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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025	L\$200.0078/US\$1.00	L\$202.2306/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.

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VOL. 15 NO. 159 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 PRICE LD\$50.00



“No factual basis”

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-Cllr. Gongloe challenges corruption allegation

LPRC's Fee Cuts Trigger Full Legislative Investigation

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Continental News

Frustration as rebels kill scores in two attacks in eastern Congo

The death toll from two attacks on civilians in eastern Congo by an Islamic State-affiliated rebel group has risen to 89, Congolese authorities said.

Officials said late Tuesday that 71 people were killed at a funeral in Nyoto on Monday, and 18 others were killed in Beni in a separate attack on Tuesday. Both attacks took place in the North Kivu region of the country.

The attacks, carried out by the Allied Democratic Force, or

ADF, were the latest in a series of mass attacks on civilians in the troubled region.

The region is beset by a set of complex conflicts, including an increase in attacks by the ADF, which operates in the border region between Congo and Uganda.

The ADF pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group in 2019 and has carried out large-scale attacks on civilians in recent weeks. The Congolese and Ugandan militaries have been conducting a joint operation

against the group.

The government said in a statement that it has provided support to "the North Kivu Provincial Government in managing the humanitarian consequences of these terrorist acts."

"It remains resolutely committed to continuing military operations and the hunt for terrorists, which have already resulted in the neutralization of several of them, the destruction of several of their bases, and the release of civilian hostages," the statement said.

Onesphore Sematumba, a Congo analyst at Crisis Group International, said the military operation against the ADF has only scattered the group and attacks by smaller units have continued inside communities and forests.

"It has caused what I can call the phenomenon of kicking the anthill. This group has scattered in the area with all the anger possible, and they act in murderous groups," Sematumba said.



Eastern DRC Plunged into a New Spiral of Violence, at least 89 Civilians Killed by the ADF

African leaders push for climate investment at Ethiopia summit

African leaders and climate activists have called for a radical shift in global climate financing, urging the world to treat Africa not as a victim of climate change but as a strategic partner for investment.

Meeting at the second Africa Climate Summit in Addis Ababa on Monday, dozens of heads of state and government representatives underscored the urgency of mobilizing resources to fund adaptation and renewable energy projects across the continent.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed opened the summit with a call to replace "climate aid with climate investment," emphasizing that Africa's resilience and renewable energy potential offer immense opportunities. Ethiopia showcased its progress through projects like the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, set for inauguration on Tuesday, and its tree-planting campaign, which has already planted 48 billion seedlings over the past seven years.

African Union Commission Chairperson Mahamoud Ali Youssouf stressed the need for fairness in addressing the

climate crisis:

"The vulnerability of our member countries caused by climate change, debt burden and the structural inequalities of the international financial architecture must be redressed through climate justice. We need a genuine cooperation for the implementation of our continent's adaptation plan by providing financial resources, technology and expertise."

Kenyan President William Ruto echoed the urgency of unity, warning against isolationist approaches:

"The truth is undeniable. No nation can solve this crisis alone. Only through bold, united and

sustained collaboration can we avert climate catastrophe. Isolation is not a winning strategy, it is courting failure."

The summit comes against the backdrop of worsening climate disasters in Africa—droughts, floods, and food insecurity—that have hit vulnerable communities hardest. While African nations pledged ambitious renewable energy targets during last year's climate summit, implementation has lagged due to limited financing.

Civil society voices pressed leaders to ensure accountability and push innovative funding mechanisms. Amos Wemanya, a climate justice activist with



Flooding in Niger displaces tens of thousands and leaves at least 47 dead

Officials in Niger said Wednesday that at least 47 people have been killed and over 56,000 others displaced by flooding triggered by recent heavy rains.

The General Directorate of Civil Protection said the floods have affected 7,754 households in 339 neighbourhoods and villages.

"Some 30 people died after their houses collapsed, while 17 drowned. In

heads of cattle have died.

The national committee in charge of flood prevention said it has begun distributing food aid to nearly 4,000 families.

Meanwhile, the government has set aside \$21.3 million to help those affected by the flooding.

With the impact of climate change increasing globally, flooding has become one of the most frequent and destructive natural disasters.

Africa faces a disproportionate burden from climate change, experiencing deadly



addition, the floods injured 70 people," it said in a statement.

In addition to homes and infrastructure destroyed, officials said close to 300

heatwaves, heavy rains, floods, tropical cyclones, and prolonged droughts.

In 2024, heavy rains impacted nearly 1.5 million Nigeriens in the country's eight regions.

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Greenpeace Africa, argued that the solution lies in holding major polluters responsible:

"This Addis 2nd Climate Summit must be able to find mechanisms for funding Africa's climate action and development. We need to make the polluters who have caused us this climate catastrophe to pay for it. We need to tax the polluters. We need to tax the super rich to be able to generate the resources and make them pay for the climate plunder that they are causing the continent."

Environmental activist Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim cautioned against "too much talk and not

enough action," calling for African-led solutions that put communities at the center of adaptation strategies.

Delegates are expected to finalize a declaration this week capturing Africa's priorities, which will be presented at COP30 in November. COP30 President Ambassador André Corrêa do Lago attended the summit and expressed solidarity with Africa's vision.

Prime Minister Ahmed summed up Africa's message to the world: "We ask our global partners not to fund us because we are impacted, but to invest with us because we are visionary."

EDITORIAL

Lack of responsible leadership in Liberia is dangerous!

Posture exhibited by the just ended leadership of the Liberian Judiciary under former Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh and the Executive, headed by President Joseph in boycotting each other does not demonstrate responsible leadership. This is not the kind of leadership Liberia deserve.

Former Chief Justice Yuoh had boycotted President Boakai's 2nd Annual Message delivered before the 55th Legislature in January this year under the gavel of then disputed Speaker Richard Nagbe Koon, without any official explanation. Justice Yuoh and the entire Supreme Court bench were conspicuously absent during the President's address with their seats visibly empty.

Now, in what is clearly seen as a payback, President Boakai and his entire Cabinet along with the leadership of the 55th Legislature, including Speaker Richard Koon and Senate Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence boycotted Justice Youh's retirement program. What a play!

This is very irresponsible and does not send a positive image of our national leadership style. In other words, this is not sending any right example for our youthful population. It is disappointing that the Boakai Administration or the Executive and the Legislature would embark on the crab mentality by pulling one another down.

Although Justice Yuoh has exited government, but we pray that there would not be a repeat of such posture in our national leadership that will see one branch of government pulling down or disrespecting another branch, particularly in public glare.

The Supreme Court of Liberia under the Ex-chief Justice had termed actions taken by the then majority bloc led Speaker Koon during the leadership crisis in the House of Representatives over the speakership as “ultra vires”, instructing both sides to return to status quo ante, meaning preexisting state of affairs in law.

We believe it was under such condition that the Supreme Court bench, under Justice Yuoh, boycotted the Legislature, sitting in joint session during the President's Annual Message, presided over by Speaker Koon from majority bloc whose leadership it had deemed illegal. Granted that the former Chief Justice was not in the country, but that should have been communicated, both to the Executive and the Legislature, rather than the manner in which the situation played out.

More regrettably, we saw the two affected branches of government repeating the same attitude at the exit ceremony of retired Justice Youh over the weekend, when they conspicuously stayed away. This does not indicate maturity of our national leadership and should stop.

Politics aside, we believe the onus on President Joseph Boakai, as father and grandfather of the nation, to work with or relate with all three branches of government irrespective of who heads a branch at a particular time. This does not mean there wouldn't disagreements from time to time, but such divergence of views should not play out negatively, as it happened at the departure of Justice Youh last week.

COMMENTARY

by Akinwumi A. Adesina,
Ilan Goldfajn

Fighting Poverty Must Not Stop

ABJDAN/WASHINGTON, DC – Faced with a slowing global economy and rising debts, many developing-country governments may be tempted to scale back anti-poverty programs. That would be a grave mistake. Combating poverty is not just a moral imperative; it is also crucial for economic stability, conflict prevention, and long-term development. Recent research supports the economic case for reducing poverty, showing that a ten-percentage-point decrease in poverty rates can raise per capita growth by up to 1.2% annually. For countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Paraguay, that would mean an increase of 25% or more in annual per capita growth. Moreover, the experience of countries across Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean demonstrates that meaningful poverty reduction can be achieved even under severe budget constraints. To this end, governments must focus on three key areas.

The first is energy. Expanding access to affordable electricity is essential for manufacturing and agriculture, and thus for the sustainable growth required to reduce poverty. A major step forward in this regard is Mission 300, a groundbreaking initiative led by the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB) that aims to provide electricity to 300 million Africans by 2030.

The second priority is investing in human capital. Studies have consistently shown that investments in early childhood programs, quality education, and accessible health care generate high returns. In Jamaica, for example, early interventions increased mid-career incomes by 37%, according to a 2021 study. Similarly, a 2024 World Food Program study found that school nutrition programs can produce up to \$9 in cross-sector benefits for every dollar of investment. Notably, Kenya's Home-Grown School Feeding Program, which links education, nutrition, and local agriculture, has boosted school attendance, improved health outcomes, and enhanced students' long-term earnings potential.

