autorités aux jeunes et à la communauté internationale, dont les diplomates prennent le temps de participer à ces cérémonies ? Le constat est désolant : nos leaders banalisent des occasions qui devraient renforcer le sentiment national et éduquer les jeunes à la citoyenneté.

Ce n'est pas un cas isolé. Il y a deux semaines, lors de la cérémonie de retraite de l'ancienne présidente de la Cour suprême, Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, l'exécutif et la 55 législature s'étaient déjà abstenus de participer, dans ce qui ressemblait à une vendetta politique. Mais le boycott ou l'absence systématique de représentants de l'État à des événements officiels ne saurait devenir une norme acceptable.

Les élèves et les jeunes observent. Ils apprennent, malheureusement, que l'irresponsabilité et le manque de respect des institutions font partie intégrante de la culture politique. Non, ce n'est pas normal qu'un ou deux pouvoirs de l'État brillent par leur absence sans justification à une cérémonie nationale.

Le président Boakai doit intervenir et rappeler au gouvernement son devoir de cohésion et de responsabilité. Sinon, il contribue à inculquer à la jeunesse une conception erronée du leadership. Car manquer une commémoration nationale sans motif valable revient à enseigner que l'irrespect des symboles et des institutions est tolérable.

Un événement tel que la Fête nationale du Drapeau ne peut être traité avec désinvolture. Si le thème de l'édition 2025 - « Le drapeau que nous levons, les valeurs que nous défendons » - doit avoir un sens, encore faut-il que nos dirigeants en donnent l'exemple par leurs actes.

Français

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Les officiels boudent la célébration

Kanneh, la ministre d’Etat Mamaka Bility, ainsi que le ministre de la Justice, N. Oswald Tweh, qui représentait le chef de l’État.

Malgré ces absences, la cérémonie s’est tenue avec la participation du corps diplomatique, de lycéens et de quelques responsables gouvernementaux.

Symbole d’unité nationale

Le drapeau libérien, hissé pour la première fois le 24 août 1847, comporte onze bandes (cinq rouges et six blanches), représentant les onze signataires de la Déclaration d’indépendance. L’étoile blanche, isolée sur fond bleu, symbolise le statut historique du Liberia en tant que première république indépendante d’Afrique. Le rouge incarne le sang versé pour la liberté, le blanc la pureté et l’unité, et le bleu le continent africain.

Le message présidentiel

Dans le message lu au nom du président, le ministre Tweh a salué la résilience des Libériens face aux épreuves. Il a insisté sur l’importance du patriotisme, de l’unité et de l’identité nationale comme piliers du progrès.« À travers toutes les difficultés, les Libériens ont tenu bon, survécu ensemble et prouvé que nous appartenons à un même patrimoine », a-t-il déclaré.

Le président Boakai a également rendu hommage aux sacrifices des pères fondateurs et exhorté ses concitoyens à préserver l’unité nationale, malgré les défis liés aux divisions ethniques, aux crises politiques et sanitaires.

« Nos aïeux doivent être fiers de constater que le Liberia, autrefois plongé dans l’obscurité, s’élève de nouveau vers les cieux. C’est le fruit de notre détermination collective », a-t-il ajouté. Il a conclu en appelant à la paix, à la démocratie et à la cohésion nationale : « En fin de compte, c’est seulement dans l’union forte que le succès est assuré. »

Une oraison axée sur la justice

L’orateur du jour, le Dr Jallah Barbu, a, pour sa part, insisté sur l’urgence de justice et d’imputabilité, notamment envers les victimes de guerre et leurs familles. Directeur exécutif du Bureau pour l’établissement du Tribunal des crimes de guerre et économiques, il a rappelé que ce processus est avant tout libérien et requiert une volonté politique claire ainsi qu’un soutien national.

« La justice est là pour tous les Libériens », a affirmé le Dr Barbu, en soulignant que la paix durable passe par la reconnaissance et le règlement des atrocités du passé.

