



#### **CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA** MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES

LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR **BUYING** DATE SELLING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 L\$179.7995US\$1.00 L\$181.7574/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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## ontinenta

# Malawi ex-president takes clear lead in vote-count, results show

SEPTEMBER 24

alawi's former But Chakwera's camp has not These includes rural areas President Peter given up, saying that once around Lilongwe and Dedza. Mutharika has taken results are declared from Two other districts, where a comfortable lead in the other areas, his vote will Mutharika is expected to do



Peter Mutharika was president until he was voted out in 2020

country's presidential race, increase and he could force a with two-thirds of districts run-off. having reported provisional A candidate needs more than results.

closest rival, the incumbent election. Lazarus Chakwera, 70, The Malawi Electoral trailing on around 24%.

Chakwera strongholds, including the capital, Lilongwe, and Nkhotakota.

50% of the vote to be declared The 85-year old has received the winner, with Malawians around 66% of the valid votes eagerly awaiting the final counted so far, with his result from last Tuesday's

Commission has until the end Results declared so far of Wednesday to announce it. indicate that Mutharika has At least two of the 12 districts won in areas known to be still to declare results have a large number of registered voters, and Chakwera's camp believes he will do well there.

well, have had their results withheld by the electoral commission as it checks whether they are accurate. The commission said it was

committed to transparency, accuracy and credibility.

It added that it was carefully checking every tally sheet, after the constitutional court annulled Mutharika's victory in 2019 because of irregularities.

Chakwera won the re-run by a wide margin, but during his presidency Malawi's economic crisis has deepened, with high inflation, food and fuel shortages and constant power cuts. On Friday, Chakwera's party said it had discovered "irregularities" and "serious anomalies", and had asked the electoral commission to conduct a "physical audit" of results. The party did not specify the irregularities.

Police said eight data entry clerks had been arrested on accusations of trying to manipulate results.BBC

# British-Egyptian activist reunited with family after release from prison

Alaa Abdel Fattah has plane and go see Alaa". jail in Egypt.

Monday. Video of the blogger resign. sister Sanaa Seif.

His other sister, Mona Seif, protests. other political prisoners people.

ritish-Egyptian activist to go to the airport to take the

been freed and "It has been the longest 12 years of reunited with his family after this madness, and nightmare and spending the past six years in heartache, and also journey full of love and ups and downs. And now One of the country's most Alaa is out, Alaa is free, Alaa is prominent political home."Her brother first rose to prisoners, he was pardoned prominence during the 2011 by Egyptian President Abdul uprising in Egypt that forced long-Fattah al-Sisi on time President Hosni Mubarak to

and pro-democracy activist, He has spent most of his time in 43, at home following his prison since 2014, the year after release showed him grinning Sisi led the military's overthrow of widely and jumping up and Egypt's first democratically down as he celebrated with elected president, Muslim his mother Laila Soueif and Brotherhood leader Mohammed Morsi, following anti-government

told the BBC from the UK his While in power, Sisi has overseen release was a "moment of what human rights groups say is an collective hope". She said she unprecedented crackdown on hoped it would mark the dissent that has led to the beginning of the release of detention of tens of thousands of

detained under Sisi's rule and In 2015, a court sentenced Abdel the end of what she called a Fattah to five years in prison for "very dark chapter".UK participating in an unauthorised Foreign Secretary Yvette protest.In September 2019, only Cooper welcomed the six months after he had been pardon, saying she was released on probation, he was



### Three West African countries to uit International Criminal Co

led countries issued a joint and aggression. statement, saying they would Out of 33 cases launched since Qaeda and the Islamic State. The Hague.

prosecuting proven war notified. three leaders said. The court has not yet responded to the decision by the three countries, all of which with close ties to Russia whose leader Vladimir Putin has been subject to an ICC arrest warrant. The three states said they wanted to set up "indigenous mechanisms for the consolidation of peace and justice".

They accused the ICC of targeting less privileged

urkina Faso, Mali and countries, echoing criticism Sahel countries between 2020 Niger have announced from Rwanda's President Paul and 2023. They make up the only they will immediately Kagame who has previously three members of the withdraw from the accused the ICC of holding an Confederation of Sahel International Criminal Court anti-African bias. The ICC was States. Their armies have faced (ICC), labelling it an set up in 2002 to legally pursue accusations of crimes against "instrument of neo-colonialist cases of genocide, crimes civilians, as violence has repression". The three military- against humanity, war crimes escalated in the region against

not recognise the authority of its inception, external, all but In another coordinated move the UN-backed court, based in one involved an African earlier this year, all three "The ICC has proven itself from the ICC officially takes withdrew from the regional incapable of handling and effect one year after the UN is bloc, the Economic Community

humanity, crimes of genocide, control of Burkina Faso, Mali, Ecowas' demands for them to and crimes of aggression," the and Niger, following coups in the restore democratic rule.

jihadist groups linked to al-

country. A country's withdrawal countries simulatenously of West African States crimes, crimes against Military junta forces are in (Ecowas). They had rejected



forward to Alaa being able to years. describe what I feel."

added.

In an interview with the BBC political opinions. Radio 4's Today programme The Egyptian government said he

time to come and preparing

"grateful to President Sisi for arrested again and held in prethis decision". "We look trial detention for more than two

return to the UK, to be He was convicted in December reunited with his family," she 2021 of "spreading false news" for added. Abdel Fattah was sharing a post about a prisoner released from Wadi al- dying of torture and handed Natrun prison late on Monday another five-year sentence and celebrated reuniting following a trial that human rights with his family at his groups said was grossly unfair.

mother's apartment in Giza. Although Abdel Fattah acquired His mother, 68, who launched British citizenship in 2021, Egypt a 287-day hunger strike last never allowed him a consular visit September to protest against by British diplomats. In May, the UN his imprisonment, told Working Group on Arbitrary reporters: "I can't even Detention - a panel of independent human rights experts "We're happy, of course. But - found that Abdel Fattah had been our greatest joy will come arbitrarily arrested for exercising when there are no [political] his right to freedom of expression, prisoners in Egypt," she had not been given a fair trial and had remained in detention for his

on Tuesday morning, his had been afforded "all fair trial sister Mona said she was rights" and that his sentence would "impatiently waiting for the be completed in January 2027.

# EDITORIAL

## **GoL's detoxification and** rehabilitation program is a joke

A temporary detoxification and rehabilitation program initiated by the Government of Liberia for drug-addicted youths in Montserrado County is just another lip service to the drugs crisis in Liberia. The exercise seems more cosmetic | than effective, as it appears to be a mere public relations stunt by the government.

For the state to have recently revealed that 485 of the 600 youths enrolled in the exercise abandoned the program, with no steps being taken to ensure they remain there to complete the process and be provided alternative life to drug addiction is highly disappointing.

The Multi-Sectoral Committee on Drugs revealed recently that only 115 youths out of a total of 600, remain in the program, which was designed to offer treatment and recovery services to some of the country's most vulnerable citizens.

Montserrado County Health Officer, Jewel Tarpeh Kollie, narrates, "From the start, we had about 600 youths in the program. But as of yesterday, the number dropped to 115 (105 males and 10 females) Sometimes you see the number increase, and other times it decreases, because the process is voluntary and many of them walk away."

The government seems to be unserious about the fight against dangerous substances across the country, despite recent statistics of scores of deaths in Paynesville and other parts of Montserrado from drug consumption.

How can a process meant to dissuade citizens, particularly youths from life-threatening drugs be voluntary for victims, who have become addicted? How practical is that in a country that is already awash with deadly drugs?

The government institution that is responsible to for fight drugs abuse, the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency or LDEA, is paralyzed despite changing heads more than four times, mainly because of lack of firm leadership and due to consistent compromise.

Then the government comes with a voluntary process that allows drug addicts to walk in and walk out, in a so-called detoxification and rehabilitation exercise. Who does that with a real intention to confront addiction?

"The issue of rehabilitation is voluntary. We cannot force anyone to stay," Deputy Minister for TVET at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Laraamand Nyonton, is quoted as saying in a recent MICAT Press Briefing. Nyonton added, "This is a temporary camp, so if they see the need to be treated, they l stay; but if they choose to leave, they walk away."

The deputy minister ought to know that getting people from a deviant habit is not voluntary. There should be some strong deterrence; it should be well-intentional and they should be provided productive alternative ventures or undertakings that would keep them busy away from returning to drugs.

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By Kashim Shettima, Carol Koech, Jessica Uhl

#### he Key to Africa's **Clean-Energy Future**

Kiguna, a rural community in Nigeria, the fish trader Blessing Bitrus used to have just a few precious hours to sell the day's catch of tilapia and catfish from the nearby river before it spoiled under the hot sun. Despite keeping prices low, nearly half of her fish went to waste most days.

But Blessing no longer needs to race against the clock owing to a three-ton cold-storage room connected to a solar-powered mini-grid. The intense sunlight that used to spoil her fish now enables its preservation. Blessing is not the only one to benefit: around 100 local fishers and traders use the room. The resulting reduction in food waste has increased average earnings by 30%.