Lastly, investing in large-scale cross-border infrastructure can accelerate economic integration, create job opportunities, and sharply reduce poverty. The \$15.6 billion Abidjan-Lagos Super-Corridor, which connects five West African countries with a combined population of 330 million, will cover 75% of the volume of West Africa by 2030. Similar projects include a proposed \$531 million corridor linking the DRC, the Central African Republic, and Chad, and the \$576 million AfDB-funded Nacala Road Corridor, which is already benefiting more than two million people in Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique.

While these strategies are cost-effective, scaling them up requires increased financing at a time when public budgets around the world are under growing strain. A hybrid capital instrument based on the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs, the IMF's reserve asset), developed by the AfDB and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), offers a promising solution.

In 2024, the IMF allowed countries to use this innovative financial tool to reallocate their existing SDRs voluntarily to developing countries through the AfDB and the IDB, whose triple-A credit ratings and proven track records uniquely enable them to maximize the impact of these additional resources. The impact can be transformative, because each dollar equivalent of SDRs the AfDB and the IDB receives counts as quasi-equity, enabling them to multiply its value by 3-8 times, according to our estimates. So, by leveraging SDRs, we could deploy low-interest loans, guarantees, and blended-finance instruments that attract private investment in infrastructure, greentech, and agriculture.

In Latin America, the IDB estimates that channeling \$1 billion in SDRs could unlock \$7-8 billion in development funds – enough to provide school meals to ten million children, health-care services to 1.3 million women and children, and direct cash transfers to four million households for a year – advancing efforts to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030.

In line with this approach, the IDB has already joined the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, committing up to \$25 billion to support policies and government-led anti-poverty and food-security initiatives that leverage innovative tools such as reallocated SDRs.

Even modest SDR reallocations could deliver outsize returns, especially in Africa. Redirecting just \$1.5 billion in SDRs to the AfDB could generate \$10 billion in development financing. If invested in agriculture, these resources could double the productivity of 16 million farmers, increase food production by 40 million tons, and lift 80 million people out of poverty by 2030, according to AfDB estimates.

An additional \$4.5 billion could be directed toward regional infrastructure, including the 1,300-kilometer (807-mile) Lobito Corridor. This EU-backed project to modernize the railway linking Angola to landlocked, mineral-rich regions in Zambia and the DRC will cut shipping times between the Atlantic and Asia by at least 10 days, unlocking billions of dollars in copper and cobalt exports and supporting infrastructure investment.

With sufficient political will and international cooperation, SDRs could become a powerful tool for multilateral development banks to expand development finance. By lending just a fraction of their SDRs through the innovative model pioneered by the AfDB and the IDB, countries can facilitate transformative investments while preserving the value of their international reserves and enabling participating central banks to deliver higher returns.

The fight against poverty must remain a high global priority. Through well-deigned investments and innovative financing, developing countries can weather economic slowdowns, raise living standards, and lay the foundation for a more stable and prosperous future for all.

OP-ED

by Camila Villard Duran

The US Tightens the Dollar's Death Grip on Brazilian Democracy

ANGERS – In a letter to Brazil's largest banks, the US Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has demanded to know what steps they were taking to comply with the sanctions recently imposed on Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act. President Donald Trump's administration was delivering an unmistakable message: America calls the shots, and others must fall in line.

The decision to add Moraes to the US list of “Specially Designated Nationals” is unprecedented, given that he is neither an oligarch accused of corruption nor a human-rights abuser. Instead, Moraes has been targeted for overseeing criminal cases related to the January 8, 2023, insurrection in Brasilia, when supporters of then-President Jair Bolsonaro stormed the National Congress, the Supreme Court, and the presidential palace in a bid to overturn his election defeat.

While this may look like a technical compliance issue, Trump's actions are an assault on the independence of Brazil's judiciary. Sanctioning Moraes does more than restrict his personal finances; it indirectly pressures the institutions he represents. It also forces Brazilian banks to choose between upholding domestic court rulings – thereby incurring severe US penalties – and preserving access to global markets. Either choice risks undermining their legitimacy at home and abroad.

The OFAC letter also underscores the fragility of economic sovereignty. While the Magnitsky Act is formally a US statute, the dollar's role as the world's leading reserve currency extends its reach far beyond America's borders.

Brazilian banks, like their counterparts around the world, rely on US banks to clear dollar transactions, and many maintain subsidiaries in New York and other major financial centers. Whether you want to export soybeans to Asia or issue bonds on Wall Street, the financial infrastructure you depend on is American. And this dependency means that disregarding OFAC is not an act of defiance but a step toward financial exile, if not outright ruin.

This is the paradox of sovereignty. Legally, Brazil's courts can rule that US sanctions do not apply domestically, since under both constitutional and international law, foreign measures must be formally enacted to take effect. But economically, compliance is unavoidable, given that its trade and financial systems depend on dollar-based infrastructure beyond its control. In practice, monetary sovereignty ends at the edge of the dollar system.

The irony is striking. The United States once wielded the Magnitsky Act to confront authoritarian abuses abroad, most notably by sanctioning Russian officials implicated in the 2009 murder of tax adviser and whistleblower Sergei Magnitsky. Today, it is using the same law to intimidate a judge seeking to defend Brazil's democratic order. By weaponizing foreign-policy tools to influence domestic legal processes, the Trump administration has effectively reduced Brazil's sovereignty to a test of obedience.

Brazilian policymakers are in a difficult position. Routing Moraes's personal financial transactions through domestic cooperatives is, at best, a temporary fix that does nothing to resolve the underlying issue. And longer-term alternatives, such as global payment systems built on blockchain technology, remain far from viable.

With Brazil still caught in the dollar's gravitational pull, the current crisis underscores the urgency of investing in alternatives to the dollar-based system. As I argued in a recent policy paper, new technologies and platforms – from blockchain-based networks to instant cross-border payments – could make settlements more efficient and potentially challenge the dollar's dominance.

For now, though, these initiatives are no more than fragmented pilot projects confined to “coalitions of the willing,” often excluding the developing economies that are most dependent on the dollar. Moreover, even the most advanced multi-currency platforms still revert to the dollar or the euro when local currencies lack sufficient liquidity, reproducing the very hierarchy they claim to challenge.

That said, these monetary innovations offer a glimpse of a future in which multilateral infrastructures are no longer controlled by a single government or private organizations operating under one country's jurisdiction. But realizing such a future will require extraordinary diplomatic and technical cooperation, along with new governance frameworks. Until then, the dollar's extraterritorial power will remain unmatched.

In that sense, the OFAC letter is more than a message to Brazilian banks; it is a reminder to all countries of the extraordinary power the US exerts through its control of the world's financial infrastructure. To counter it, they must work together to develop credible alternatives, such as central bank digital currencies, interoperable instant-payment networks, and broader multilateral arrangements. Otherwise, their monetary sovereignty and political autonomy will be left at the mercy of American policymakers.

OPINION

by Daniel Gros

Global Trade Is Winning Trump's War On It

BRUSSELS – Nearly six months after US President Donald Trump announced his ultra-high “reciprocal” tariffs – in blatant defiance of World Trade Organization rules – the global trading system is holding up well. No other major economy has followed Trump's example, and according to United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD), world trade has increased by about \$300 billion in the first half of 2025.

Most of the world seems to understand that Trump's tariffs are economically irrational. Of course, in many cases, economics is not the point: Trump uses tariffs to advance geopolitical goals or to salve his personal grievances. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the 50% tariff imposed on Brazil as punishment for prosecuting former President Jair Bolsonaro for inciting a Trump-inspired coup attempt in 2023, following his electoral loss.

But Trump has always held that tariffs are the key to improving the United States' trade balance, which is why his “reciprocal” tariffs are purported to reflect the size of America's deficit with each economy. Economists, by and large, dispute these claims, warning that tariffs will only reduce America's overall trade volume, both exports and imports. And, so far, their admonitions have been borne out.

The very short-run data now available are difficult to interpret, because imports surged early in the year in anticipation of the tariffs. But if Trump was right about the impact of tariffs, this “hump” should by now have been offset by lower imports, as traders draw down inventories. Instead, US imports in the first half of 2025 exceeded their 2024 level. America's monthly merchandise-trade deficit stood at \$103 billion in July – almost exactly the same level as one year earlier. And the cumulative US trade deficit has widened: during the first half of this year, it was about \$160 billion larger than it was in the first half of 2024.

There are two obvious reasons why US import demand has withstood Trump's tariffs: the US economy continues to perform strongly, and tariff rates have, on average, remained well below those Trump announced in April. In fact, Trump “paused” those tariffs almost immediately, in what turned out to be just the beginning of a bewildering succession of tariff threats, reversals, announcements, suspensions, and vague “deals” – such as with Japan and the United Kingdom – involving 10-15% US tariffs, alongside conditions relating to investment and energy.

Given the relentless changes to the tariff schedule, it is difficult to obtain a clear picture of where US trade policy stands. After all, the WTO's Harmonized System for goods classification has about 15,000 tariff lines, and each of America's more-than-150 trading partners may face different tariff rates at any given time, meaning that there could be more than two million different fluctuating tariff rates to consider. Determining the average tariff rate – which would also have to account for bilateral imports (another two million pieces of information) – is thus not a simple task. But even if one carries out this calculation, it might not reflect the “real” tariff rate, because the extent to which official rates are being applied at the border is currently unclear.