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Le sénateur américain Raphael Warnock rencontre

humaine est exemplaire. Elle a dirigé le Liberia à travers l’épidémie d’Ebola et les turbulences d’une démocratie fragile marquée par la guerre civile. Elle est restée inébranlable. »

La Géorgie et le Liberia : des liens à renforcer

Au-delà de l’aspect spirituel de sa visite, le sénateur a mis en avant une ambition plus large : rapprocher davantage le Liberia de son État natal, la Géorgie.

« Je suis venu non seulement en tant que citoyen et sénateur des États-Unis, mais aussi comme représentant de la Géorgie, une région qui partage de nombreuses affinités avec le Liberia - de l’accent à la gastronomie en passant par des traits culturels communs. Je veux trouver des moyens de renforcer ces liens et d’apporter une vitalité économique à un peuple qui a tant enduré. »

Warnock a révélé avoir rencontré plusieurs entrepreneurs libériens qu’il a jugés « impressionnants par leur vision et leur talent », et a exprimé l’espoir de futures collaborations pour stimuler la croissance économique du pays.

Une rencontre chaleureuse et

symbolique

La visite s’est conclue par un déjeuner convivial chez l’ancienne présidente Sirleaf, en présence de proches, d’amis et de membres de la délégation. Les deux personnalités ont échangé des œuvres d’art, symboles de respect mutuel.

Madame Sirleaf, dans une brève allocution, a salué l’initiative du sénateur et sa volonté de soutenir le Liberia :

« Le sénateur est ici dans le cadre d’un programme de l’Église baptiste, mais il a lui-même souhaité me rencontrer. J’ai accueilli favorablement cette demande et organisé ce déjeuner. C’est toujours un plaisir de recevoir un congressman noir américain qui veut aider et œuvrer pour le progrès du Liberia. »

Elle a ajouté que plusieurs membres de la délégation avaient déjà des liens avec le pays :

« Certains d’entre eux ont une histoire avec le Liberia, d’autres, je les avais rencontrés auparavant dans diverses circonstances. Aujourd’hui, cette rencontre nous a permis de nous retrouver après de nombreuses années. »

Les importateurs accusent APM Terminals de la flambée des prix

Le vice-président Koung exprime ses inquiétudes et annonce un processus d’enquête

Le Liberia fait face à une hausse rapide des prix des denrées de première nécessité, suscitant de vives inquiétudes au sein de la population et du secteur privé. Des importateurs et opérateurs économiques pointent du doigt APM Terminals et l’Autorité portuaire nationale (NPA), qu’ils accusent d’augmenter chaque mois les frais d’importation.

Selon eux, ces hausses répétées touchent directement des produits essentiels et hautement sensibles sur le plan politique, tels que le riz et les produits pétroliers.

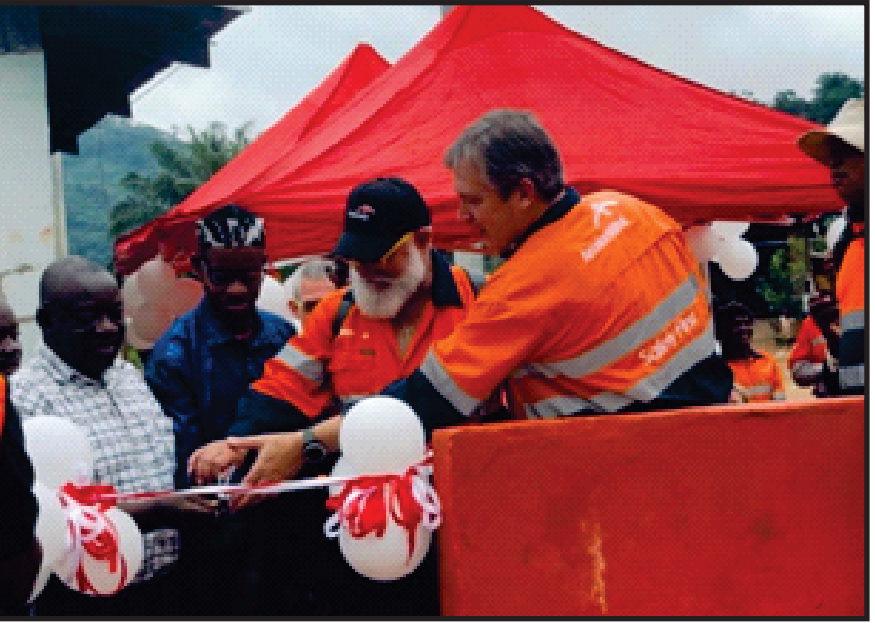
Ces préoccupations ont été exprimées lors de la première réunion du Comité ad hoc mis en place par le président Joseph N. Boakai le 26 juillet 2025 pour enquêter sur l’origine de la flambée des prix. La rencontre s’est tenue le 20 août au Parlement, sous la présidence du vice-président Jeremiah Koung.