Kiguna's refrigeration unit and solar power was built as part of a larger clean-energy project that began in 2021 and has since connected 6,000 homes and businesses to solar power in five Nigerian states. As the international community grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, this quiet clean-energy transformation boosted the resilience and productivity of farmers and other food producers, created jobs, and supported sustainable development in rural communities across Nigeria.

lesson for today's world. Rising geopolitical uncertainty has led many wealthy governments to slash foreign aid - a devastating blow to global development efforts. As a result, projects are shutting down, people are losing access to essential services, and many countries are increasingly at risk of a humanitarian crisis. But even against this challenging backdrop, the world leaders gathering at this week's United Nations General Assembly can still find ways to address slow-burning problems.

nearly600 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa still lack access to different perspectives and expertise, electricity. With Africa's youth population projected to grow by 138 million people over the next quartercentury, this energy crisis could become an employment crisis. To generate enough good jobs for Africa's growing population, we must help countries across the continent expand access to affordable and reliable clean energy, and provide local communities with the tools and training to turn that power into opportunity.

The good news is that there is a path to progress - even amid a tighter funding environment. Leading the way is Mission 300, which brings together

BUJA/DUBAI/SEATTLE - In African governments, the private sector, and philanthropic organizations to provide electricity to 300 million Africans by 2030.

> The clean-energy project that helped Blessing and her community shows how these stakeholders can work together effectively. A modest investment from the Nigerian government, coupled with catalytic philanthropic capital, was sufficient to encourage firms to invest in the project. Equally important were regulatory reforms that cut grid connection costs by up to 40% and reduced permitting timelines for new initiatives, creating a pipeline of projects and training programs that will reach hundreds of thousands of Nigerians.

This is not an isolated case. Relatively small investments have helped achieve dramatic advances in clean energy across the developing world. India's first utility-scale battery storage system is expected to deliver reliable clean electricity to low-income consumers and drive a shift toward grid stability. In Haiti, mesh grids decentralized mini-grids made up of interconnected clusters of rooftop solar panels - are powering some of the most remote communities and demonstrating a model for last-mile That outcome holds an important electrification in rural and conflictaffected areas. Likewise, Indonesia's Tembesi floating solar power plant can serve as an example for expanding energy access in vulnerable coastal economies.

The Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet's recently released 2025 impact report reveals the common factor underlying these projects' success: a coalition of public, private, and philanthropic partners united by a shared goal. This highlights the importance of a multi-stakeholder and system-scale approach to tackling big One of those problems is that problems. Such a strategy makes the most of limited funds, recognizes accommodates various levels of risk tolerance, and enables each actor to play to its strengths.

> Every developing country and region has its own energy challenges, but progress is possible when governments, businesses, and philanthropies work together. As climate change worsens, energy crises mount, and multilateralism wanes, global stability will depend on replicating Blessing's story many times over - in Africa and elsewhere. That makes multistakeholder partnerships more important than ever.

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WEDNESDAY

By Adaeze Oreh

#### Violence Against Health Workers Must End

ORT HARCOURT - This summer, a male patient at Specialist Hospital Damaturu in Nigeria's Yobe State physically assaulted a female health-care worker following a dispute over the provision of medical attention. Sadly, this is a relatively common experience for health-care workers in Nigeria, especially women. Surveys conducted in hospitals in Kaduna state and Abia state found that 64% and 88% of health workers, respectively, had experienced workplace violence. During my own first year of clinical practice in Nigeria, when I was just 24 years old, I was attacked by a parent in the children's ward where I worked.

Nigeria is not alone. Reports of violence against health-care workers have been on the rise over the last five years in a wide range of countries, including Australia, China, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. A 2019 study showed that 11% of nurses in Italy had endured physical violence at work in the previous year, and 4% were threatened with a firearm. About half of all nurses reported experiencing verbal aggression.

Such reporting tells only part of the story. The belief that violence is "part of the job," together with the lack of protocols for handling attacks and the empathy of many in the health-care field, discourages reporting. When I was attacked in 2004 - narrowly avoiding a severe head injury, thanks only to the swift intervention of another patient's relative - I eschewed legal prosecution out of sympathy for the perpetrator's family, which was, after all, grappling with a child's illness and subsequent death. It is likely that fewer than half of all victims of violence in health-care settings report the incidents.

With this in mind, the World Health Organization estimates that as many as 38% of health-care workers suffer some form of physical violence, perpetrated mostly by patients and visitors, at some point in their careers. This figure does not cover the verbal threats and intimidation many workers face as they carry out life-saving work, often under high-stress, low-resource conditions.

Several factors contribute to the violence. Health-care workers are often younger women. They must work both day and night shifts in environments that are accessible to the general public, including people who have consumed drugs or alcohol, and people suffering from psychiatric illnesses. Moreover, staff and resource shortages mean that health-care workers are often overworked, underpaid, and lack access to the tools they need to deliver quality or timely care. Long wait times increase stress and frustration among patients (and their relatives), who often expect miracles, even when they present late for treatment. Add to that poor communication and weak workplace protections, and violence becomes a constant peril.

Risks to health-care workers are particularly acute in disaster, conflict, and other humanitarian settings, where they may also become the targets of political or communal violence. During the COVID-19 pandemic, social isolation, misinformation about the virus, and the "dehumanization" of health-care workers - who were often viewed as resources, not people - contributed to a sharp uptick in violence.

As a result of these experiences, health-care workers often deal with anxiety, depression, job burnout, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental-health conditions. One study found that some 76% of psychiatric nurses who suffered from workplace violence subsequently experienced depressive symptoms.

As health workers' well-being declines, so does the care that patients receive. Increased absenteeism and turnover compound the problem, especially as fewer people choose to enter the health-care field. At a time when the world is facing a shortage of health-care workers - projected to reach ten million by 2030 - this poses a direct threat to public health.

Protecting health-care workers will require a variety of interventions. For starters, violence prevention and response should be integrated into workers' education and training. They should be taught communication strategies for de-escalating tense situations, and self-defense techniques to use if violence erupts. Team-based training can strengthen coordinated responses, enabling other workers to intervene when their colleagues are targeted.

Furthermore, the scope and enforcement of existing worker-protection laws must be enhanced. Institutions must implement zero-tolerance guidelines, with clear protocols for monitoring workplace safety, reporting and investigating incidents, and bringing legal action against offenders. The swift arrest and prosecution of perpetrators - as seen after the recent attack at Specialist Hospital Damaturu - can act as a deterrent. Hiring trained security personnel would also help, as would the implementation of reliable communication systems that enable workers to sound the alarm when their safety is threatened.

Meanwhile, a concerted effort must be made to address health-worker shortages, such as through task-shifting or -sharing - the partial or complete redistribution of certain responsibilities to less qualified personnel, so that highly qualified workers can focus on tasks that require their expertise. Already, this approach has improved service delivery in a number of areas - including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, hypertension, diabetes, mental health, eyecare, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, and

emergency care - in 23 Sub-Saharan African countries.
All people have a right to safety in their workplace. When we fail to uphold this right for health-care workers, we hurt not only them, but also the health of the public they serve.

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## OPINION

By Gordon Brown

## **Health Taxes Are a Win-Win**

DINBURGH - Health systems around the world are overstretched and underfunded. In 2023, low-income countries spent just \$10 per person annually on health - less than 15% of what is required to ensure access to essential services. Compounding the problem, global health investment is forecast to fall by 40% this year, from around \$25 billion in 2023 to \$15 billion, largely owing to recent aid cuts in the United States and Europe. The effects of these cuts are already being felt in the developing world: the dismantling of the US Agency for International Development alone has resulted in an estimated 500,000 deaths.

For many Global South countries, the sudden withdrawal of resources has accelerated the shift away from dependency on foreign aid toward self-sufficiency. Developing-country leaders have increasingly focused on building health capacity in every area, from vaccine production to health-care delivery. Chief among them are Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama, who recently organized the Africa Health Sovereignty Summit; Rwandan President Paul Kagame, the African Union's Champion on Domestic Health Financing; and former African presidents Olusegun Obasanjo and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Pressure must be brought to bear on the governments that have slashed aid to reconsider their position. These governments must provide a timeline for when they will help finance capacity-building efforts in countries with historically aid-dependent health-care systems.

At the same time, the world is facing a rising non-communicable disease epidemic, fueled by the consumption of harmful products. Tobacco, alcohol, and sugary beverages kill more than ten million people each year. Urgent action is needed to reduce the deaths and disease caused by these products, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Addressing these twin crises requires identifying new funding sources for health-care systems and reducing the consumption of harmful products. Fortunately, there is a way to achieve both objectives: health taxes. As the United Nations General Assembly gathers in New York this week, world leaders must embrace this policy. It aligns not only with the World Health Organization's goals but also with the recommendations for domestic-resource mobilization in the 2023 report by the G20 independent expert group co-chaired by Lawrence H. Summers and N.K. Singh.

According to a 2024 report from the Task Force on Fiscal Policy for Health, of which I am a member, taxes that increase prices for tobacco, alcohol, and sugary beverages by 50% could raise \$3.7 trillion globally over five years. This includes \$2.1 trillion in LMICs, which could use the revenue to increase health-care spending by 40%.

Moreover, if all countries raised taxes accordingly, more than 100 million people would quit smoking, and consumption of alcohol and sugary beverages would fall dramatically. This would save 50 million lives over the next 50 years, while millions more people would enjoy better health, easing the pressure on overstretched health systems.

Several countries have highlighted the benefits of health taxes. Tobacco excise tax hikes in the Philippines increased revenue from \$1 billion in 2012 to \$2.9 billion in 2022, which helped finance universal health coverage. In the 2022-23 fiscal year, Pakistan raised its excise tax on tobacco, resulting in a nearly 50% year-on-year increase in revenue from the levy.