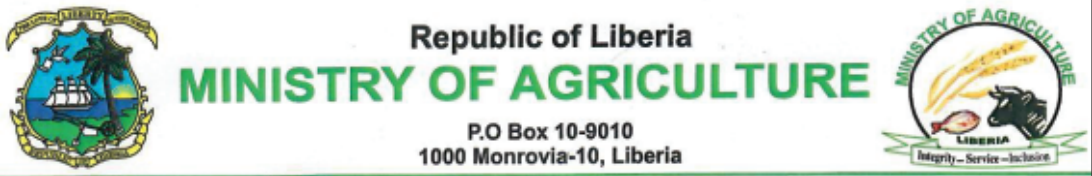
Fortunately, there is a simple way to determine how restrictive Trump's trade policy actually is, despite any discrepancy between announcement and enforcement: divide tariff revenues by imports. The resulting ratio represents the average effective tariff being applied. And, in the case of the US today, this rate is much lower than White House pronouncements would suggest.

According to US International Trade Commission data, the US collected \$28 billion in tariff revenue in July, equivalent to 10% of its imports (\$283 billion). This is up eight percentage points from the January level – an increase that, while unprecedented, is too small to have a strong immediate impact on trade flows. Since May, the US has collected tariffs of just 9-10%, on average, from its trading partners, owing partly to the fact that about half of all US imports still enter duty-free. The fact that tariff increases have, in practice, remained relatively contained explains why their impact on US inflation has so far been muted.

There are large disparities in the tariff rates faced by different US trading partners. Whereas most imports from China have been subjected to duties of over 50% – for an average tariff rate of 40% – less than 10% of Canada's imports are subject to tariffs at all. The European Union falls somewhere in between, with 60% of its exports subject to tariffs, usually in the 15% range (except cars, on which Trump has imposed a 25% tariff), resulting in an average tariff below 10%. These figures belie reports that Trump has “gone soft” on China, while treating US allies more harshly.

The framework trade agreement that the EU recently agreed with the Trump administration is further evidence of US allies' enduring relative advantages. Though many have criticized the EU for its supposed capitulation to Trump, the agreement would put the tariff rates on European imports well below those faced by China, and even slightly below those faced by America's Asian allies, such as Japan and South Korea. Only Canada and Mexico are in a significantly better position than the EU, because the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement de facto remains largely intact (though neither economy can compete with an export giant like the EU).

When it comes to tariffs, Trump's bark has so far proven worse than his bite. While current US trade policy will have a moderate impact on the country's trade flows, it will not transform the global trading system – as long as the rest of the world continues to eschew Trump's example and remains committed to open trade.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BACKGROUND:

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the development and modernization of the agricultural sector. It fulfills this mandate by establishing an effective organizational structure staffed with qualified personnel capable of planning, coordinating and implementing activities within agricultural development programs. The Ministry also ensures that both staff and farmers are adequately trained to address the evolving challenges facing the sector.

Furthermore, the Ministry actively identifies and addresses the key challenges that hinder agricultural production by developing lasting, practical solutions and ensuring farmers are supported through access to services and enabling environment for increased productivity.

VACANCY DETAILS:

The Ministry of Agriculture, through the Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P), is seeking qualified applicants for immediate employment in the following positions:

NO	POSITION	NUMBER OF POSITION NEEDED
1	PROJECT COORDINATOR	1
2	FINANCE OFFICER	1
3	AGROECOLOGY SPECIALIST	1

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

All applications must include: An Application Letter, Curriculum Vitae (CV), Names and contact information of three (3) confidential referees, Copies of academic certificates/diplomas and cover letter (maximum 250 words) specific to the position applied for

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

The deadlines for the submission of applications are as follows: Project Coordinator – September 15, 2025; Agroecology Specialist – September 18, 2025; and Finance Officer – September 22, 2025. Applications may be submitted via email to amnagou@moa.gov.lr and dwilliams@moa.gov.lr, or in hard copy to the Human Resources Division, Ministry of Agriculture. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted, and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

TERMS OF REFERENCE: PROJECT COORDINATOR

Key duties and major functional responsibilities:

The Project Coordinator will take overall management of the project, and will specifically:

- Prepare and update project annual and quarterly work plans and submit these to the Minister or his/her designated official (for Steering Committee decision) and IFAD Representative for agreement and approval;
- Develop and refine implementation approaches (PIM) and tools when needed in close collaboration with the Steering committee and IFAD
- Prepare and participate in quarterly work planning and progress reporting meetings with the Minister or his/her designated official and IFAD;
- Organise the implementation, supervision, Mid-term reviews missions as well as close the program
- Foster capacity building, partnership, and policy development
- Draft TORs for key inputs (i.e. personnel, sub-contracts, training, and procurement) and submit these to the IFAD for clearance and approval and administer the mobilization of such inputs;
- Provide technical advice to project partners, review technical reports and monitor technical activities carried out by responsible parties;
- Ensure that all agreements with implementing agencies are prepared, negotiated and agreed upon;
- With respect to co-implementing partners and external project implementing agencies/subcontractors:
 - ensure that these agencies mobilize and deliver the outputs in accordance with their letters of agreement or contracts, and
 - provide overall supervision and/or coordination of their work to ensure the execution of the expected outputs;
- Assume oversight responsibility for managing the project budget by ensuring that:
 - project funds are disbursed properly;
 - expenditure is in accordance with the project document and project work plans;
 - accounting records and supporting documents are properly kept and financial reports are prepared; and
 - financial operations procedures/regulations are transparent and properly applied;
- Assume oversight responsibility in the implementation of the project’s M&E system and use of data generated therein.
- Supervise STAR-P PIU staff including local or international short-term consultants working for the project
- Facilitate meetings of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and prepare and circulate reports of the same;
- Ensure the timely submission of work plans, reports, outputs and other deliverables to the Minister or his/her designated official and IFAD for review and evaluation, as appropriate;
- Work closely with IFAD during project implementation support, mid-term review, supervision and completion missions;
- Participate and present project updates during IFAD and/or Ministry of Finance and Development Country Portfolio Reviews;
- Regularly report to and keep the Minister or his/her designated official and IFAD Country Representative up-to-date on project progress and implementation issues;
- Manage all IFAD fund through the STAR Project and facilitate synergies with other IFAD projects implemented in Liberia, especially the ILSA Supplementary Grant, to strengthen innovation and adaptation of relevant technologies to STAR-P;
- Take full responsibility for procurement of goods, services and works and approve contracts for all transactions after obtaining the necessary No Objections;

- Supervision of financial control, routine and timely submission of quarterly accounts and financial statements;
- Ensure that the Programme is annually audited by the General Auditing Commission of Liberia (the Supreme Audit Institution for the country) and the report submitted timely to IFAD, MoF, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to meet the statutory deadline as enshrined the Financing Agreement;
- Ensure that the Programme is annually audited by the Internal Audit Unit of Ministry of Agriculture and the report shared with IFAD, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and other stakeholders;
- Promote knowledge sharing and learning within the programme and with other partners;
- Coordinate and supervise functions and activities of the PIU Technical Officers, Support Staff and regularly appraise them on job performance; as well as ensure that work disciplines and ethics by staff are adhered to; and ensure the efficient use of Programme resources at PIU; and
- Carry out any other activities related to the successful implementation of the Project that are assigned by the Minister or his/her designated official.

Key Qualifications

At least a university degree, preferably at the master’s level, in agribusiness, business, agriculture or related field.

Experience

- At least 7 years’ experience in agriculture-food systems and/or agribusiness project management, planning, and implementation.
- At least 5 years’ experience in institutional support and managing projects/programs with multi-sectoral approaches for promoting competitive commercial value chains
- Relevant experience working with government, donors, INGOs, and/or UN agencies in agri-food systems is an advantage
- Substantive experience working with and/or in the private sector is an asset
- Excellent technical skills in planning, implementing, and reporting on value chain project/program development.

Key Competencies

- Demonstrate ability to plan, coordinate, and monitor work plan;
- Demonstrate ability to meet deadlines, manage multiple competing priorities, and work under pressure.
- Self-motivated professional with the ability to work under minimal supervision;
- Proven analytical skills and ability to interpret and communicate complex information to diverse stakeholders.
- Teamwork and strong soft skills, including interpersonal, ethical, listening, and communication skills, proactive, problem-solving, self-organizing, planning, organizing, setting priorities, and efficient use of time.
- Excellent communication, facilitation, and interpersonal skills, with the ability to work effectively in multicultural and multidisciplinary teams.
- Strong networking skills, particularly with the private sector, including national and foreign investors;
- Proficiency in relevant computer applications, including MS Office suite;
- Proficiency in the English language with excellent written and presentational skills.

