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ontinenta

Nigeria: African Creators train young creators with digital skills

SEPTEMBER 29

together visionary Hannatu Musa Musawa. thinkers, entrepreneurs, artists and innovators from diverse fields.

A Platform dedicated to fostering innovation and celebrating the exceptional talents of creators across the African continent.

The event showcased Africa's rich creative heritage and cuttingedge innovations to international stakeholders.

"Africa's greatest resource is not its mineral or commodities but its people, creatives, talents and resilient, artificial intelligence if harnessed effectively can amplify these trends, unlock new markets, transform competition, expand cultural exports and create millions of jobs," said Blessing Onwughalu,

he African Creators Representative, Minister of Conference 2025 brought Culture and Digital Economy,

> Convener of the event, Godwin Omodiale said he felt many creators are marginalized, they have talents and skills but lack platform to promote the skills and talents and also meet with investors and policy makers to help them leverage the industry. "

> "We also plan to create an avenue for job creation, we have a lot of graduates with no job but have potentials but no place to showcase their talents so this is a platform dedicated to promote them," he

> The conference's focused on digital skills and AI integration, such as skills training, curriculum review, training of trainers, thereby improving employment prospects in Africa.

"Technology is a progressive development, so Nigeria as a country is part of the AI journey in the sense that we have been able to have our own AI strategy and the AI strategy that the country has develop is one of the very few African country with such strategy," said Aristotle Onumo, Director, National Information Technology Development Agency.

Experts at the event reiterated that Africa must not just be consumers of the digital economy but creators as well.

"We have the number that is our population and that is our super power but numbers without talent is almost a waste so what we need to do now is to create training to breach the gap, create trainings that can convert talents to population," Nathaniel Ogwuche, a Film Producer noted. "I use Chatgpt to research my works but I write and edit my piece on my own, it has been so effective, it helps me get words that I am not too sure about and helps to research and refine," said a young poet, Bella Victor.

Organizers say they are trying to build an eco-system of start-ups where the capital city, Abuja will be the Hub of creators and tech start-ups in Africa bridging the gap between creatives, investors, policymakers, and tech innovators.

How a South African vineyard is making better wine thanks to cattle and ducks

historic wine estate near Stellenbosch is Laturning to cattle, sheep and ducks to improve the quality of its vineyards. Hartenberg Wine Estate says it has become the first in South Africa to earn international certification for regenerative farming, practices that restore soil health and boost biodiversity.

It is not the typical winemaker who herds cattle between his vineyards. Viticulturalist Wilhelm Joubert oversees 80 hectares of vineyard production at Hartenberg Wine Estate, near Stellenbosch. Hartenberg says it became the first vineyard in South Africa to receive

while runner ducks eat snails and slugs.

A research project at Hartenberg

To address the shortage of scientific data on regenerative viticulture, Stellenbosch University began a three-year study at Hartenberg in 2025. The Regenwine project involves 11 scientists and six students across disciplines including agronomy, animal science, viticulture, oenology, process engineering, agricultural economics and soil science.

One of the researchers, postgraduate student Kaiden Jacobs, is counting species of cover crops. "I think if I look at the project in a broader picture, from what we initially discussed, it's



The African Creators Conference 2025

Madagascar's energy minister sacked but protesters call for peaceful demonstrations to continue

rotest organisers in that they were forced to steal." to continue despite the dismissal workers frustrated by the lack of instead of protecting them from of the country's energy minister services. on Friday.

blackouts.

demonstrators. At least five people have been killed.

Businesses in the capital Antananarivo have seen widespread looting. One woman described what happened when she got to the restaurant where she works on Friday morning:

"When we arrived this morning, thieves were still here taking what was left. They had knives and threatened and insulted us. They told us not to move or they would kill us. We can do nothing but cry. They told us they were poor, that they had nothing, and

Madagascar are calling for The demonstrations have been Protesters say the security forces peaceful demonstrations led by students and young are repressing the population

The African island nation has power cuts a day," said student out to help clean up the wreckage. seen days of protests over Lala Herizo. "That means for 12 "The city is ransacked and it is persistent water and energy hours a day, we leave home, go to our duty to clean it up," one work, pay taxes, and when we young man said. "I support the On Friday, President Andrey return home, still no electricity. demonstrations that are Rojoelina sacked his energy The students at Ankatso are happening peacefully. I wish minister in a bid to quell the protesting so that classes return to there weren't so much damage, protests that have seen police fire normal. Because right now it's but looters, unfortunately, there teargas and rubber bullets at been a month that they haven't will always be."

studied, you know."