Likewise, after successive increases, alcohol taxes accounted for nearly 3% of the Lithuanian government's total tax revenue by 2022. Alcohol consumption also declined over the same period, likely preventing related mortality and morbidity. Mexico's 2014 sugary-beverage tax was so effective at improving health outcomes that every dollar spent on its implementation was estimated to save \$4 in health-care costs.

But despite these successes, health taxes remain far too low in most countries, and harmful products like tobacco have become increasingly affordable as their prices fail to keep pace with inflation. Powerful corporate interests are the biggest barrier to implementing these levies, often working behind the scenes to delay or dilute policy. In 2022, the tobacco industry spent €19 million (\$22.4 million) on lobbying European Union policymakers, contrary to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

We cannot allow well-funded lobbying efforts to obscure the reality that health taxes are highly effective, have few economic downsides, and enjoy broad public support. I urge world leaders attending the high-level meeting on non-communicable diseases at this week's UN General Assembly to make a strong commitment to raising taxes on tobacco, alcohol, and sugary beverages.

The evidence is clear that these taxes generate much-needed government revenue and ease pressure on overburdened health systems. The question

attendees must consider is how boldly they are willing to lead.

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# ARTICLE ARTICLE

# Striking a Balance Between Borrowing, Revenue Growth, and Fiscal Stability in Liberia

By Seltue Robert Karweaye Sr.

iberia's public debt has shown a steady increase in recent years, even following significant debt relief efforts that were implemented in 2010. According to the Consolidated Mid-Fiscal Year Review for FY2025, published by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), as of June, Liberia's total public debt has reached an alarming \$2.69 billion, which translates to 58.9 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This reflects an increase of 4.95 percent since December 2024. The external component of the debt is significant, comprising \$1.62 billion, while domestic obligations amount to \$1.07 billion.

For many years, Liberia has found itself navigating the turbulent waters of economic uncertainty, often relying on borrowing as a lifeline to fill the vast chasms in its national budget. While this practice may provide momentary relief, it opens up an important opportunity for the nation to pivot towards a more sustainable economic framework by crafting a comprehensive and robust long-term revenue generation strategy.

To truly harness the benefits of borrowing, Liberia must engage in a thorough examination of its economic landscape. This involves meticulously analyzing key financial metrics, such as debt-to-GDP ratios, interest obligations, and the potential returns on investments financed by borrowed funds. By adopting transparent and data-driven fiscal policies, Liberia can effectively communicate the strategic rationale behind its borrowing decisions to both local stakeholders and the international community.

Moreover, focusing on initiatives that boost savings and curtail unnecessary expenditures is crucial for fostering a healthier economic environment. This might include developing a diversified tax system that captures revenue from various sectors, encouraging investment in critical industries, and creating a business-friendly climate that attracts both domestic and foreign investors. Such efforts are essential for cultivating a resilient and thriving economy.

#### Borrowing as a necessary tool

In the face of a substantial budget deficit over the years, borrowing has become an indispensable tool for the Liberian government. The 2025 Government of Liberia budget dramatically underscores this pressing need, revealing a staggering deficit of US\$17.8 million—an amount that constitutes 2 percent of the total budget. This heavy reliance on borrowed funds can entrap us in a problematic cycle: as we borrow to support our existing levels of public spending, a considerable portion of our future revenue is inevitably earmarked for debt servicing. This situation limits our capacity to allocate resources toward essential investments in infrastructure, education, food security and healthcare that could significantly enhance the nation's growth potential.

Nonetheless, it is crucial to recognize that borrowing should not be merely perceived as a temporary fix to immediate financial challenges; rather, it can serve as a strategic instrument for catalyzing economic growth and constructing the necessary infrastructure that will ultimately generate revenue in the long run. As the International Monetary Fund (IMF) asserts, when borrowing is approached with prudence and strategic foresight, it can fund transformative projects that improve economic productivity, create jobs, and stimulate innovation.

#### Short term borrowing benefits

In the short term, borrowing can play a vital role in helping the government maintain fiscal stability and address pressing financial obligations. This approach ensures that salaries are paid, public services remain operational, and critical infrastructure projects continue to advance. By injecting immediate funds into the economy, the government can foster public confidence and enhance economic stability.

For instance, the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has taken commendable steps by implementing a market-determined exchange rate aimed at stabilizing the Liberian dollar and boosting investor confidence. While this policy is promising, it does require adequate financial resources to cushion any short-term economic shocks.

Although the implementation of this policy has faced challenges, it presents an opportunity for improvement. In 2025, the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) reported a year-on-year inflation rate of 9.9%, influenced by exchange rate depreciation and rising import prices. The

fluctuation of the Liberian dollar between LD 176 and LD 182 highlights the ongoing struggle for many Liberians to reach a sustainable economic equilibrium. The vulnerable populations call out for food assistance, and while government spending has increased, it is clear that further support is needed to alleviate their hardships.

Borrowing at favorable terms can be a pragmatic solution, as it can be more cost-effective than allowing essential services to collapse or halting key infrastructure initiatives. The focus should be on wisely directing borrowed funds toward productive investments that can ignite economic growth and generate future revenues. Although we have yet to see the full benefits of borrowing materialize, this presents an opportunity for the government to reassess its strategies and enhance the allocation of resources.

By strategically investing borrowed capital, we can create a multiplier effect, stimulating economic activity and ultimately increasing government revenue. With thoughtful direction and clear intent, we can ensure that borrowing serves as a tool for positive change and sustainable development in Liberia.

#### Long-Term Strategy for Revenue Growth

While borrowing may seem like a necessary short-term solution, it is far from sustainable in the long run. To truly fortify our national budget, expanding revenue must be our top priority. Currently, Liberia's debt servicing obligations consume a staggering portion of government revenue, severely limiting our capacity to invest in essential services and development projects. The 2024 Joint World Bank-IMF



Debt Sustainability Report—released in September 2024—reveals that total debt service in 2023 reached US\$254.4 million, with approximately 30 percent being external. According to the report, with the recent expansion of domestic debt, the share of domestic debt service in total debt service rose to about 70 percent in 2023. This deeply concerning figure underscores the urgent need for change.

To effectively address this challenge, the Liberian government must pivot toward diversifying its revenue sources. Our heavy dependence on rubber, which constitutes 65 percent of total exports, along with diamonds, gold, and iron ore—amounting to 17 percent—leaves us dangerously exposed to global market fluctuations. The recent volatility in the prices of these key exports highlights the critical importance of establishing a more resilient revenue base.

We must develop strategies that do not solely rely on rubber, diamonds, gold, or iron ore to bolster our economy. Achieving this vision will necessitate focused efforts to enhance tax collection and implement innovative revenuegeneration initiatives. For example, embracing cuttingedge digital tracking systems to combat the theft of our natural resources and improve transparency in the extractive industry has the potential to significantly elevate government revenue.

#### Maximizing Tax Efficiency

To maximize government revenue, enhancing tax efficiency is essential for Liberia's economic development. Currently, Liberia's tax-to-GDP ratio ranks among the lowest in the world, underscoring a significant opportunity for reform and growth.

Strengthening tax administration involves improving the

capabilities and resources of tax collection agencies to reduce inefficiencies and streamline processes. This can include investing in technology and training to ensure that staff are well-equipped to handle collections effectively and transparently.

Expanding the tax base is equally critical. By identifying and integrating previously untaxed sectors of the economy—such as informal businesses and certain service industries—Liberia can capture revenue that has previously gone unregistered.

Additionally, rigorous measures to combat tax evasion, such as implementing stricter penalties for non-compliance and increasing audits and investigations, can further enhance collection efforts.

Moreover, introducing progressive tax policies that require higher-income individuals and profitable corporations to pay their fair share can create a more equitable system. Such policies ensure that those with greater financial capability contribute proportionately more, thereby generating additional revenue without unfairly burdening lower-income citizens.

Overall, a comprehensive approach to tax efficiency not only fosters economic growth and stability but also promotes social equity, providing necessary funding for essential public services that benefit all Liberians.

Promoting Economic Diversification

In order to secure long-term fiscal stability, it is essential for Liberia to diversify its economy beyond its primary commodities: rubber, diamonds, gold, and iron ore. By strategically investing in sectors such as agriculture, technology, tourism, and manufacturing, the country can develop new revenue streams and lessen its reliance on traditional resources that are vulnerable to market fluctuations. To ensure the sustainability of these initiatives, it is crucial to minimize insecurity and establish a stable environment for economic activity.

The government must take proactive steps to create an enabling environment that promotes private sector investment and fosters innovation across these diverse sectors. This includes significant improvements in infrastructure, where reliable transportation and energy services can facilitate business operations, and enhancing the ease of doing business by streamlining regulations and reducing bureaucratic obstacles. Additionally, offering targeted incentives for industries with high growth potential—such as tax breaks or grants for startups and small enterprises—can drive job creation and economic dynamism.

Liberia can no longer afford to rely on borrowing as a primary solution to its fiscal challenges or to finance infrastructure development exclusively. This unsustainable dependency must be addressed and curtailed. The true path to prosperity lies in expanding revenue sources, closing financial loopholes, and establishing a robust business climate that attracts both local and foreign investment. Only by doing so can Liberia hope to build a future that rests on its own economic strengths rather than on borrowed time.

The road to a revitalized economy is long and complex, requiring a dual commitment to implementing prudent fiscal policies while enhancing transparency at all levels of government. Strategic investments in education and healthcare are paramount to developing a skilled workforce that can meet the demands of an evolving labor market.