TERMS OF REFERENCE: FINANCE OFFICER

Under the direct supervision of the Project Coordinator, and within the framework of the grant agreement the Finance Officer will be responsible for the financial and administrative management of the project, including the maintenance of appropriate accounting and reporting systems and ensuring efficient management of projects resources. Specific duties include:agro

- Implement appropriate financial management systems and tools for the project, strictly in line with the Financing Agreement, the FMFCL and the Project Implementation Manual;
- Implement internal controls aligned to the PIM and to best practices, as regards asset management, controls for vehicles and fuel, payment approval processes, accounting and financial accounting;
- In close liaison with the Project Coordinator, supervise the preparation of the Annual Work Plan and Budget, including consolidation of the inputs by all parties for submission and presentation to the national steering committee and IFAD.
- Lead the quarterly budget variance analysis, follow-up and cash flow forecast processes in coordination with the M & E, Procurement and Component managers,
- Prepare and monitor project budgets.¹ [EC 2023 ILSA Agreement](#)
- Prepare and/or verify all withdrawal applications for submission to IFAD and ensure the availability of funds for all planned activities. Follow-up and reconcile initial advance and grant account;
- Manage the project bank account, approve, co-sign all payments and validate all monthly bank reconciliations
- Prepare on a timely basis the necessary financial reports and statements (Interim Financial Reports and Annual financial statements) as well as input for the required project reports (Quarterly Progress Reports, Mid-Term review and Project Completion reports), and any other reports that would be required by the national steering committee and/or project management.
- Ensure the timely recording of Government and beneficiary Counterpart funds, whether in-kind or in cash;
- Maintain detailed asset register for all goods, equipment and circulating resources (vehicles, motorbikes, etc.) acquired by the project, including those acquired by service providers contracted by the project;
- Prepare financial statements in accordance with international accounting standards;
- Prepare balance sheets and periodic financial reports and submit them for approval;
- Coordinate the process of contracting an external audit firm to conduct an independent audit of the annual project account, ensuring that annual audits are carried out and audit reports issued within the specified timeframe.
- Develop and maintain a system of financial control over all expenditures incurred by the implementing partner(s).
- Supervise and coordinate the work of staff placed under his/her authority.
- Ensure that staff appraisal procedures are properly implemented.
- Assist in providing coordination between various project components to ensure achievement of overall project objectives.
- Prepare and coordinate all donors and audit missions.
- Develop action plans to follow up recommendations of donors and audit missions and ensure they are implemented.
- Carry out any other activities assigned by the Project Coordinator.

Education:

- Bachelor’s degree in accounting or finance, Masters’ degree is an added advantage
- Professional qualification (ACCA/CA) is an advantage
- Demonstrate knowledge of IPSAS, IAS, internal control systems

Work experience and skills:

- The Finance Officer will be a professional accountant in good standing with experience in auditing and not less than 5 years’ experience in financial management, including two (2) years in a supervisory position;
- Experience in IFAD or donor funded projects and public sector is preferred;
- Demonstrated ability to use automated accounting system. Mastery of Tompro is a plus);
- Must have good knowledge of financial management policies and procedures of the GoL, multilateral financial institutions and development cooperation agencies; as well as good knowledge of the institutional, technical, and commercial aspects of financial management;
- Computer proficiency in standard office applications (Excel, word processing, Internet Explorer),
- Excellent communication, interpersonal and other soft skills, such as, team working, attention to details and time management skills are very essential
- Fluency in English

TERMS OF REFERENCE: AGROECOLOGY SPECIALIST

Under the direct supervision of the STAR-P Project Coordinator, the Agroecology Specialist will be a key staff to ensure the efficient technical implementation of the ILSA intervention.

More specifically, he will lead the implementation of all agroecological related activities under the project. Main responsibilities will include:

1. Plan and implement the establishment of model farms that demonstrate key agroecological practices such as intercropping, integrated pest management, crop rotation, and the use of cover crops to improve soil health and productivity
2. Organize and coordinate the training of farmers and lead trainers on agroecological principles, also through developing training materials that address local agroecological challenges
3. Ensure knowledge sharing among farmers, through a training-of-trainers approach
4. Coach, plan, and implement capacity development training sessions for the project staff
5. Document best practices and success stories based on beneficiaries’ feedback and own observations from the field related to animal production and contribute to the preparation of periodic reports
6. Support the preparation of the project Annual Work Plan and Budget, providing inputs on all agroecological activities
7. Work closely with the Project Agronomist, M&E and KM officers, to ensure proper reporting on information related to project activities and the documentation of best

practices and success stories based on beneficiaries’ feedback and own observations from the field

8. Support the Project Coordinator in coordinating the activities performed by project’ implementing partners
9. Work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders to promote agroecological innovations and support the co-creation of knowledge at the model farms.

Qualification and Experience

- University degree (Master’s Degree or equivalent) in agronomy or soil science;
- A minimum of 8 years’ experience in the agronomy sector, of which at least 5 in agroecology or soil science;
- Proven knowledge of latest agroecological practices and their application in the Liberia context, and willingness to introduce innovations;
- Relevant experience in project implementation, planning, monitoring, and reporting;
- Teamwork and strong soft skills including interpersonal, ethical, and communication skills are essential;
- Proactivity, problem-solving, self-organizing, planning, and efficient time management;
- Working knowledge of English language.

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Sirleaf urges African States to ratify AU Women's Protection Convention

Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has called on African governments to urgently ratify, domesticate, and enforce the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAWG), warning that the treaty's promise will remain unfulfilled without full implementation.

By Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, September 11, 2025: Speaking Wednesday at the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Positive Masculinity Workshop at the Ministerial Complex in Monrovia, Sirleaf welcomed the AU's adoption of the convention but stressed that progress will only be measured when member states translate it into enforceable national laws.

“The convention was adopted for the protection of women, but it must be signed, domesticated, and legitimized in every country's laws,” she said. “We cannot allow it to remain only on paper.”

The AU-CEVAWG, adopted in February 2025 during the 38th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly, is the continent's first treaty to directly address all forms of violence against women and girls, including physical, sexual, psychological, economic, and digital abuse. It also tackles harmful practices like female genital mutilation, child marriage, sexual violence in conflict, and harassment in public

continue to face inequality and violence. She urged men to shift their perceptions of women's roles, stating that women should lead based on merit, not tokenism.

“Liberia has had one woman president. Perhaps after another hundred years, there will be another form of tokenism. We must create conditions where women can lead by qualification, by effort, and by performance,” she said.

Sirleaf highlighted AWLN's strategy of engaging male leaders to champion gender equality, noting that chapters are being established across Africa to foster dialogue on leadership, education, and protection issues. She expressed hope that Liberia would lead in breaking cycles of inequality and violence.

On the occasion, A panel discussion at the workshop was held to explore the link between positive masculinity, strength, and violence against women and girls. Panelists included Comfort Lamptey, UN Country Coordinator; the Justice Minister;



and private spaces. Building on the 2003 Maputo Protocol, the convention introduces binding obligations on prevention, access to justice, victim support, digital safety, and promoting positive masculinity. Sirleaf emphasized that without domestic implementation, the treaty's objectives will not be realized.

She recalled her involvement in the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women and other UN initiatives promoting women's rights, noting that despite progress, women across Africa

the Director of the Civil Service Agency; district 4 Grand Bassa County representative Thomas Alexander Gosua; and the Assistant Minister of Internal Affairs, among others.

Meanwhile, the program was attended by Cabinet members, the Diplomatic and Consular Corps, UN Women, civil society organizations, AWLN Liberia members, and journalists.

Guinean envoy calls on NEC

MONROVIA – 10 September 2025 –Guinean Ambassador Aboubacar Sylla paid a courtesy call to the Headquarters of the National Elections Commission, NEC Liberia, in furtherance of a request made to the Commission for Electoral Support. NEC Liberia, in a statement following the meeting, said the Guinean request covers 10 ballot boxes and 10 voting booths, which will be used to facilitate a constitutional referendum scheduled for September 21, 2025, for members of the Guinean community residing in Liberia. The discussions were held between the Guinean Diplomat and the Chairperson of NEC, Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah.

Ambassador Sylla was accompanied to the NEC Headquarters on Wednesday, 10 September 2025, by Mr. Aboubacar Touré, Advisor in Charge of Economic Affairs at the Guinean Embassy. In a Note Verbale dated 9 September 2025 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Sylla explained that the electoral materials will enable Guinean citizens in Liberia to participate in the referendum and express their views on the draft constitution developed by the National Transition Council of Guinea. The Ambassador further conveyed his government's appreciation for Liberia's support, through NEC, in ensuring the smooth conduct of Guinea's upcoming referendum. - Press release

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Women's Caucus, partners launch \$1 Million Project

-To Promote Women's Leadership in Liberia

By Kruah Thompson

The Women's Legislative Caucus of Liberia (WLCL), with support from India, Brazil, and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund) and coordinated by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, has launched a USD 1 million project to strengthen women's leadership and governance across eight counties.

The project, titled "Women Legislators in Liberia: Promoting Voice, Leadership, and Gender Responsive Governance," was signed on September 9, 2025, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It will run for 18 months (2025–2027) in Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Margibi, and Montserrado counties.

The initiative aims to build the capacity of WLCL members, legislative committees, and staff in gender-responsive lawmaking, oversight, budgeting, and constituency outreach. It will also provide technical support for drafting bills, briefs, and hearing notes, and run three South-South exchange cycles with peers from India and South Africa.

The project will shift the narrative on women's political participation through community engagement, media partnerships, policy briefs, and collaboration with civil society. Integrated interventions will

include adult literacy, digital and financial skills, entrepreneurship, and value chains in agriculture. Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and women's cooperatives will be strengthened, and a legislative internship program will place young women with WLCL members and committees.

Senator Dabah Varpilah of Grand Cape Mount County highlighted the persistent barriers to women's leadership, including restrictive social norms, high campaign costs, safety risks, and limited access to networks, skills, and financial resources. Gender analysis, she noted, is not consistently applied in lawmaking or budgeting, making the project a timely intervention.