Parmi les participants figuraient des représentants de haut niveau, dont l’Administrateur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Liberia, des responsables du ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement, ainsi que le conseiller à la sécurité du président.

Le vice-président alerte sur les risques sociaux

Au cours des discussions, le vice-président Koung a souligné l’urgence de la situation, craignant que la hausse continue du coût de la vie ne provoque des tensions sociales.

« Nous allons inviter APM Terminals et la NPA ce mardi afin



d’examiner les préoccupations du secteur privé. Car certains produits concernés, comme le riz et le pétrole, sont des denrées politiquement sensibles. Si leurs prix augmentent chaque mois, la situation pourrait devenir explosive. Lorsque le pays sera en difficulté, APM Terminals ne sera pas là pour gérer les conséquences. Nous allons donc conseiller le président Joseph N. Boakai afin qu’il prenne les mesures appropriées », a-t-il déclaré.

Une enquête aux contours larges

Le mandat confié au Comité présidentiel couvre un large éventail de produits : riz, farine, pétrole, œufs, denrées surgelées, sucre, mais aussi des produits de consommation courante comme la soupe de poulet, le piment, la pomme de terre et divers légumes.

« C’est tout un processus. Nous allons examiner tous les produits disponibles sur le marché. Le mandat du président prévoit une durée initiale de 90 jours, qui pourrait être prolongée selon les résultats. Mais pour l’instant, il serait prématuré de révéler les détails des échanges avec les importateurs. C’est au président de s’adresser au pays », a précisé M. Koung.

Le Comité a déjà rencontré plusieurs acteurs-clés, notamment la Liberia Petroleum Refinery Corporation (LPRC) et divers importateurs. Toutefois, ses travaux resteront confidentiels jusqu’à la remise d’un rapport formel au chef de l’État, qui devra ensuite informer la nation des conclusions et des mesures envisagées.

Répondant aux critiques sur l’absence de mesures visibles 44 jours après l’annonce du comité, le vice-président a expliqué que le mandat officiel n’avait été signé par le président Boakai que le 15 août. « Dès réception, nous avons immédiatement convoqué les parties concernées », a-t-il assuré.



FEATUREARTICLE

Ready on Paper, Rejected at the Gate: WASSCE passes, but university doors stay shut

By Chris Tokpah, Ph.D.

Every year, thousands of Liberian students meet the national requirement for finishing high school. They pass at least five subjects on the West Africa Senior School Certificate Exam (WASSCE). That success should open the door to university. Instead, many are told to sit another exam before they can enter. One certificate says "ready," and the second test says "wait." The result is lost time, extra cost, and fading motivation.

Quality matters. Universities must ensure that students can handle first-year work. But quality does not require two high-stakes exams that measure much of the same knowledge. When the rules are unclear or change after students have done their part, the system feels unfair, and families lose trust.