"We have about 12 hours of On Friday, some of them came

Protesters set fire to a newly built cable car station in Antananarivo, Madagascar, Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025.

Ecological Outcome Verification from the Savory Institute in the US in 2025.

The certification recognizes the farm's regenerative viticulture practices, which aim to restore and enhance the ecosystem in and around the vineyard.

"The way we are farming, the focus is on soil: to improve soil, and soil is complex. But soil health is part of that. It is to farm in a way that we are actually regenerating our soil by using less input from outside," Joubert

Cattle and sheep for better soil

One of the regenerative practices here is the cattle that graze cover crops between vineyards.

Their saliva, dung and urine all aid in soil health. Dung beetles are proliferating, spreading the manure deeper into the soil. When cover crops are in full bloom during the wet months, wasps, butterflies, bees and other insects inhabit the vineyards and wetlands.

The farm has not used pesticides or herbicides for two years. Cover crops also help retain water, reducing the need for

Sheep further enrich the soil,

kind of to see how we can create climate-resilient farming," Jacobs

Viticulture master's student Dylan Endeacott is also participating in the study, funded by South Africa Wine. He carried out a preliminary study in 2024 at Hartenberg, comparing grape and wine output from cattle-grazed and non-cattlegrazed plots.

"With the study that we saw from last year on the Shiraz block, the control berries were larger than the grazed berries. Smaller berries normally lead to higher quality wines," Endeacott says. The positive results from grazed vineyards align with the estate's own data, which was analysed at an independent laboratory.

"We had a very interesting trial comparing a regenerative vineyard with a regenerative vineyard with livestock in it," says Reynie Oosthuizen, head winemaker at Hartenberg. "We found that the vineyard with livestock had almost 0.5% lower alcohol. The wine had higher anthocyanins and tannins, giving it more structure, but at the same time there was finesse."

Introducing regenerative viticulture to a wine estate dating back to 1692 shows it is never too late to adapt and innovate.

EDITORIAI This is a voice of wisdom

ormer Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's recen call for world leaders to move beyond treaties and deliver tangible results in the lives of people is a plea from the heart of not only a leader, but a mother, who had seen bloody conflicts firsthand from her own country, having served as Liberia's first elected post-war leader who endured the aftermath of conflicts. Her stern warning that silence over conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine, and Africa betrays the UN's founding promise could not have been said any better, for the UN has watched Russia decimate Ukraine just as Israel decapitate Palestine or Gaza like a toothless bulldog.

At 80, this is not the kind of United Nations the world had imagined from the inception – a global body that observes and does nothing to halt carnage and destruction.

This is why we agreed with Madam Sirleaf that peace cannot be achieved through speeches alone, but through concrete actions in conflict zones that involve protecting civilians and building lasting security.

The former Liberian President lamented that multilateral structures, built to shield future generations from war, are underperforming, and global leadership lacks a unified effort to respond to a technology-driven world. A world in which a nation can direct hundreds, if not thousands, of drones mounted with missiles against another nation to kill people and seize territories, and the rest of us watch.

Addressing the UN General Assembly's high-level plenary on peace and security early last week in New York, Madam Sirleaf noted that global structures and leaders have failed the world by remaining silent, as women and children suffer from acts of inhumanity in Gaza, Ukraine, and elsewhere.

"Are we to continue to accept the imbalance of global power, as reflected in the Security Council and the use of vetoes that limit current tools for peacebuilding and peacekeeping?" She asked, noting that commemoration without candor is unaffordable. She continued that the world asks whether the UN General Assembly will protect civilians and uphold international humanitarian law, saying, "These are not words of despair; they are a summons to repair."