UN Women Liberia Representative Comfort Lamptey praised the initiative, saying: "We recognize and commend the Women's Legislative Caucus for your vision and leadership. Women's parliamentary caucuses around the world have proven to

be engines of change. Liberia is no exception. Yet women remain underrepresented in leadership, holding only about 11 percent of legislative positions and 35 percent at ministerial levels. Too many women still lack economic opportunities, and violence continues to deny women and girls their rights. This project is a tool for transformation. Strengthening the Caucus, extending its reach into communities, and ensuring advocacy is reflected in laws, policies, and budgets."

She added that the continued support of the European Union, Sweden, Ireland, UNDP, and the IBSA Fund demonstrates a strong coalition for women's leadership and empowerment.

"UN Women is proud to walk with you in this journey. The true measure of success will be what Liberian women can point to in the years ahead: greater political participation, stronger protections from violence, and more economic opportunities," Lamptey said.



EU envoy flags regional security risk

"Mali and Burkina Faso's Choosing to Partner with Russia to Fight Terrorism is Not a Wise Choice," EU Representative for The Sahel Tells Liberian Media on Special Visit

By: Evelyn Kpadeh Seagbeh

MONROVIA – The European Union's Special Representative for the Sahel, Joao Gome Cravinho, has criticized Burkina Faso's recent alignment with Russia in its fight against terrorism, calling it "not a wise choice" while emphasizing that the EU still respects the country's sovereign decisions.

Speaking at a press conference with Liberian journalists in Monrovia during a special visit to Liberia, Cravinho explained that the EU has refrained from working directly with the military governments of Sahel countries, such as Burkina Faso, which has chosen to form military alliances with Russia. Still, it supports development, humanitarian assistance, and civilian-led security sector reforms.

"In Mali and to a lesser degree in Burkina Faso, they have chosen to partner with Russia in fighting against terrorism. We don't think this is a wise choice, but we respect it as a sovereign choice," João Cravinho stated. "As a result of that, we are not working directly with the military governments, the armed forces of these countries that have military governments."

Instead, the EU, according to Cravinho, has maintained a civilian security presence, including missions like EUCAP Sahel that works with the training of police, training of bodyguards, work with rule of law agencies, and enhancing the capacity of judges and that the EU support is only based on what those countries want and then for direct military contributions, the countries turn to Russian he told the media.

The EU Representative admitted that early assumptions by Sahelian military leaders that terrorism could be resolved purely through force were misplaced. "They have not been very successful because the situation got worse and not better militarily, but this is something that we must respect as a sovereign decision," he said.

He noted that while the EU will not cooperate with Russian-backed military operations, it is still committed to supporting development, humanitarian assistance, and civilian-led security sector reforms.

One such effort includes the EU's work on the Ouagadougou and

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Abidjan corridor, a vital trade and agricultural route for Burkina Faso. The EU has invested in supporting local economies and creating conditions for people to survive and thrive amid the growing insecurity in the region. Cravinho's visit to Liberia came amid rising public concerns over the influx of Burkinabé nationals into the country, many entering illegally amid ongoing terrorist violence in their homeland.

While Liberia is not geographically within the Sahel region, Cravinho emphasized that instability in the Sahel has direct implications for West African countries, including Liberia. "Migration from the Sahel into places like Liberia risks Liberia's peace and security," he warned. During engagements with the Liberian government institutions, civil society, other key stakeholders, and security officials, Cravinho said he listened to the Liberian perspective on the Sahel crisis and explored areas for potential collaboration between the EU and Liberia.

Key concerns raised during his visit included the porous nature of Liberia's borders, which national security actors described as "problematic." These border weaknesses, officials said, have contributed to rising levels of trafficking, including human trafficking and undocumented migration, especially from Sahelian states like Burkina Faso. Cravinho acknowledged that the influx of Burkinabé refugees has raised alarms among Liberians. "Many people are looking at the issue and asking: since there is so much terrorism in Burkina Faso, and you don't know exactly who

these people are; could they be terrorists coming across the borders?" he noted.

However, he clarified that there is no current evidence to support the claim that terrorist elements have crossed into Liberia with the wave of Burkinabé migrants. He attributed the migration to a combination of factors, including climate change, economic hardship, and growing insecurity in Burkina Faso.

Despite its current security challenges, Cravinho said Liberia remains a vital partner in the region. He emphasized that the EU is committed to supporting Liberia's peace and development through enhanced collaboration, including capacity building for border security, support for the judiciary, and promoting economic resilience.

"Our contribution can only be what the authorities of the country wish it to be," he said, underlining the EU's approach to respectful partnership rather than intervention.

The EU Special Representative's remarks come at a time when the Sahel is undergoing profound political and security transformations, with democratic institutions weakening and military regimes gaining ground. While partnerships with countries like Russia may offer short-term military support, the EU remains steadfast in its conviction that sustainable peace can only be achieved through civilian-led governance, socioeconomic development, and international cooperation.



Français

L'ancien président de la LTA réarrêté puis libéré sous caution de 290 000 dollars

L'ancien président de l'Autorité des télécommunications du Liberia (LTA), Abdullah Kamara, a de nouveau été arrêté mardi matin et brièvement détenu à la prison centrale de Monrovia, à la suite d'une nouvelle

inculpation émise par le gouvernement. M. Kamara a ensuite été remis en liberté sous caution, moyennant une garantie de comparution évaluée à 295

000 dollars US. Cette réinculpation intervient quelques jours seulement après que son entreprise, Tarmal, a été blanchie des premières accusations criminelles portées contre lui. L'affaire, conduite par la Commission libérienne de lutte contre la corruption (LACC),

Un dossier judiciaire complexe Il convient de rappeler que la Cour suprême avait récemment confirmé une décision d'un tribunal inférieur ordonnant l'abandon des charges de corruption contre M. Kamara, marquant ainsi un tournant important dans ce dossier sensible. Le week-end dernier, l'associée à la Cour suprême, la juge Jamesetta Howard Wolokollie, siégeant en qualité de juge en chambre, avait rejeté une requête des procureurs de l'État visant à obtenir un writ de certiorari. Celui-ci aurait permis à la Cour suprême de réexaminer la décision du juge Joe Barkon, de la Cour criminelle « C », qui avait annulé les charges le 1er août 2025.

Malgré ce revers, le ministère public a décidé de réinculper Kamara. Toutefois, la juge Wolokollie a indiqué ne pas avoir trouvé, pour l'instant, de fondement juridique suffisant pour modifier ou annuler la décision du juge Barkon. Le gouv

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Scandale à l'Université de Lofa : la population exige la suspension des responsables inculpés

La tension monte dans le comté de Lofa, où des citoyens préparent une vaste manifestation pour réclamer la suspension immédiate des hauts responsables de l'Université du comté de Lofa, récemment inculpés par la Commission libérienne de lutte contre la corruption (LACC).

L'acte d'accusation, rendu public le 2 septembre 2025 par le tribunal du dixième circuit judiciaire, fait suite aux conclusions du rapport trimestriel 2025 de la LACC. Parmi les personnes mises en cause figurent le président en exercice de l'université, le Dr Isaac P. Podah, ainsi que plusieurs hauts administrateurs.

Plus de 410 000 dollars américains et 13 millions LRD en cause L'enquête de la LACC révèle des cas présumés de mauvaise gestion financière portant sur plus de 410 000 dollars américains et 13,3 millions de dollars libériens. Les chefs d'accusation incluent : vol de biens, sabotage économique, détournement de fonds publics, conspiration criminelle, abus de fonction, ainsi que de multiples violations du Code pénal libérien, de la loi sur la gestion

des finances publiques et du Code de conduite des agents publics. Les personnes inculpées sont : Dr Isaac P. Podah, président de l'université Dr Samuel K. Ngamai, ancien président M. Catakaw, vice-président C. Crayton, assistant administratif Vamuyah Kanneh, responsable des finances Annie M. Flomo, coprésidente du Conseil d'administration Transactions douteuses et fonds détournés L'acte d'accusation met en lumière plusieurs dépenses non justifiées, don't : 103 985 LRD pour du carburant sans documents justificatifs ; Plus de 232 560 LRD et 32 500 LRD dépensés sans traçabilité ;

3 350 USD approuvés pour une retraite académique qui n'a jamais eu lieu, avec un chèque remis à la coprésidente du Conseil Annie Flomo, sans remboursement ni preuve d'organisation de l'événement. « Ces individus se sont entendus pour frauder l'université et trahir la confiance du public », a déclaré une source proche de l'enquête.

Une vague d'indignation dans le comté Ces révélations ont suscité une vive colère dans le comté, à l'approche de la rentrée universitaire. Le groupe Lofa Youth for Accountability and Good Governance a exigé du Conseil d'administration et du président de la République,



Éditorial

Le programme de désintoxication du gouvernement, une farce nationale

Le programme temporaire de désintoxication et de réhabilitation lancé par le gouvernement libérien pour les jeunes toxicomanes du comté de Montserrado n'est rien d'autre qu'un simulacre face à la crise des drogues qui ravage le pays. Plus cosmétique qu'efficace, l'initiative ressemble davantage à une opération de communication qu'à une véritable réponse politique et sanitaire.