The way forward is simple. Use WASSCE as the main credential for admission, then place students at the right starting point once they are in. This keeps standards strong and keeps the path clear.

First, treat passing five WASSCE subjects as the basic entry rule. Universities can keep program standards by stating which subjects and what score bands are required. Engineering can require Mathematics and Physics at defined levels. Nursing can require Biology and Chemistry. Teacher education can require English and Mathematics. Publish these requirements early and in plain language so schools teach them, and students know what to aim for.

Second, where a finer check is needed, use a short placement test to guide where a student begins, not to exclude the student. A quick check in writing or mathematics can direct a student to the right course level or basic support. Let assessments decide where a student starts, not whether the student starts.

Third, set a reasonable validity window. WASSCE results should count for admission for up to two years. If the results are older than that, ask applicants to take the short placement check or a brief refresher. This respects the value of the certificate and the reality that skills can fade without practice.

Fourth, make the policy consistent across institutions. The National Commission on Higher Education should issue a concise

admissions guide for all accredited universities. The guide should recognize WASSCE as the principal credential, list program requirements by subject and band, explain how placement checks are used, and outline a simple appeal process. Clear rules reduce confusion, save families money, and build trust.

If universities believe WASSCE is not rigorous enough to reflect first-year demands, that is not a reason to add another exam. It is a reason to strengthen what schools teach and what the exam measures. The Commission should lead a dialogue with the Ministry of Education and WAEC to update the secondary

support. The next step should respect that effort. Align admissions with WASSCE, use simple placement checks where needed, and keep the rules public and consistent. This will maintain standards, widen opportunities, and move more qualified young people from the classroom door to the classroom seat.

About the Author

Dr. Chris Tokpah is the Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness at Delaware County Community College in Pennsylvania. He holds a Ph.D. in Program Evaluation and Measurement, an MBA with an emphasis in Management Information



curriculum, improve exam blueprints, and align subjects with first-year course outcomes. When the pipeline is strong, the need for extra gatekeeping fades.

The Commission can act now. Bring the Ministry of Education, WAEC, and university leaders together to confirm program requirements that fit first-year demands. Publish the admissions guide before the next cycle so schools and families can plan. Communicate the changes widely so applicants know exactly what is expected.

Liberia asks its students to meet a clear finish line at the end of high school. Many have done so with hard work and family

Systems, and a B.Sc. in Mathematics.

Dr. Tokpah also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Research Methods and Statistics in the Ph.D. program at Delaware Valley University. He is an independent consultant who supervised baseline studies and evaluations sponsored by the World Bank, IDA, Geneva Global, USAID, and the African Development Bank.

He is a co-owner of the Center for Research, Evaluation, and Policy (CENREP), a Liberian consulting firm that specializes in strategic planning, monitoring, evaluation, social science research, and training services. His email address is ctokpah@cenrepliberia.org.

LDEA Ops chief suspended over leaked audio

By Kruah Thompson agency’s Director General, undermines the integrity of the Liberia Drug Anthony K. Souh, after the LDEA and compromises Enforcement Agency preliminary findings on the the fight against illicit (LDEA) has suspended its matter. drugs. Chief of Operations, Abraham In the recording, Payne was “As such, Mr. Payne has been immediately suspended and referred to the Board of Internal Inquiry and Professional Standards (BIIPS) for a thorough investigation. The outcome of the investigation will be communicated to the public in due time,” the release stated. The LDEA further emphasized its zero-tolerance policy on unprofessional and unethical behavior, stressing that no officer, regardless of rank or position, will be spared if found culpable of misconduct. The statement was issued late Tuesday, August 26, 2025, by the LDEA Public Relations Office.



O. Payne (U-704), following allegedly heard instructing a stressing that no officer, the emergence of an audio junior officer to release his regardless of rank or recording allegedly daughter immediately. He position, will be spared if implicating him in ordering the was also accused of found culpable of release of his daughter, who threatening the officer when misconduct. was reportedly arrested in a the latter insisted on carrying The statement was issued ghetto. out his duties. late Tuesday, August 26, According to the LDEA, Mr. The agency’s release noted 2025, by the LDEA Public Payne was suspended by the that such alleged conduct Relations Office.