Furthermore, fostering a culture of entrepreneurship by empowering small and medium-sized enterprises will lead to greater economic resilience. Responsibly leveraging Liberia's rich natural resources, while ensuring environmental sustainability, will also play a critical role in this transformation.

Strengthening governance mechanisms, tackling corruption effectively, and actively engaging with the global community will augment Liberia's ability to build resilience and self-reliance.

Now is the time for bold and decisive action. Together, let us strive to transform Liberia into a beacon of prosperity—a resilient nation firmly grounded on its own foundations, providing for the well-being and prosperity of all its citizens. I rest my pen.

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

#### MORE HEADLINE NE

#### Liberian companies benefit ntracts valued over US\$12 M

Liberian-registered companies are reportedly benefiting from contracts awarded through the Government of Liberia's electronic procurement system, the system reached US\$12. having received contracts worth US\$12,219,000.

onrovia, Liberia; additional government entities September 24, 2025 - to the electronic procurement The Executive Director platform by the next fiscal year.



contracts to Liberian-the PPCC itself. procurement system.

According to Mr. Johnson, the seen the total value of

of the Public Procurement & This is in addition to the six Concessions Commission already participating: the shift in the procurement (PPCC), Bodger Scott Johnson, Ministry of Finance and has reported significant Development Planning (MFDP), progress in the the Ministry of Public Works appearance in Monrovia on implementation of e-GP (MPW), the Ministry of Health Tuesday, September 23, 2025 system in Liberia, leading to (MOH), the Ministry of Johnson emphasized the need the awarding of a total of Education (MoE), the Liberia to build efficiency and public US\$12,219,000 worth of Revenue Authority (LRA), and trust in government systems.

just six government entities launched the system, there has value for money so that people currently on the e-been a transparent e-can have confidence in the procurement process. We have

219, 000," Johnson stated, adding that the contracts were By Stephen G. Fellajuah PPCC plans to onboard fifty awarded to Liberian registered companies.

Breaking down the distribution of contracts, he detailed that the LRA awarded 27 contracts;, the MFDP 10. the MoE 7, the MPW 19, and the PPCC 17. He described this development as "tremendous change in the procurement space" within the country. "This system brings about

transparency, credibility, and value for money," he added. With just six entities currently using the platform, over US\$12 million in contracts have already been awarded.

Johnson believes that onboarding fifty more entities will result in a "significant process."

Speaking during a radio

"We want to create more registered companies, with "But I want to say that since we efficiency, transparency, and

CONT'D ON PAGE 7

#### 'No Obstacle Will Derail Liberia's **Bid for MCC Second Compact** and begin preparations for

-Micat deputy minister Sanoe says

By Kruah Thompson Millennium Challenge stressed.

Tourism, Daniel Sanoe, strengthen development ties made the statement on Tuesday during the ministry's regular press briefing in Monrovia.

Corporation (MCC).

Sanoe expressed disappointment that some members of the opposition were allegedly "wishing bad" for the country, even though, he said, any gains from the MCC program would benefit all Liberians, regardless of political affiliation.

"It is disheartening that

when good things are about to he Government of happen for the country, some Liberia has assured people choose to fast and the public that no pray for negative outcomes. According to the Ministry of amount of criticism or These are doubting Foreign Affairs, the visit political opposition will Thomases. But let me assure prevent the country from you, no obstacle will derail securing a second compact Liberia's bid for the MCC under the U.S.-funded second compact," Sanoe sectors that could benefit

On September 27, 2023, a Despite the government's Deputy Minister for Press high-level MCC delegation led optimism, some opposition and Public Affairs at the by Carrie Monahan, Managing voices have questioned Ministry of Information, Director for Africa, arrived in Liberia's readiness, Cultural Affairs, and Liberia. Their mission is to

the December MCC Board meeting, where Liberia will be considered for a potential second compact. includes side engagements on Liberia's eligibility and discussions on priority

from U.S. investment.

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## Liberia reignites Nation's historical project

#### -To foster reconciliation, healing, and unity

The Governance Commission has revived the Liberia National History Project, following a recent policy dialogue in Monrovia.

By Lewis S. Teh

unity, the Governance Commission indigenous communities. of Liberia convened a one-day Commissioner Cytirus Kerbay, policy dialogue recently to revive providing an overview of the the stalled Liberia National History project, highlighted that this Project (LNHP). The day-long imbalance was one of the key dialogue was held under the theme concerns raised by the Truth and "History of the Nation-State: Reconciliation Commission (TRC), Pathway to Reconciliation, which recommended rewriting of Healing, and Peace." The event a general national history as a brought together policymakers, tool for peace and reconciliation. historians, educators, and civil The Liberia National History society leaders committed to Project (LNHP), initiated in 2013 rewriting a more inclusive and with support from UNESCO and comprehensive history of the the Liberian government, aimed nation. Delivering opening to develop textbooks, curricula, remarks, Professor Alaric K. Tokpa, and scholarly works that Acting Chairman of the Governance reflected the full spectrum of Commission, emphasized the Liberia's history. However, the urgent need to reconstruct project stalled due to a lack of Liberia's national narrative in a way funding. For his part, Stevenson that embraces full diversity of its Seidi, former head of UNESCO's people. "For far too long, the office in Liberia, also delivered story of Liberia has been told in poignant remarks. fragments, shaped by exclusion, Speaking as a concerned silence, and selective memory," Liberian rather than a UNESCO Tokpa said. "To build peace, we official, Seidi critiqued the must remember the past, promote current historical narrative for understanding, and acknowledge being "one-sided, deceptive, and

history has historically centered onrovia, Liberia: September on the arrival of settlers in 1822, 24, 2025 - In a bold step marginalizing the rich cultural toward national healing and heritage and contributions of

the voices that shape our collective discriminatory."



journey", he underscored.

however, called for a renewed contest between settlers and commitment to telling Liberia's natives. If told inclusively, it can story not as a political project, but help us reconcile, heal, and build as a national one that honors both lasting peace. If told narrowly, it suffering and triumph.

"Today's dialogue is not just a reigniting past wounds." reflection but a recommitment," Tokpa stressed. "We must write a that includes rewriting school national history that is not a mere textbooks, reviewing Liberia's document, but a mirror — one that national symbols and honors, and reflects the dignity, resilience, and establishing museums, diversity of all Liberians."

history must not shy away from memory. Seidi also urged the uncomfortable truths, but instead government to take ownership of use them as stepping stones toward the process and involve Liberian justice and national cohesion.

of including youth, traditional product truly reflects the nation's leaders, women, and religious unique heritage. institutions, all of whom have been Reviving a Dormant Effort vital to Liberia's journey but are The Governance Commission often excluded from official confirmed that archived histories. A National Story for All materials from earlier history Liberians

Participants noted that Liberia's

"Our history", he stressed, The GC Acting Chair, Tokpa, "must be a shared journey, not a risks deepening mistrust and

He proposed a broader effort memorials, and oral history He emphasized that the new projects that reflect collective historians, both at home and in He underscored the importance the diaspora, to ensure the final

project are available and will be

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## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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system."This initiative is not August 15, 2025. Judiciary emphasized.

moment in Liberia's judicial all staff of the Judiciary have the

#### **Inconsistencies and lapses at Judiciary**

The initiative also builds on the restore public trust and uphold qualification and experience to rebranding and restructuring institutional integrity, Chief perform their assigned duties efforts launched by his Justice Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay, effectively," Chief Justice predecessor. By verifying Sr., recently launched a Gbeisay had emphasized. qualifications and enforcing sweeping Personnel Verification The initiative kicked off in accountability, the Judiciary and Credential Audit across the Montserrado County, focusing hopes to elevate operational Judiciary Branch of Government, on the 1st and 6th Judicial efficiency and reinforce public a campaign he had pledged Circuits, including the Temple confidence in Liberia's justice during his official induction on of Justice and several just a formality, it is a strategic The exercise, conducted in deployed three specialized measure aimed at restoring partnership with the Civil teams across court locations: credibility and ensuring every Service Agency (CSA), began on Team A at the Temple of Justice staff member is truly equipped August 28 thru September 4, and West Point Magisterial to uphold the standards of 2025. According to the Court, Team B covering justice," a spokesperson for the Judiciary's Public Information Paynesville and Omega Office, the audit underscores Magisterial Courts, and Team C As the audit continues, the Chief Justice Gbeisay's assigned to the Brewerville, Judiciary and the CSA have commitment to "a transparent Careysburg, and Virginia vowed to act on all findings and competent justice system." Magisterial Courts with transparency and due "We will conduct what I call respectively. Editing by process, marking a pivotal 'credential audits' to ensure that Jonathan Browne

national justice delivery goals. reform journey. In a bold move to required academic

magisterial courts. The CSA

Liberian companies benefit

government system," he said, such as construction. The activities by the six onboarded participate in the process.

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development.

if Liberians do not create their compete in the process. national transformation.

that male-owned businesses transactions. currently dominate sectors

urging Liberian businesses to Commission, according to PPCC entities are being conducted trust the platform and General Manager, Mrs. Rubbie through the e-GP platform, N. N. Jones, is working to minimizing human He also underscored the change this narrative.

building their own economy PPCC plans to provide training and discretion, a significant through private sector for women-owned businesses improvement over the on how to prepare procurement traditional paper-based The country will not succeed documentation and effectively system.

own economy, he stressed, he e-Government Procurement of the Liberian Legislature, highlighting the need for a (e-GP) System was officially the PPCC is tasked with strong and vibrant private launched in February 2025 by regulating and monitoring all sector as the foundation for the PPCC. The system is a public procurement and modern public procurement concession processes to Additionally, the PPCC tool designed to enhance ensure that public funds are highlighted the gender gap in transparency, efficiency, and spent efficiently and public procurement, noting accountability in government transparently. Editing by

To date, all procurement

involvement and reducing importance of Liberians To promote inclusivity, the opportunities for corruption

Established in 2005 by an act Jonathan Browne

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#### 'No Obstacle Will Derail Liberia's

propaganda."