Que l'État reconnaisse que 485 des 600 jeunes inscrits ont abandonné le processus, sans qu'aucune mesure ne soit prise pour les retenir, les accompagner ou leur offrir une alternative crédible à la dépendance, est tout simplement consternant.

Le Comité multisectoriel sur les drogues a révélé cette semaine que seulement 115 jeunes — don't 105 hommes et 10 femmes — poursuivent encore le programme. Le Dr Jewel Tarpeh Kolie, responsable sanitaire du comté de Montserrado, a expliqué :

« Au départ, nous avions environ 600 jeunes inscrits. Mais hier, le nombre est tombé à 115. Parfois, il augmente, parfois il baisse, car le processus est volontaire et beaucoup s'en vont. »

Comment comprendre qu'un processus censé dissuader les citoyens, en particulier les jeunes, de consommer des substances mortelles soit basé sur le volontariat, alors que les victimes sont déjà prisonnières de leur addiction ? Une telle approche est tout simplement irréaliste dans un pays inondé de drogues dures et déjà confronté à des dizaines de morts recensées à Paynesville et dans d'autres parties du Montserrado.

L'Agence nationale antidrogue (LDEA), pourtant chargée de la lutte, reste paralysée malgré le remplacement de ses dirigeants à quatre reprises, faute de leadership fort et à cause de compromissions répétées. Dans ce contexte, lancer un programme « volontaire » de désintoxication, où les toxicomanes entrent et sortent librement, ne traduit aucune volonté sérieuse de combattre l'addiction.

Le vice-ministre en charge du TVET au ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports, Laraamand Nyonton, a d'ailleurs confirmé lors d'un point de presse au MICAT :

« La réhabilitation est volontaire. On ne peut pas forcer quelqu'un à rester. C'est un camp temporaire : s'ils veulent être traités, ils restent, sinon, ils repartent. »

Une telle déclaration démontre un manque criant de compréhension de la gravité du problème. La réhabilitation ne peut être une option facultative. Elle doit reposer sur une stratégie claire, des mesures dissuasives et surtout des alternatives concrètes — formations, emplois, activités productives — permettant aux jeunes de reconstruire leur vie loin des drogues.

Sans une volonté politique ferme et des actions cohérentes, le programme de désintoxication du gouvernement restera une plaisanterie, et la jeunesse libérienne continuera de sombrer dans l'abîme de la toxicomanie.

Français

Starts from page 8 L'ancien président de la LTA réarrêté puis

ernement avait plaidé que l'abandon des charges était prématuré et que le procès devait suivre son cours, mais la Cour suprême avait confirmé la décision initiale, laissant planer l'incertitude sur une éventuelle nouvelle procédure judiciaire.

Nouvelle arrestation et accusations multiples
Mardi matin, 9 septembre, M. Kamara a été appréhendé par des agents de la Police nationale du Liberia puis remis au tribunal par les huissiers, conformément à un ordre émis par la Cour. Il a immédiatement comparu devant la Cour criminelle « C », présidée par le juge Ousman F. Feika.

Les charges retenues contre lui sont nombreuses : vol de biens, détournement de biens confiés, facilitation criminelle, sollicitation criminelle, conspiration criminelle, sabotage économique, utilisation abusive de fonds publics et de documents fiscaux, ainsi que dépenses illégales de fonds publics.

Starts from page 8 Scandale à l'Université de Lofa : la population

Joseph Nyuma Boakai, la suspension immédiate des responsables mis en cause, en attendant l'issue du procès.

« Puisque des précédents existent concernant d'autres responsables gouvernementaux inculpés sur la base de rapports de la LACC, ces personnes ne doivent pas faire exception », a affirmé un porte-parole du mouvement.

Des associations étudiantes, don't le Student Unification Party (SUP) et le Student Integration Movement (SIM), ont rejoint cet appel, avertissant qu'un manque de réaction rapide pourrait conduire à des troubles sur le campus.

Procès en préparation

Les autorités judiciaires l'accusent également d'avoir violé les conditions de sa libération sous caution lors de la première procédure.

Un mandat d'arrêt émis le 8 août 2025 par le shérif du comté de Montserrado, Major Austine Seinavula, ordonnait déjà son arrestation immédiate et sa présentation devant la Cour criminelle « C » pour répondre de ces accusations.

Le document judiciaire précisait :

Ø « Il vous est ordonné d'arrêter la personne d'Abdullah L. Kamara, coaccusé dans l'affaire susmentionnée, inculpé pour les crimes énoncés ci-dessus, en vertu de l'acte d'accusation émis par le grand jury du comté de Montserrado, et de le traduire sans délai devant cette honorable cour pour y répondre. »

Le tribunal a en outre exigé que le shérif consigne officiellement, au verso du mandat, la manière don't l'arrestation a été effectuée.

Le tribunal du dixième circuit judiciaire a déjà ouvert la procédure, et des audiences préliminaires sont attendues dans les prochaines semaines. La LACC jouera un rôle central dans la présentation des preuves.

En cas de condamnation, les accusés risquent de lourdes amendes, la révocation de leurs fonctions, la restitution des fonds détournés et de possibles peines d'emprisonnement.

Cette affaire, qui met en lumière les failles de gouvernance et de gestion dans l'enseignement supérieur libérien, attire désormais l'attention des observateurs nationaux, de la société civile et des partenaires internationaux du Liberia.

Université du Liberia : le gouvernement impose une réduction drastique des coûts de personnel

Le gouvernement libérien a annoncé une profonde réforme de la structure financière de l'Université du Liberia (UL), avec pour priorité la réduction significative des dépenses liées au personnel.

Le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, a confirmé la mesure lors d'une intervention en direct sur la radio nationale ELBC, lundi 8 septembre. Selon lui, les dépenses salariales de l'UL sont devenues « insoutenables ».

Sur une subvention gouvernementale de 34 millions de dollars US accordée en 2025 à l'institution, près de 32 millions – soit environ 94 % – sont consacrés uniquement aux salaires.

Ø « C'est une chose de demander davantage, mais c'en est une autre d'utiliser correctement ce que l'on a », a déclaré le ministre Ngafuan.

Objectif : rééquilibrer les finances

Le ministère a ordonné à l'Université de réduire ses coûts de personnel de 90 % à 55 % de son budget global. Cette réorientation permettra de porter les dépenses de fonctionnement de 10 % actuellement à 45 %, assurant ainsi une meilleure durabilité financière.



Source: AFIS / Africa Financial Industry Summit

Le ministre Ngafuan a cependant critiqué la démarche, estimant que la commission sénatoriale de l'Éducation n'était pas l'instance appropriée pour ce type de requête. Il a rappelé que l'Université avait déjà perçu près de 100 % de son budget 2024, soit environ 33,7 millions de dollars US.

Ø « L'Université du Liberia est l'une des institutions que nous veillons toujours à financer intégralement et à temps », a-t-il martelé.

Grève des professeurs et colère des étudiants

ArcelorMittal Liberia s'engage pour trois ans aux côtés du Marathon du Liberia

La société ArcelorMittal Liberia a signé mardi un protocole d'accord (MoU) avec la Liberia Marathon Trust pour le financement du Marathon du Liberia, l'une des principales compétitions sportives du pays. L'engagement, qui s'étend sur trois ans, prévoit une contribution annuelle de plus de 30 000 dollars américains en tant que sponsor principal de l'événement.

La cérémonie de signature s'est tenue au siège de l'entreprise à Monrovia et marque une nouvelle étape dans la collaboration entre ArcelorMittal Liberia et la Liberia Marathon Trust, active depuis plus d'une décennie dans la promotion de l'athlétisme.

« Un partenariat durable »

Selon Marcus Wleh, directeur de la durabilité et des relations extérieures d'ArcelorMittal Liberia, ce soutien s'inscrit dans la continuité d'une longue relation entre la société et les organisateurs du marathon.

Ø « Nous nous engageons pour trois ans comme sponsor majeur et fier partenaire », a déclaré M. Wleh.

« Nous attendons la confirmation de la date et de l'heure de la course pour contribuer à son succès. En parallèle, nous examinons aussi comment soutenir d'autres activités sportives dans nos trois comtés



d'opérations – Grand Bassa, Bong et Nimba. »

Il a ajouté que plusieurs employés de l'entreprise, lui y compris, participeront à l'édition 2025, soulignant l'importance de l'événement pour la cohésion et la santé communautaire.

Un appui salué par les organisateurs

De son côté, le président du conseil d'administration de la Liberia Marathon Trust, Charles Cooper, a salué ce qu'il a qualifié de « soutien substantiel ».

Ø « Cet engagement triennal nous permettra de mieux planifier la course, de soutenir les athlètes dès le début de l'année et d'attirer davantage de partenaires internationaux, qui pourront ainsi organiser leur venue en amont », a-t-il expliqué.

Il a également dévoilé le thème du marathon de cette année : « Des villes saines pour des vies saines ».

Un acteur majeur du sport libérien

Le soutien d'ArcelorMittal Liberia au Marathon du Liberia s'inscrit dans un engagement plus large en faveur du développement du sport national. L'entreprise est notamment un partenaire historique du National County Sports Meet, le plus grand festival sportif du pays.

En 2022, elle avait apporté un soutien record de 275 000 dollars US, don't 250 000 dollars versés au ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports pour l'organisation des jeux, et une partie dédiée spécifiquement aux comtés de Nimba, Bong et Grand Bassa, où la société est implantée.