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Tension Escalates Between Montserrado

Foko further argued that Toles’ admission of directly using the \$37,000 for projects raises legal questions. “The Local Government Act and rules governing LACE (Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment) stipulate that such projects are to be implemented by LACE, not individual legislators. If Rep. Toles received funds directly, then what yardstick was used? Favoritism, partisanship, or outright corruption?” he questioned. He concluded by criticizing Toles’ legislative record, asserting: “For all his noise about projects, the people of Liberia know the truth: he cannot stand on the legislative floor to author a single piece of legislation or contribute meaningfully to deliberations. This is the mark of an academically and professionally lazy politician whose days in that district are numbered. Foko also issued a challenge to Toles for a public debate. While Rep. Toles is yet to respond to the allegations of corruption, one of his competitors in the just-ended election, Byron, thanked Rep. Frank Saah Foko Jr., noting, “Brother, you just helped make my job

easier in District 8, Montserrado County, to hold him accountable. I’m working behind the scenes to continue the effort. Thanks!” Meanwhile, public reactions have been mixed. Some constituents criticized Rep. Prince Aquency Toles, questioning his knowledge of the National Budget and alleging misconduct. “How can a representative, who flaunts wealth like an iPhone 16 Pro Max, effectively perform his oversight responsibilities when his mindset appears focused on looting from the people he represents?” commented Amara M. Kamara. Others, however, criticized Rep. Foko, claiming he has done little to improve his district. “All your talk, yet nothing tangible has been done in your constituency,” said Abraham Tambah Nulah. Despite the differing opinions, some members of the public viewed the confrontation between the two lawmakers as a necessary step toward ensuring accountability.

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Liberian Journalist Urges UN to Safeguard

public data. This must change if Liberia is to build a culture of transparency,” he emphasized. A third area highlighted was press freedom and the safety of journalists. Joe pointed to a pattern of harassment, intimidation, and criminal prosecution of media workers in Liberia. “Journalists should not be treated as criminals for doing their job,” Joe stressed. “Ending harassment and politically motivated prosecutions is critical to ensuring that Liberia remains a democracy where dissenting voices are respected.” He told the UN session that while progress has been made since the adoption of the Kamara Abdullah Kamara (KAK) Act of Press Freedom in 2019, which decriminalized certain speech offenses, the reality is that many reporters and activists remain vulnerable to surveillance and

intimidation. “Real change will require more than new laws. It demands political will and a sustained commitment to protect citizens’ rights both online and offline,” he noted. On the sidelines of the pre-sessions, Joe has been engaging in bilateral meetings with representatives of UN permanent missions in Geneva, including Belgium, Japan, and others, to help build support for the recommendations. He also expressed gratitude to the UK-based Small Media Foundation, which sponsored his trip to Geneva. He thanked the foundation for supporting and covering all costs of his travel, including technical assistance, and for its longstanding partnership in advancing media freedom and digital rights in Liberia.

"Complete act of national carelessness"

By Lincoln G. Peters renowned Liberian human rights lawyer and lone opposition political leader present at Liberia's 178th Flag Day Celebration has blasted President Joseph N. Boakai, Vice President Jeremiah K. Koung, and the leadership of the National Legislature and key government officials who failed to honor and attend the National Flag Day Celebration, describing their action as a complete act of national carelessness. In a quiet and low-key observance, Liberia celebrated its 178th National Flag Day at the Centennial Memorial Pavilion in Monrovia. The annual event, held under the theme “The Flag We Raise, The Values We Uphold,” honored the enduring symbolism of the Lone Star (flag of Liberia) and reflected on the country’s legacy of independence and unity. Despite the historic significance of the day, President Joseph N. Boakai, Vice President Jeremiah K. Koung, Senate Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, House Speaker Richard N. Koon,