Compact in 2015, valued at growth. improvements in electricity electricity. management.

cribing the administration's At the time, Liberia's poor local and American claims as "political electricity supply and investment. deteriorated roads were "The team is here to Liberia signed its first MCC considered major barriers to conduct their analysis and

entered into force in compact touched everyone," that should be celebrated, January 2016 and concluded Sanoe reminded journalists, not undermined," Sanoe in 2021, with the noting that the rehabilitation said. Rehabilitation of the Mount of Mount Coffee provided the I'm closing. he noted that Coffee Hydropower Plant, country's largest supply of the government maintains

establishment of a road conducting an assessment to priority, with the potential maintenance fund, building identify priority sectors for a to boost development across infrastructure capacity, and potential \$357 million the country. Therefore, not strengthening institutions investment, aimed at aligning the number of criticisms of for better economic with Liberia's economic the government's efforts. progress and attracting both

decide which sectors to \$257 million. The program "The benefits of the first invest in. This is something

that securing the second access, and, at the time, the The current MCC mission is compact is a national

#### Starts from page 6

introduced Dr. William Allen, project's early stages.

"This is not only about imperative. recording the past," said one

#### Liberia reignites Nation's historical project

turned over to a new team official, "but about shaping a Seidi. "Our task is not to erase tasked with reviving the future where every Liberian sees the past, but to expand it to effort. The Commission also themselves in the national weave together the voices story." As the event concluded, memories, and dreams of al a prominent academic and lead participants echoed a common Liberians into one shared presenter at the dialogue, who theme: the rewriting of Liberia's narrative. Only then can history played a key role in the history is not simply an academic become a true pathway to exercise, but a nation-building reconciliation, healing, and

"History is not fixed," said Browne

peace." Editing by Jonathan

#### **UNDP** to handover solarpowered water facilities

September 24, 2025 - violence. The United Nations The new infrastructure Development Programme reduces these vulnerabilities (UNDP), under the Accelerated by providing safe, nearby Community Development access to clean water. Programme (ACDP), will The handover ceremonies will formally hand over four modern begin at 10:30 AM in Bopolu on solar-powered water facilities September 24 and at 11:00 AM valued at \$334,847.28 USD to in Yarkpah Town on September beneficiary communities in 30. Gbarpolu and Rivercess The events will be attended

scheduled for today, partners, civil society Wednesday, September 24, organizations, local 2025, in Bopolu, Gbarpolu authorities, and community County, and Tuesday, September members. 30, 2025, in Yarkpah Town, This brings total number of

include Mardina, Totoquelleh, five, including the previously and Bopolu in Gbarpolu County, completed facility in Donfah, and Yarkpah Town in Rivercess Bong County, with a combined County. These facilities are part value of \$418,559.10 USD." of the ACDP, a flagship initiative Construction of five co-funded by the Government of additional water facilities is Liberia and UNDP, aimed at currently underway in Bong,

onrovia, Liberia; risks of gender-based

by senior government The handover ceremonies are officials, development

Rivercess County, respectively. solar-powered water facilities The beneficiary communities constructed under the ACDP to



accelerating development in Nimba, and Lofa Counties, underserved rural areas.

safe and clean drinking water the end of 2025. for an estimated 8,000 According to Boye Johnson, residents. Equipped with solar- Interim Manager of ACDP, the powered systems, the water facilities will not only infrastructures ensure improve access to safe continuous water flow and drinking water and support distribution to various water irrigation but also contribute points and kiosks.

They also feature chlorination vulnerable populations. units for water purification, The Accelerated Community due to reliance on needs of Liberia's rural poor. creeks.

communities, the facilities also focuses on investments in enhance security for women and agriculture, water, sanitation girls, who previously had to and hygiene (WASH), energy, travel long distances to fetch health, education, and water-often exposing them to infrastructure.

with completion and Each facility provides access to dedication expected before

to reducing security risks for

significantly reducing the risk of Development Programme waterborne diseases that have (ACDP) is a five-year initiative long plagued these communities designed to address the urgent contaminated sources such as With a budget of \$100 million for its first three years Strategically located within the (2022-2025), the programme

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## F'rançals

### Georges Weah rentre au pays et promet de poursuivre le combat politique

'ancien président chants, slogans et danses de (CDC) a réaffirmé son libérien George soutien à son retour après un ■Manneh Weah est long séjour aux États-Unis.

rentré lundi, affichant une Défait de justesse lors de la « Je suis de retour pour détermination renouvelée dernière présidentielle, l'exà poursuivre son combat chef d'État reste l'un des politique face à principaux opposants du

engagement à reprendre l'initiative politique.

accomplir ma mission. Nous sommes ici pour poursuivre la lutte politique », a déclaré M. Weah, promettant de « restaurer » ce qui, selon lui, a été perdu.

Il a par ailleurs appelé ses partisans à privilégier la paix et la cohésion nationale, après des heurts survenus entre militants du CDC et forces de l'ordre lors de son arrivée:

« Pourquoi nous battonsnous? Ce n'est pas nécessaire. Restons civils, faisons preuve de retenue et préservons la paix », a insisté l'ancien président.

Promesse de reconstruire le siège du CDC

Revenant sur la démolition récente du siège de son parti par décision judiciaire, George Weah a invité ses militants à ne pas céder au découragement.

« Ce qui est arrivé ne doit pas vous inquiéter. George

Man neh CONT'D ON PAGE 9 Éditorial

## Programme de désintoxication et de réhabilitation : une mascarade gouvernementale

Le programme temporaire de désintoxication et de

réhabilitation lancé par le gouvernement libérien pour les jeunes toxicomanes du comté de Montserrado ressemble davantage à un exercice de communication qu'à une véritable réponse à la crise de la drogue en cours dans le pays. L'initiative paraît plus cosmétique qu'efficace.

Selon les chiffres récemment rendus publics, sur les 600 jeunes initialement inscrits, 485 ont abandonné le programme sans qu'aucune mesure ne soit prise pour les retenir, assurer leur suivi ou leur offrir une véritable alternative à la dépendance. Ce constat est non seulement alarmant mais aussi profondément décevant.

Le Comité multisectoriel sur la drogue a confirmé que seuls 115 jeunes (105 hommes et 10 femmes) poursuivent encore le processus censé offrir des soins et un accompagnement à certains des citoyens les plus vulnérables du pays. « Au départ, nous avions environ 600 participants », explique le médecin-chef de Montserrado, Dr Jewel Tarpeh Kollie. « Mais au fil des jours, le nombre est tombé à 115. Parfois il augmente légèrement, parfois il baisse, car le processus est volontaire et beaucoup s'en vont. »

Dans un comté où des dizaines de décès liés à la consommation de stupéfiants ont récemment été recensés, notamment à Paynesville, l'attitude laxiste des autorités soulève de vives inquiétudes. Comment prétendre combattre un fléau mortel en laissant le choix à des personnes déjà dépendantes de quitter un centre censé les aider ? La logique même de cette approche interroge.

L'Agence de lutte contre la drogue (LDEA), censée piloter la riposte nationale, demeure paralysée malgré plusieurs changements de direction. Son incapacité découle du manque de leadership ferme et de compromissions répétées. Dans ce contexte, le gouvernement propose un système « volontaire » où les toxicomanes entrent et sortent à leur guise d'un camp de réhabilitation. Peut-on sérieusement appeler cela une politique crédible de lutte contre la toxicomanie?

« La réhabilitation est volontaire. Nous ne pouvons pas forcer quelqu'un à rester », déclarait récemment Laraamand Nyonton, vice-ministre chargé de l'EFTP au ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports, lors d'un point de presse du MICAT. « Ce camp est temporaire : si les jeunes veulent rester pour être soignés, ils le font ; s'ils veulent partir, ils partent. »

Cette déclaration illustre le manque de vision des autorités. La dépendance n'est pas un simple choix dont on se défait librement. La réhabilitation exige une démarche ferme, réfléchie, accompagnée de mesures dissuasives et d'opportunités alternatives capables de détourner les jeunes des drogues. Tant que le gouvernement se contentera de solutions de façade, la crise de la drogue continuera de ravager la jeunesse libérienne.



l'administration du président en exercice, Joseph Nyuma Boakai.

Accueilli dans une atmosphère de liesse par des milliers de partisans rassemblés à l'aéroport international Roberts, M. Weah a reçu un accueil

président Boakai, dont il dénonce la mauvaise gouvernance et la dégradation de la situation économique du pays.

« Je suis de retour pour poursuivre la lutte »

S'exprimant devant la presse, le leader du Congrès pour la triomphal, ponctué de Démocratie et le Changement

## Boakai dévoile un ambitieux programme de 8,3 milliards de dollars pour l'inclusion et l'égalité

Joseph N. Boakai, Sr. a annoncé un vaste plan de développement d'un montant de 8,3 milliards de dollars US, axé sur l'égalité genres, l'autonomisation des jeunes, l'éducation, la santé et le développement

S'exprimant en marge de la 80e session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, lors de la Quatrième nationale contraignante. Conférence mondiale sur les femmes, le chef de l'État a affirmé que le Liberia entend désormais passer des promesses aux résultats concrets.