Malgré des difficultés opérationnelles, l'entreprise a poursuivi son appui lors de l'édition 2023–2024, contribuant entre 80 000 et 125 000 dollars US. Ces financements ont permis de couvrir l'organisation du tournoi, la préparation des comtés et les primes destinées aux équipes gagnantes.

Au-delà de ces grands rendez-vous, ArcelorMittal Liberia a également offert des aides ciblées à des équipes locales, notamment dans les comtés de River Gee et Rivercess, dans le cadre de ses programmes de développement de la jeunesse.

Un engagement au-delà du sport

Le Marathon du Liberia, organisé pour la première fois en 2011, est aujourd'hui perçu comme un symbole de santé, d'unité et de résilience. En renforçant son soutien, ArcelorMittal Liberia contribue non seulement à la promotion de l'athlétisme, mais aussi au renforcement du rôle du sport dans la cohésion sociale et le développement communautaire.

LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: **Dirt covers Duala Market**

By Naneka A. Hoffman

The garbage in Duala, especially in the market has claimed attention of marketers and residents. Read their comments as compiled below.

Emmanuel Robert Gborlee

"I am not feeling good about this dirt; let for us, we don't have sitting area to sell; only when we sell on this road. We aren't selling cool storage items, but the people take the dirt from the cool storage area and come waste it to our area. And every day, we are paying LD 50 for

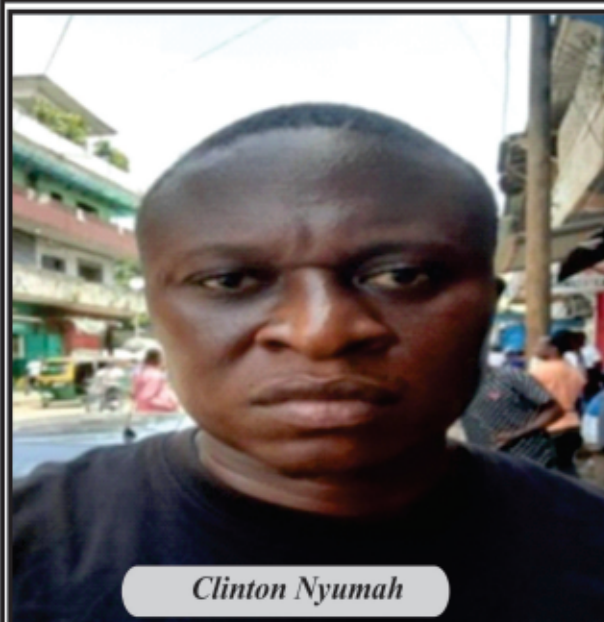
tickets. If it is Saturday, we pay 100LD but still, they can take the dirt from another area and put it here; we aren't feeling good, but what to do. The dirt has been here for more than four days. I want for the government to help us to clear the streets, because they aren't taking the dirt from the streets except their hearts are satisfy before they come and take the dirt. Police are going after us every day so, I want for the government to help us clear the streets so when we are paying the ticket fees, we will not feel it. we are paying the tickets fees and we are side the dirt, selling and nowhere for us to sit and sell our goods. We are sitting by the dirt."



Alex Tamba

"I've been selling here for over ten years; this isn't how the place used to be. No dirt used to be here, but I started experiencing it from this regime. Nobody can take the dirt; we pay zogoes to carry the dirt for us. When it stays long, sometimes before MCC people can come and take it from there. Nowhere for us to sell, so we have to sit near the dirt to sell because we don't have nowhere to sell. We are calling on the government to relocation the dumpsite in Duala market because every time they will come and waste dirt there. Let the government locate the dirt area; dirt not supposed to be in the

streets. The MCC clearers can only come and collect money from us; they can't carry the dirt."



Clinton Nyumah

"The dirt takes over the market places for us, so nowhere for us to sell; we have to come on the road to sell. I want for government to relocate the dumpsite and the City Major that a trashcan should be deployed to the various streets and the principal streets of Monrovia and there should be a pit latrine. During former President Ellen Johnson regime, this man brought pit

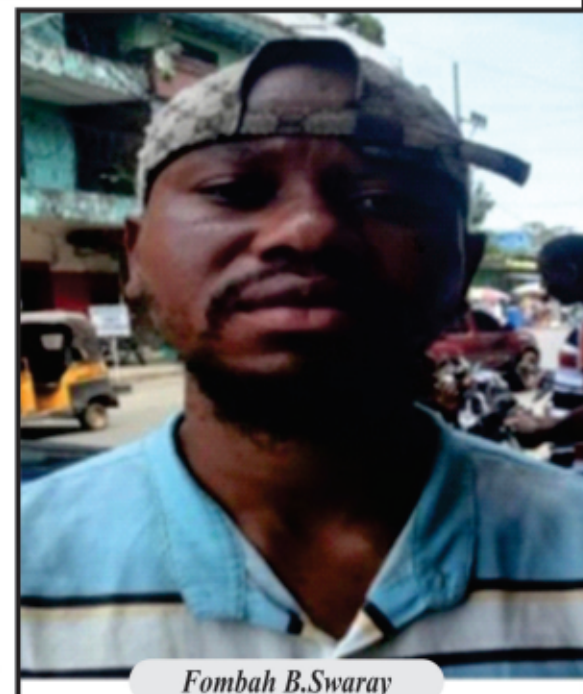
latrines, all in the streets for citizens to use to urinate and then street sweeper collect these things and throw it out but, we are not seeing these things. So, to have a clean city, we must deploy trashcans; we must have a financial capability to empower people monitoring pedestrians that will be walking on the streets in making sure that they don't throw dirty in the street. And there should be awareness on radios, newspapers and social media, - that alone will help to keep the city clean. So, by employing men in the street to observe how street sweepers will take away the trashcans from the streets, it will be fine because that will serve as a security for the city ordinance."



Annieta Kromah

"The dirt has taken over the places we can sell in Duala market. We pay 50LD for tickets but the places we are selling is smelling with dirt and nowhere for us to sell our goods but every day. We are paying 50LD for tickets for the place to be clear and for us to sell but still the dirt takes over our selling places. We sell and eat in the dirt; we even get sick from it. I want for the City Major to employ more manpower in the field to take the dirty from the streets."

"The dirt in Duala market is not really good for us citizens, but I am not talking about marketers. The dirt has taken over the selling places. Until marketers are leaving their selling places coming in the streets to sell. This sometime led to traffic; sometimes we find it difficult for passengers to pass. I want for the City Major to put a program together like students' vacation work that Mary Broh did in the past regime, where every Saturday, students used to clean the streets. I think this is one of the ways to keep the city clean. And secondly, the mayor needs to put a strong taskforce together at every junction, and he should place a trashcan where any citizen, who will drop a plastic bag of



Fombah B. Swaray

water or a dirty in the street, that person will be fine. I think the Monrovia City Corporation should tell every street sweeper to clean the streets in the evening whenever business people are done with selling their goods."



Jonathan Massaquoi

"The dirt is really embarrassing us; we don't have anywhere to sell our goods. Because of the dirt taken over our selling places, we

left from there to come in the street to sell. I will like for the mayor to employ people, including Zogos, because they are hardworking people to keep the city clean. He needs man power and financial support to keep the city. I think the City Mayor should be able to put strong measures in place by getting the community dwellers involved to have their security and make sure if anybody drops dirt, that person should be punished and it should be strong and enforced."

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“No factual basis”

Former Presidential Candidate Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe says the allegation linking him to Campaign Financing corruption lacks a factual basis.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia; September 11, 2025 - Finally, renowned Liberian human rights lawyer and political leader of the Liberia People's Party (LPP), Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe, has sharply reacted and condemned corruption allegation of campaign Financing against him, describing the allegation as statement that lacks factual basis from expelled elements. Recently, some members of the LPP who the party's Executive Committee expelled had accused their political leader, Cllr. Gongloe, of corruption, alleging that he had refused to provide campaign Financing report. They

Additionally, people have been inquiring about whether he had been paying due to the party, and he had refused to address both concerns. That statement has no factual basis. LPP has a branch in America, and therefore, if the party is aware of this, they will take action. We didn't collect any cents and didn't report it. All I can say, we had a successful political campaign with the little we had." He stated. According to him, those who made the allegation were suspended by the Executive Committee of the Party and were urged to turn themselves over for investigation. Consequently, since he refused to undergo investigation, the party, through the EC, expelled him.



further alleged that Cllr. Gongloe squandered the monies that were donated to the party without accounting for them. But, addressing these allegations at the Center for the Exchange of Intellectual Opinion on Carey Street in Monrovia, Wednesday, September 10, 2025, Cllr. Gongloe said that he has received numerous concerns regarding the allegation, and he had refused to speak; however, it's about time that he addresses the lies and fabrication being paraded and spewed by some expelled Youth leaders. Based on the question asked and concerns raised by one of the participants, he stated that the Youth League of the NPP and the National Executive Committee of the LPP have addressed the matter and taken a decision against those individuals spreading falsehoods. However, he felt compelled to speak, as it raises concerns about his long-standing integrity. Cllr. Gongloe disclosed that most of the external and internal finances he received during the campaign, which, according to him, he can't explain in detail, came from his friends, himself, and his wife. He said that when candidates of political parties participate in campaigns and go into electoral activities in Liberia, at the end of the campaign period, the National Elections Commission (NEC) has a period for political parties to make and submit a comprehensive campaign report, something that, he claimed that the LPP did by submitting their campaign report to the NEC on Campaign Financing. Cllr. Gongloe asserted that it's very disappointing that some of the young people, who are now accusing him, when given finance to run an errand, return without submitting a financial expenditure report. "The person that you are talking about, I am sure it's Abraham Kollie. That boy was like my son in the Law Office. He has been saying that, and it has not gained traction. Someone who works hard to maintain their reputation and is well-known cannot easily damage it. Now, he is alleging that I was involved in some Campaign Financing corruption. I want to ask, did he tell you how much the money is?