Vice President Jeremiah K. Koung, and the legislature is a complete national carelessness. "Now, the issues about key government officials, especially the President and Vice President, and the leadership of the National Legislature not being present at the 178th Flag Day Celebration, is a complete sense of national carelessness because it was troubling. I saw the Minister of Defense, Justice, Post and Telecommunications. But many others should have been here today because it's our Flag Day. It's good to show the children, especially the young people in high school, how seriously they take our national Flag. The President arrived in the country, accompanied by several officials from Japan, and this is the only national program scheduled for today. Why are they not here? " Cllr. Gongloe wondered. According to him, the government must provide proper justification for their absence, explaining why they were not present despite being in the country.



and majority of lawmakers were notably absent from the ceremony. The low turnout of top officials cast a shadow over the national celebration. Cllr. Gongloe was the only opposition leader and opinion stakeholder who was present in the hall from the beginning to the end of the program. Disappointingly, only three cabinet members attended the program: Minister of Post and Telecommunications Seku Kanneh; Minister Mamaka Bility of the Ministry of State; and Minister of Justice N. Oswald Tweh, who served as a proxy for President Joseph Nyuma Boakai. Nonetheless, the event proceeded with participation from members of the diplomatic corps, high school students, and a few senior officials. Cllr. Gongloe, responding in an exclusive interview with the New Dawn Newspaper following the ceremony, said that the absence of President Boakai,

"We have twelve Ministers who traveled with the President; they are also back in the Country with him, but they may choose to stay away." He added. Commenting on the War and Economics Crimes Court progress, Cllr. Gongloe's expression to the Office of the establishment of the War and Economics Crimes Court for the progress and work done so far. " Let us hope and pray that the government will show high commitment that will generate international sympathy and support for the establishment of the war and economic crimes Courts. Because it's the level of seriousness that the government demonstrates that will stimulate international sympathy and support, and so we can only pray and hope for that. We want the government to demonstrate that it's indeed committed to fighting impunity, which is the best way to strengthen our justice system. This is the best way to sustain peace.

Tension Escalates Between Montserrado Lawmakers Foko and Toles

By Kruah Thomson

The political rivalry between Montserrado County District #9 Representative Frank Saah Foko and District #8 Representative Prince Aquency Toles has intensified, with Rep. Foko

prompted their dispute, Rep. Foko posted on his social media handle an opinion piece titled: "NO TO LAZY BLUFF BOY POLITICS... A REBUTTAL TO ONE CORRUPT, INEPT, DULL BLUFF BOY, Rep. Prince Aquency Toles.

Speaker. "This deliberate denial of resources to our districts is truly criminal and unfortunate," he said.

Foko also criticized Toles for claiming to have spent over \$325,000 in District #8 from what he terms "so-called private investments." "What private investment? His printing press, which couldn't even pay taxes and was shut down? All of a sudden, this once broke man is now filthy rich. The answer is clear: conflict of interest and corruption," Foko charged.

The district #9 lawmaker added that Toles allegedly influenced government contracts from GSM companies and other ventures for his private printing press, undermining fair competition.

Foko cited Section 9.1 of the Liberian Code of Conduct, which prohibits public officials from using their office for personal gain or engaging in conflicts of interest.

In the Foko post, he alleged that the Legislative Fund is not \$37,000 as claimed by Toles, but \$50,000 as allocated in the National Budget. He further claimed that the government has refused to disburse these funds to the districts, depriving constituents while allegedly redirecting resources to UP lawmakers involved in moves to oust the

publicly accusing Rep. Toles of corruption and misappropriating funds intended for his district. Both lawmakers are members of the opposition, Foko from the CDC and Toles from the Unity Party (UP), representing adjacent districts in Montserrado County. While it's still unclear what



Rep. Toles



Rep. Foko

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