« Sous ma direction, le Liberia est déterminé à passer des engagements aux résultats », a déclaré M. Boakai devant les dirigeants mondiaux, soulignant que le 30e anniversaire de la Déclaration et du Programme d'action de Beijing doit être « un appel urgent à l'action, et non une simple cérémonie ».

Le président libérien Les grandes lignes de l'Agenda jeunes femmes et filles, pour un développement inclusif Le président Boakai a présenté plusieurs mesures phares inscrites dans ce programme:

> Tolérance zéro contre les violences basées sur le genre, appuvée par des campagnes de sensibilisation, l'éducation du public et des budgets dédiés.

Interdiction définitive des pratiques culturelles néfastes, transformant le moratoire temporaire en loi

Mise en œuvre d'un Plan Projets déjà en cours d'action national pour les M

concu comme une feuille de route l'autonomisation, la protection et participation citoyenne.

Citant un proverbe africain -Quand les toiles d'araignée s'unissent, elles peuvent ligoter un lion » - le président a insisté sur le fait que « lorsqu'on donne du pouvoir aux femmes, ce sont des nations entières qui prospèrent ».

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## França Georges Weah rentre au pays et promet

Starts from page 8

a-t-il assuré.

pour « écrire l'histoire au service du l'arrêter », a-t-il déclaré. peuple » et a promis de renforcer la Critiquant vertement

président du CDC, a salué avec parti. enthousiasme le retour de l'ancien « Tous ces manquements ont ravivé une source d'énergie et d'espérance désormais notre cap », a-t-il affirmé. pour les militants.

Weah est là, et il va restaurer et « L'élan et l'excitation que nous reconstruire le siège de notre parti », constatons aujourd'hui montrent clairement que le retour de M. Weah M. Weah a rappelé avoir fondé le CDC est irréversible. Rien ne pourra

structure du parti en vue des l'administration Boakai, M. Kowo a prochaines échéances électorales, estimé que les difficultés notamment la présidentielle de 2029. économiques, la montée de la « Un retour irréversible », selon le toxicomanie et ce qu'il qualifie de destruction illégale du siège du CDC Pour sa part, l'avocat Janga Kowo, ont renforcé la détermination du

chef de l'État, qu'il a décrit comme notre engagement. 2029 est

#### **Boakai dévoile un ambitieux programme de 8,3** Starts from page 8

Boakai a mis en avant plusieurs de 160 000 jeunes femmes devraient initiatives qui portent déjà leurs en bénéficier. fruits:

- des femmes du Liberia touche 36 000 mandat de deux ans au Conseil de entrepreneuses dans six comtés, sécurité de l'ONU, le président améliorant indirectement les revenus Boakai a assuré que son pays et la résilience de 260 000 personnes. défendrait les droits des femmes et
- transferts monétaires à 16 000 ». familles (majoritairement dirigées Il a réitéré l'engagement de son femmes.
- Empower, and Protect) et « Ce que nous construisons santé, entrepreneuriat et libérien. compétences de vie. D'ici 2031, plus

Une voix au Conseil de sécurité

Le Projet d'autonomisation Alors que le Liberia entame un Le Projet REALISE soutient 53 des jeunes dans le cadre de l'agenda 650 ménages vulnérables, avec des « Femmes, Jeunesse, Paix et Sécurité

par des femmes) et une aide à 4 450 gouvernement à collaborer avec entrepreneurs, dont 80 % sont des l'Afrique et la communauté internationale pour transformer en Les programmes NEP (Nurture, réalité l'esprit de Beijing+30.

Accelerating Impact for Young aujourd'huin'est pas seulement pour Women ont déjà formé près de 25 000 cette génération, mais aussi pour la adolescentes et jeunes femmes en prochaine », a conclu le président

#### Rapport médical indépendant confirme des signes de torture dans l'affaire d'incendie du Capitole

Un rapport médical indépendant, traumatismes contondants. Capitole sont « hautement maindroite. compatibles avec des allégations de o

par le Dr Philip Zochonis Ireland (BSc, déclarations. MD, MPH, MASt en endocrinologie • Thomas Etherige, 40 ans, et éclairé avant l'évaluation. Le déshabillé de force, roué de coups de rapport médical fait état de lésions et traumatismes corroborant, dans une large mesure, les récits des prévenus. Les allégations des accusés et constats médicaux

- Jerry Poka, 40 ans, affirme avoir subi des blessures causées par des menottes trop serrées, des coups à la tête, des coups portés aux plantes des pieds (falanga), ainsi qu'une blessure au bras droit et une coupure après avoir été projeté contre une poignée de porte.
- Le Dr Ireland conclut que les lésions observées au poignet, au doigt et au bras droit correspondent à ses allégations de torture par

- réalisé conformément au Protocole Eric Susay, 40 ans, déclare d'Istanbul des Nations Unies sur avoir été arrêté, battu avec des l'enquête et la documentation de la menottes et des armes à feu, et torture, révèle que les blessures maintenu les yeux bandés pendant subies par plusieurs prévenus dans le deux jours. Il dit souffrir de blessures procès en cours pour l'incendie du à l'épaule gauche, au bras et à la
- L'examen médical révèle une déformation de l'épaule gauche, « L'examen, conduit le 16 septembre hautement compatible » avec ses
- clinique), précise que les accusés affirme avoir été battu avec des avaient donné un consentement écrit menottes, frappé au cou et à l'œil,



bâton et giflé à plusieurs reprises. Il dénonce également des violences généralisées sur plusieurs parties du corps.

# La Chine joue la carte de la cohérence

**COMMENTAIRE** 

EW YORK - Ne commettons pas l'erreur de croire que les images du dirigeant chinois Xi Jinping aux côtés du président russe Vladimir Poutine et du chef d'État nord-coréen Kim Jong-un, lors du défilé du Jour de la Victoire à Pékin, représenteraient le nouvel ordre mondial. Xi n'est tout simplement pas en capacité d'en assurer le leadership. Il observe seulement un vide en la matière, et s'efforce de l'exploiter.

Ce qu'il convient de souligner concernant cet événement de la semaine dernière, ce ne sont pas les tonnes d'équipements militaires qui ont défilé sur la place Tiananmen, mais plutôt la liste des invités du Sommet de l'Organisation de coopération de Shanghai (OCS) qui a eu lieu en amont, plus important rassemblement depuis la création de cette organisation, en 2001. Face à une Maison-Blanche unilatéraliste, dont les politiques changent aussi rapidement que l'humeur du président américain Donald Trump, plus d'une vingtaine de dirigeants mondiaux - en grande majorité à la tête d'États asiatiques et de pays du Sud - se sont rendus à Tianjin pour une raison commune : le désir partagé d'une diversification vis-à-vis des États-Unis.

Dans ce monde que je qualifie de « G-zéro » - au sein duquel plus aucun pays n'a la volonté ni la capacité de fixer des règles planétaires, et où les États-Unis sont de plus en plus considérés comme imprévisibles et peu fiables - l'avantage conféré par la possibilité de choisir gagne en importance. Il est essentiel d'établir une distinction entre imprévisibilité et manque de fiabilité. L'imprévisibilité peut s'avérer tactiquement utile pour maintenir les adversaires dans le déséquilibre, et pour inciter les alliés à fournir davantage d'efforts. Si l'OTAN est aujourd'hui plus forte qu'avant l'arrivée au pouvoir de Donald Trump, c'est en partie parce que son imprévisibilité (et bien entendu l'invasion russe en Ukraine) a poussé les Européens à revoir à la hausse leurs dépenses consacrées à la défense, ainsi qu'à intégrer deux nouveaux membres dans l'Alliance. Par opposition, le manque de fiabilité est susceptible de conduire tous les acteurs alliés inclus - à sécuriser leurs positions.

En matière de commerce, de technologie et de sécurité, Trump impose des droits de douane considérables, se retire d'accords officiels, et fait pression même sur des alliés proches pour qu'ils entament des négociations étroitement transactionnelles. A court terme, les pays jouent sur la défensive, en accordant à la Maison-Blanche des « victoires » - tantôt des concessions non réciproques, tantôt des exemptions tarifaires - pour éviter une nouvelle escalade. Pour autant, ces États recherchent également des alternatives - nouvelles relations commerciales, infrastructures financières et chaînes d'approvisionnement - afin de réduire leur exposition à long terme aux changements de politique des États-Unis.

La Chine l'a bien compris, et se présente aujourd'hui comme solidement attachée au multilatéralisme, aux accords à long terme, ainsi qu'à la « non-ingérence ». A Tianjin, ce message était explicite : nous respecterons nos accords, ce que ne feront pas les États-Unis. Ce signal est actuellement entendu, non pas parce que les autres pays verraient dans la Chine une puissance hégémonique soudainement devenue bienveillante, mais parce qu'elle se démarque comme le seul acteur présentant à la fois l'envergure et la cohérence politique nécessaires pour servir de pivot à une stratégie de couverture à long terme, maintenant que l'on ne peut plus faire confiance aux États-Unis.