He lamented that when he was contesting for the Liberian Presidency, he disclosed that people were asking him if he knew prominent people or was connected with top financial influencers in Nigeria and other parts of Africa. Still, disappointingly, he answered the person in the negative. The former President Candidate pointed out that he visited or went to America about three times during the political period in 2023, where he was taken to some expensive hotels that he had issued with because he wanted to save those funds to increase his Campaign Financing but, they insisted that he sleeps in those places on grounds that other political leaders from Liberia usually sleep over when they come to the U.S. "During the fundraising, sometimes, they will hear on live video where people will wake up and pledge one thousand United States dollars, and disappointingly, we didn't get it. So, too many people did so and we didn't get it because they were making show. However, we are excited that, despite having limited resources and a small team, we successfully ran a campaign. I wanted to reach every district and town. The money was spent on the campaign." Meanwhile, addressing concerns about maintaining public visibility and simplicity at various street corners, especially in intellectual forums, Cllr. Gongloe said that as a President, the security and every other advisor are due to listen to the President; therefore, no protocol will change his visitation to the people. "You have not worked with President before; I have worked with two presidents, Dr. Amos C. Sawyer, and former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. There was a time when President Sirleaf got down and spoke with protesters against security advice. So, there is nothing that can change you in leadership. I was Minister of Labor and Solicitor-General. I am 69 years old, and I don't plan to change. If you think what I am saying is true, make me President and put me to the test." He concluded. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from Back page Kojee alarms of 2029 election hijack plot

guise of governance,” he added. The former Mayor of Monrovia accused the ruling party of preparing to use LPRC funds as a “war chest” for the 2029 elections and warned that the Liberian people will not sit by quietly. “Enough is enough! Liberia is not for sale to a cartel of greedy men, who think state power is a business venture,” Kojee said. “We will not remain silent while they mortgage our future.” He continued with a rallying call, “Let the nation and the world hear this loud and clear, the Liberian people are not asleep. They will

resist with every fiber of their being.” “This country belongs to all of us, not to a handful of thieves hiding under the Unity Party banner. Rise up Liberians. Expose them. Challenge them. Reject them. They may control institutions today, but they will never control the will and determination of a people who demand justice and accountability.” As of press time, the Unity Party chief scribe and LPRC Managing Director, Amos Tweh, had not issued a public response to Kojee's claims. Editing by Jonathan Browne

LPRC's Fee Cuts Trigger Full Legislative Investigation

By Kruah Thompson

Grand Gedeh County District #3 Representative and Rule of Law Caucus Chairman, Jacob Cheategba Debee, has called on the Legislature, through its Committees on Lands, Mines, Energy, Natural Resources & Environment, and Public Accounts, to launch a full scale investigation into the legality, fiscal impact, and policy implications of the Liberia Petroleum Refining Corporation's (LPRC) recent reduction of terminal fees and its decision to set storage prices for petroleum products. The controversy stems from a September 3, 2025, directive by President Joseph Boakai, which introduced a revised petroleum pricing structure aimed at making fuel more affordable while securing funds for critical infrastructure, particularly the Road Fund. Under the new structure, fees include: Storage Fees (all terminals) US\$0.05 per gallon; Road Fund (LRA) US\$0.30 per gallon; Counties' Road Equipment Support (LRA) US\$0.09 per gallon; Government Social Program US\$0.02 per gallon; Inspectorate & Maintenance Fee (LPRC) US\$0.06 per gallon; Vessel Discharge Fees (LPRC) US\$0.08 per gallon; Testing & Handling Fees (LPRC) US\$0.07 per gallon; Importers' Margin US\$0.14 per gallon; Retailers' Margin US\$0.20 per gallon; and Distributors' Margin US\$0.05 per gallon. Following the directive, LPRC Managing Director Amos Tweah instructed importers and storage tank owners to remit these fees directly to the LPRC, emphasizing that responsibility for inspectorate, vessel discharge, testing, handling, and adjusted storage fees lies with importers. The decision, however, has sparked strong reactions for lawmaker in the country, recently, Senator Moye, Chairman of the Senate's Joint Committee on Ways, Means, Finance & Budget; Judiciary; Public Corporations; Trade & Industry; and Hydrocarbons, defended the reform, saying it was a collective decision aimed at benefiting the public, reducing inefficiencies, and ensuring equitable distribution of petroleum sector revenues. Despite this, Representative Musa Bility condemned the government's move, arguing that it diverts funds from Liberian terminal operators to LPRC, risking the viability of

Liberian-owned terminals and concentrating power in a few hands. Also speaking at a September 10 news conference on Capitol Hill in Monrovia, Representative Jacob Cheategba Debee echoed these concerns, warning that the LPRC's actions undermine legislative oversight and threaten fiscal accountability. He noted that the 1989 LPRC Establishment Act grants LPRC exclusive rights to import, sell, and distribute petroleum products, but does not authorize unilateral fee setting or price fixation, which require legislative scrutiny. Debee also cited the Public Financial Management (PFM) Act of 2009 (as amended in 2019), which governs the management of public finances, including revenue collection by state-owned enterprises like LPRC, and mandates submission of budgets to the Ministry of Finance and Legislature. “LPRC's unilateral reduction of terminal fees bypasses legislated revenue frameworks,” Debee said. “This threatens accountability and transparency, and without proper budgeting and reporting, there is no way to verify if this benefits the people or deprives the State of critical receipts.” He further warned that unchecked actions by LPRC could encourage other state-owned enterprises to exceed their legal authority, eroding financial governance across Liberia. Debee called on the LPRC Board and management to suspend the measures and provide the Legislature with a detailed account of their rationale, projected fiscal impact, and legal justification. He urged the legislative committees on Lands, Mines, Energy, Natural Resources & Environment, as well as Public Accounts, to investigate the matter thoroughly, stressing that executive agencies must operate within statutory limits. “This situation reveals a dangerous overreach by LPRC that challenges both the 1989 Act and the fiscal governance mechanisms of the PFM Law,” Debee said. Inclosing, he noted that no government entity is above the law, especially when public finances and national interests are at stake. "We will uphold transparency, safeguard revenue streams, and preserve democratic oversight today and always.



CDC Chief Scribe Jefferson Tamba Koijee accuses the ruling Unity Party of plotting to hijack the 2029 elections.

Monrovia, Liberia; September 11, 2025 - The Secretary General of the opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), Jefferson Tamba Koijee, has accused the ruling Unity Party (UP) of orchestrating what he

condemned what he described as an “assault on the Liberian people,” accusing LPRC Managing Director, Amos Tweh, who is also Secretary General of the Unity Party, of bypassing public procurement laws to import petroleum products without an international tender, secretly.

“This is not just mismanagement. It


Procurement and Concessions Act, which mandates that all government procurement, involving public funds, must go through the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC).

"Amos Tweh has brazenly violated this law by secretly importing petroleum products without any international tender. This is a direct assault on the Liberian people," he stated.

Koijee posed several pointed questions to the Unity Party leadership and national stakeholders: Was this petroleum importation contract, valued in the hundreds of millions, subjected to the PPCC process? What is the annual value of this contract, and how many years is it set to run? Which company was handpicked behind closed doors to benefit from this shady deal, and what are the terms? Was a PPCC “No Objection” ever obtained, as the law requires?”

“The truth speaks for itself,” Koijee wrote. “Amos Tweh and his Unity Party cartel are using the LPRC as their private bank, looting public funds and enriching themselves while the majority of our people struggle to buy a cup of rice or a gallon of gasoline.”

“This is not leadership. This is organized economic gangsterism, carried out under the

 **CONT'D ON PAGE 11**

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calls a “criminal conspiracy” at the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC), a scheme he believes is designed not only to defraud the nation, but also to manipulate the 2029 elections.

Taking to his official Facebook page on Wednesday, Kojee

is a deliberate criminal conspiracy designed to rob the nation of hundreds of millions, enrich a small circle of Unity Party loyalists, and quietly prepare the ground to rig the 2029 elections,” Koiijee charged.

He pointed to violations of the Amended and Restated Public

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PUBLISHED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS INC.,
UN Drive, P O. Box 1266
Opposite the National Investment Commission
Monrovia - Liberia.

Tel: 0886484201 / 0777007529
0886978282 / 0775407211

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A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline 'New Dawn', a calendar with the title 'New Dawn CALENDAR', a magazine with the headline 'New Dawn \$52.5m for Went. by-elections', and a brochure with the title 'New Dawn BROCHURE'. The publications are arranged in a fan-like pattern, overlapping each other, and are set against a background of colorful, abstract, wavy lines in shades of blue, green, and yellow.