Xi a ainsi profité du sommet de l'OCS pour présenter en lieu et place de l'ordre occidental une alternative multipolaire axée sur la souveraineté, critiquant les « mesures coercitives unilatérales » de Trump, et ajoutant une nouvelle Initiative de gouvernance mondiale à son ensemble de plateformes phares. La déclaration commune de ce sommet s'inscrit en phase avec les points évoqués par Xi, et les membres de l'OCS ont convenu de créer une banque de développement supplémentaire pour faciliter les transactions en monnaies nationales plutôt qu'en dollar. Si ces résultats sont, comme l'on pouvait s'y attendre, relativement modestes, le constat n'en demeure pas moins puissant : même les pays qui n'adhèrent pas nécessairement à la vision chinoise du monde, et qui auraient davantage tendance à travailler avec les États-Unis, sont en recherche de solutions différentes pour gagner en résilience.

L'Inde illustre particulièrement cette tendance. Le Premier ministre Narendra Modi a effectué sa première visite en Chine en sept années de pouvoir, rencontrant Xi (et Poutine) à Tianjin en période de conflictualité et de volatilité croissantes des relations entre New Delhi et Washington. Un dégel des relations de Modi avec Pékin s'opérait discrètement depuis l'automne dernier, puis une rupture personnelle entre lui et Trump, qui a imposé des droits de douane de 50 % sur les exportations indiennes en direction des États-Unis, a conduit Modi à se protéger plus activement. L'Inde fait ainsi savoir qu'elle dispose d'options pour résister à la pression américaine.

La Chine ne remplacera évidemment pas les États-Unis en tant que principal partenaire stratégique, économique et technologique de l'Inde. L'Inde et la Chine restent des adversaires stratégiques, opposés par des différends frontaliers et des intérêts concurrents dans toute l'Asie du Sud - du Bangladesh jusqu'au Tibet, en passant par les Maldives. L'opinion de la population indienne à l'égard de la Chine demeure en outre défavorable.

Par ailleurs, les relations étroites entre la Chine et le Pakistan en matière de sécurité, comme les liens croissants de l'Inde avec le Japon et les Philippines, continuent d'alimenter une méfiance mutuelle. Modi s'est rendu au Japon avant d'atterrir à Pékin, et il n'a pas assisté au défilé militaire de Xi. L'Inde est également le seul pays membre de l'OCS à avoir refusé d'approuver l'initiative chinoise de nouvelle route de la soie dans le communiqué issu du sommet, signalant ainsi qu'elle continuer de privilégier ses relations avec l'Occident. Aussi positif soit-il pour la stabilité mondiale, le dégel des relations entre l'Inde et la Chine restera limité et opportuniste, caractérisé par un certain assouplissement économique et une désescalade prudente aux frontières, sans pour autant qu'il ne soit procédé à un véritable pivot stratégique.

De même, si le manque de fiabilité des États-Unis renforce dans une certaine mesure l'OCS, celle-ci ne devient pas pour autant l'équivalent d'une OTAN ou d'un G7 dirigés par la Chine. Bien que la Chine ait démontré une remarquable capacité à rassembler différents acteurs la semaine dernière, son pouvoir de mobilisation d'une action collective demeure limité. Ses initiatives mondiales en matière de sécurité, de développement et d'IA révèlent que Pékin excelle davantage dans l'image de marque que dans les résultats concrets. L'OCS a certes dépassé ses attributions initiales de lutte contre le terrorisme, mais ne s'est toujours pas trouvé d'objectif unificateur. L'OCS reste un club tentaculaire d'intérêts divergents - qu'il s'agisse de l'antagonisme entre l'Inde et le Pakistan, ou de la méfiance de l'Asie centrale vis-à-vis de Moscou - voués à maintenir la coopération à un niveau superficiel.

# COMMENTARY

# The Role of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Liberia's **National Security Framework: A Comparative Intelligence**

hange the name, functions, and authority of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and National Security (MIANA) or the Ministry of Local Government and National Security (MLGNA), responsible for state Internal security with full arresting and enforcement powers.

"Homeland security begins with hometown security. This idea emphasizes that securing the nation is rooted in local action, requiring partnerships between state agencies, communities, and citizens.""Local government is the foundation of democracy; if it fails, democracy will fail. A functioning democracy depends on robust local government, which is the closest and most responsive level of government to the people.""Local law enforcement and emergency services are the backbone of any nation's domestic defense against social and economic bandit attacks. First responders are critical for initial incident response and identifying local threats."

"Through their involvement with first responders, local governments are essential in quickly reacting to incidents, mitigating consequences, and preparing for emergencies.""Local authorities often possess unique intelligence and expertise that provide crucial local context, helping to create a more complete national threat picture." By: Austin S Fallah - A True Son of the Planet Earth: A policy analyst and a political therapist:fallahas@yahoo.com:

In contemporary society, the dynamics of governance and security are ever-evolving, particularly in nations grappling with multifaceted challenges such as crime, corruption, and socio-political instability.

This is notably true for Liberia, a country with a complex history laden with civil conflict and ongoing struggles with drug trafficking and other security issues.

In the face of these challenges, the role of the Liberian Ministry of Internal Affairs (Local Government), often overshadowed by national defense, other ministries, and police forces, must be critically evaluated.

One could argue that for the effective internal justice system to prevail against perpetrators of crimes affecting the populace, the Ministry of Internal Affairs must be involved and empowered to take a more active role in national security affairs.

To compare the role of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Liberia to that of internal affairs ministries/homeland security agencies in other nations, one must first recognize the commonalities and differences that inform their operations.

In several countries, such as the United States, Canada, and South Africa, homeland security, internal affairs, or local government ministries are integral to the fabric of national security frameworks. They work hand-in-hand with other security agencies to ensure the safety of citizens.

This integrated approach is crucial in recognizing that national security is not solely the domain of the military or police but a collective responsibility that starts at the community/local/district/town/city/township level.

The Mandate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs:

Liberia's Ministry of Internal Affairs has an essential mandate beyond traditional tribal matters. According to its charter, the Ministry is responsible for local governance, community development, and maintaining peace and security within Liberia's administrative boundaries.

However, the fight against national security threats, such as drug trafficking and organized crime, represents an area where the Ministry's involvement must be significantly expanded. The effectiveness of governance and security relies heavily on recognizing that local leaders, such as chiefs, mayors, and district commissioners, often hold the keys to understanding and tackling issues that directly affect their communities.

The role of local governments in the United States provides

a valid comparison point.

Local governments not only manage community affairs but are also deeply involved in crime prevention strategies and the implementation of statewide policies on public safety. For example, local law enforcement agencies within the U.S. often collaborate with federal agencies like the FBI and DEA to tackle drug-related issues at both regional and national levels.

In this context, the Ministry of Internal Affairs can similarly engage local government officials and community leaders as first responders in the fight against drugs and other forms of criminal activity. The Local Chiefs as Society's Watchmen(humans):Within Liberia, local chiefs and government officials arguably represent the most grounded and accessible form of

They are uniquely positioned to act as intermediaries between the government and the citizens, effectively allowing for the horizontal diffusion of information about existing threats in the community. The collaborative potential of local officials would create a more robust network of vigilance against crime and challenges.

This model can be compared to how the national security framework operates in countries like Canada, where local agencies work collaboratively with federal authorities to ensure public safety. Such an approach allows for a more comprehensive analysis of security issues by incorporating local knowledge, thus fostering trust and co-operation between the government and the populace. Working jointly on security policies can enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of Liberia's Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Moreover, the Ministry's inclusion can guide resource allocation and focus on developing local capacities in various regions of Liberia. These resources could facilitate training initiatives for community leaders, enhancing their ability to tackle drugs and other security concerns autonomously. Strengthening local capacities might help Liberia find a more sustainable solution to drug-related issues impacting national security.

A Data-Driven Approach to Security:

A notable suggestion from Dr. Camah Mulabah, a US-based Liberian mining engineer and data scientist, entails leveraging data collection and analysis to determine the



empower the nation's internal security.

The case studies of various African nations illustrate the importance of utilizing local governance structures for greater national security.In Rwanda, for instance, local councils work with the national police to proactively identify and mitigate threats, thus serving as early warning systems for the national government.

Similarly, the Ministry of Internal Affairs could realign its mandate to incorporate crime prevention and social order alongside its existing responsibilities in Liberia.

This alteration would require the Ministry to reevaluate its current practice and participate in national security committees to ensure a collaborative approach to safety. Inclusion in National Security Committees:

Including the Ministry of Internal Affairs in all national security committees could provide a more holistic approach to addressing security challenges. By doing so, the Ministry can contribute valuable grassroots insights into national policy decisions that affect security strategies. Internal affairs (local government) involvement in these committees can lead to tailored security solutions reflecting local communities' unique

root causes of drug trafficking and other crime variables in Liberia. A data-driven approach is pivotal in developing targeted strategies to address the challenges specific to various regions within the country.

Another astute US-based Liberian professional, Mr. Albert Cole of the United States' eastern coast, added his pen to the disquisition by suggesting that research methodologies grounded in quantitative and qualitative data can provide insights into the demographic and socioeconomic factors contributing to security issues.

Dr. Mulabah said the Ministry of Internal Affairs can base its strategies on empirical evidence by establishing a comprehensive data collection framework, enhancing its effectiveness and credibility.

Mr. Cole said this methodology demonstrates how local government operational strategies can converge with national security protocols.

This practice is also seen in nations such as Singapore, where data is key in formulating public policy. Liberia must embrace a more integrated and holistic approach to its national security framework, which includes the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Revisiting the Ministry's mandate and empowering local government officials can help Liberia address pressing national security issues with renewed vigor.

## ourt rules in Capitol arson case today

Both prosecution and defendants in the Capitol Building arson of whom are co-defendants in case are holding their breaths, as Criminal Court "A" Judge the Capitol Building arson case. Roosevelt Z. Willie hands down a ruling today.

By Lincoln G. Peters

final ruling.

onrovia, Liberia; During the Wednesday, September 24, 2025 - September 10, 2025, sitting, Criminal Court "A" Judge defense lawyers argued that AMI, Roosevelt Z. Willie is expected like the John F. Kennedy Medical



defendants.

entered a new phase of scrutiny sodomized while in custody. following an unexpected Counsel for the defense rescheduling of the final ruling. reminded the Court that co-

center of this legal battle.

and torture, as argued by the conduct the examinations court was empty.

new date for the final ruling.

reasons behind the delay.

reports of a medical checkup Motion to Suppress Evidence. case outcome.

Office of the Clerk of Court to examined independently.

to rule in the most anticipated Center, is a governmentcapital Building arson case contracted medical facility today, September 24, 2025, linked to the Ministry of Justice involving former House Speaker and the Liberia National Police. Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa, They argued that such affiliation colleagues, and several other compromises credibility of any medical report expected to The case surrounding the determine allegations that the Capitol Building arson has defendants were tortured and

The motion to suppress defendant Thomas Etheridge, evidence, filed by the after allegedly being tortured defendants, which includes and compelled to confess, former Ex-speaker Koffa and his collapsed and was taken to AMI, associates, has been at the where doctors attributed his condition to malaria rather than The ruling had been expected alleged beatings he suffered. on Thursday, September 18, They argued that this incident 2025, based on a medical demonstrates why the checkup and examination defendants do not trust the report, which was to be integrity of AMI and why an submitted to the court, to independent medical institution assess the allegation of sodomy with no ties to government must

defense. But surprisingly, on Ruling on the issue of medical September 18, 2025, when examination, the Judge judicial reporters, concerned acknowledged the defense's Liberians, and sympathizers distrust of JFK but emphasized gathered at Criminal Court "A" that AMI Expeditionary to witness and provide Healthcare is "an internationally coverage for the case, hearing recognized facility providing had not taken place, and the independent and professional medical services." He noted that Criminal Court "A", under the AMI operates under international leadership of Presiding Judge standards and, therefore, should Roosevelt Z. Willie, has set the be trusted to conduct a neutral assessment. Judge Willie ordered The decision is now scheduled that all defendants be taken to for today, Wednesday, AMI at the expense of the September 24th, marking a Ministry of Justice for a complete significant shift in the timeline medical examination. He further and leading to increased mandated that the medical speculation regarding the reports be submitted to the Court by September 17, 2025, to The rescheduling comes amid enable a ruling on the pending

related to allegations of On September 8, 2025, lawyers sodomy and torture. These representing former speaker, health-related issues appear to Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa, have contributed to the colleagues, and others rejected postponement, intensifying a medical checkup and public and legal interest in the examination proposed by Criminal Court "A" Judge Willie, Due to the delay of the case, arguing that the defendants risk judicial reporters went to the potential death if not medically

gather reasons behind the Defendants scheduled for postponement. They were medical treatment and presented with a new letter of examination include Christian assignment, rescheduling the Kofa, John Nyanti, Eric Susay, parties for Wednesday, Thomas Isaac, Thomas September 24, 2025, for the Etheridge, and Stephen Broh, all

They were charged for the alleged commission of the crimes: Arson, Criminal Mischief, Criminal Conspiracy, Criminal Solicitation, Criminal Intent to commit murder, Aggravated Assault, Illegal Possession of a Firearm, Release of destructive Forces, recklessly endangering another person & Theft of Property, pending before the Court,

independent medical checkup is in reaction to the Criminal Court "A" Judge Willie's recent decision proposing a medical checkup for the defendants at the John F. Kennedy Medical Hospital to establish or not, alleging sodomy, torture, and other medical complications as alleged in their motion to suppress the evidence submitted by the prosecution.

The defense motion for an

undetermined.

During the hearing, the defense partially accepted the judge's decision. It stated for the record that they would have preferred an independent medical examination, treatment, and evaluation of the defendants.

Predicated upon their argument, the defense on Monday, September 8, 2025, filed a motion for Independent Medical Examination, saying that if the defendants are not properly medically examined or treated by a team of independent medical practitioners other than the government- owned John F. Kennedy Medical Hospital, their infections and appalling conditions could degenerate into a more severe case that could lead to their deaths, contrary to law.

The defense in their motion to suppress the evidence submitted by the prosecution alleged that the defendants were egregiously tortured by Agents of the National Security Agency (NSA) and Liberia National Police (LNP) at the Headquarters of the NSA and, as a result, for the past months, the Movants have been experiencing severe pain when

According to the defense, the defendants likewise have urine with reddish color, adding that those Agents flashed bright lights in their faces, which caused them to blur vision, and is found wanting and evil.

The defense in their motion further indicated that their clients' conditions are not only symptoms of urinary tract infection and blurred vision, but consequence of the severe beating and waterboarding being perpetrated against their persons by those Agents of the NSA and LNP is in gross violation of their fundamental rights as guaranteed by the 1986 Constitution of Liberia. Editing by Jonathan Browne

## at went wrong at RIA on Monday

Hell broke loose here Monday, September 22, as former President George Weah returned to the country when his supporters clashed with Police at the Roberts International Airport.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah September 24, 2025 <sup>´</sup> founded. Tensions flared here "We will sustain the political ahead of former President fight," he told supporters. George Manneh Weah's arrival The former Liberian leader on Monday, September 22, reaffirmed his dedication to state security forces.

welcome the former supporters and sympathizers, and hailing him as "Heaven-him. sent for the nation."

eventually moved to the home," Weah said. nearby Smell No Taste "I am back to make sure CDC Community.

The situation escalated when headquarters."

sustain the political mission onrovia, Liberia; on which the CDC was

2025, as supporters of the the cause that birthed the Congress for Democratic Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) clashed with Change, promising that the party's new headquarters Hundreds of partisans would be built in record time. gathered at the Roberts Speaking to reporters at the International Airport (RIA) to airport, Weah thanked his President, chanting slogans who came out to welcome

"I want to thank all the In anticipation of potential people who made their way to unrest, state security the airport to receive me. heightened their presence by While I was away, I watched establishing roadblocks and the news and saw the fighting. cordoning off parts of the I don't think it was necessary airport area. Supporters were today, but I'm glad to be back

gets a new party

He called for restraint and



the Liberia National Police civility in political (LNP), led by Deputy Inspector engagement, urging Liberians General for Operations, Atty. to avoid confrontation. J. Nelson Freeman (Unit 102) "We don't need to fight," he used tear gas to disperse the said. "Let's be civil. That's the crowd. The movie drew only way our country can backlash from CDC supporters move forward." and observers, who described Weah told his supporters not it as an abuse of power.

stones at security personnel, and revitalize the CDC. afternoon.

close eye on how Weah's Marseille. landscape moving forward.

Following his arrival, Weah Editing by Jonathan Browne made it clear that he had

returned with purpose, to

to worry, assuring them that In response, some aggrieved he was back in the country CDCians reportedly threw with a clear mission to rebuild

further intensifying the He also shared that part of his standoff. However, calm was recent European trip was to restored before the support his son, professional footballer Timothy Weah, who As tensions simmered, recently signed with French political observers kept a Ligue 1 side Olympique

return and his renewed "I'm happy to have seen my commitment to the CDC son settle in at Marseille, and would shape Liberia's political I'm happy to be back home to do my work," Weah stated.



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# Inconsistencies and lapses at Judiciary

#### Employees' credential audit reveals in total, 33.3% of the

Preliminary results of employees' credential audit at the attendance-related issues, a Liberian Judiciary has revealed widespread inconsistencies and lapses with delinquent employees facing a range of penalties, including dismissal, salary deduction and suspension.

onrovia, Liberia; goal of scrutinizing employee September 24, 2025 - requirements in keeping with The Director-General regulations," Dr. Joekai stated of the Civil Service Agency here Tuesday, September 23, (CSA)Dr. Josiah F. Joekai, has adding "Headcount and

judiciary workforce had staggering figure that Dr. Joekai says "reflects systemic challenges in enforcing discipline measures, which requires critical attention."

The credential audit portion revealed similarly concerning trends.

"Credentials verification, your Honor, of the 674 clarified employees, 436 constituting 63%, had authentic and verified credentials," said Dr. Joekai. However, 56 cases were set aside for further clarification, and 92 staff were found to have no academic credentials.Over 200 employees hold high school diplomas only. Some individuals in non-classified positions, such as drivers, were also included in the verification scope

Dr. Joekai emphasized that credential checks include third-party verification with academic institutions to ensure authenticity.

The CSA-Judiciary audit forms a key part of Chief Justice Gbeisay's broader reform agenda, aimed at aligning the judiciary's human resources with

CONT'D ON PAGE 11



and lapses in attendance.

inconsistencies with the true chronic absenteeism

preliminary results of judicial high level of absenteeism." Key employees' credential audit findings of the audit preliminary to the Chief Justice of the results disclosed that 127 Supreme Court of Liberia, is employees will face salary His Honor, Yamie Quiqui deductions due to absenteeism, Gbeisay, Sr., revealing 22 staff members will be widespread inconsistencies suspended for up to 13 days, and 63 employees are being "The CSA was able to correct considered for dismissal due to





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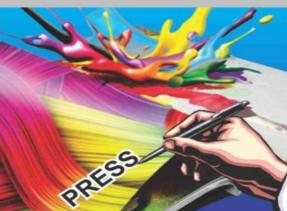
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