The former first elected female President in Africa cautioned that the credibility of the multilateral system is at stake, as conflicts stretch from Sudan and the Sahel to Gaza and Ukraine.

Citing her own experience from Liberia's post-war transition as evidence of what international cooperation can achieve, she highlighted the role of UN peacekeepers, regional African bodies, and women-led initiatives in disarming fighters, reforming security institutions, and restoring public trust, stressing, "Where guns fall silent, skills training, jobs, justice, j and dignity must follow swiftly."

It is silent about dangerous weapons in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and the Sahel, and voices like hers that are filled with compassion for human lives, especially innocent women and children, are craving to give peace a chance.

Someone among the world's leaders should heed this plea from a voice of wisdom and act now to save lives in conflict areas across the globe, restoring peace and understanding among mankind.

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by Martha Bekele, Arthur Larok

Building a Global Order that Works for Africa

D brief respite from United Nations meetings fragmented programming. and international conferences has also

contradictions, the much-anticipated FfD4 values. made little progress on these systemic

new one that works for them.

colonialism, and now through debt-fueled cultural and linguistic independence. neoliberalism and aid dependency.

forms of extraction.

The African philosophy of Ubuntu – "I am dominant logic of accumulation and invites us to imagine new international for that emphasize collective well-being, ecological stewardship, indigenous wisdom, and shared dignity.

paralyzed by disagreements between build-something better.

S member states. The Commission must be ABABA/JOHANNESBURG - As able to set its own agenda, which requires summer has drawn to a close in the predictable, sustainable finance. Its current northern hemisphere, the Global South's dependence on donor funding has resulted in

Lastly, the AU should also become a party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate The last hurrah before the summer break Change, acting as a continental negotiation was in late June, when the international bloc rather than just providing technical community gathered in Seville, Spain, for coordination. The UNFCCC is the only the Fourth International Conference on platform focusing on the dangers of climate Financing for Development (FfD4). Held change, even if the negotiations become against a backdrop of crises, including the toothless when it comes to implementation fracturing of the multilateral order, major and finance. A dual approach is important: aid cuts in the United States and Europe, Africa should play by the rules while at the and a global development system same time working toward building a crumbling under the weight of its completely new system rooted in its own

It is also essential to build regional trade and financial linkages that don't rely on But it is far from the only global meeting to concessional loans or Western benevolence. disappoint. From the UN's Summit of the The national state of disaster that Lesotho Future to its annual Climate Change declared in July after America's tariff Conferences, international fora have onslaught, and amid speculation that the US repeatedly failed to create a just alternative African Growth and Opportunity Act will to the current, broken multilateral system, not be renewed by September 30, is a which has increasingly focused on securing cautionary tale. When an economy is oversymbolic wins and incremental changes. reliant on unilateral trade preferences The time has come for African leaders – extended by a wealthy country and lacks the who speak their minds at these gatherings diversification required for long-term and then leave with little to show for their resilience, it is vulnerable to that efforts – to renounce this system and build a government's policy shifts – mimicking aid dependence.

As many political economists haveargued, Instead of following the dominant mode of Africa's underdevelopment does not reflect Western modernization, Africa must pursue a lack of potential. The continent's a new type of development rooted in local underdevelopment reflects its unfair and values. That means reinvigorating historical integration into the global indigenous knowledge systems, particularly economy: first through the slave trade, then of accountability and care, and reasserting

African scholars should develop models that Capitalism, the driver of these systems, build on the work of Kwame Nkrumah commodifies land, labor, and even the Ghana's first president and a pan-African atmosphere in a relentless search for new liberation leader – and the pioneering frontiers. Consider carbon markets: instead political economist Samir Amin, as well as of addressing the causes of climate change, others who have advanced the continent's they give the Global North carte blanche to economic and political emancipation. In continue polluting. The international order addition to its own scholarship, the continent is designed not to deliver justice or promote needs independent civil-society groups and sustainability, but to maintain globalized local philanthropists that respond to citizens' capital flows through ever more abstract demands rather than following donors' agendas.

This process – which Amin called because we are" - could form the basis of a "delinking" - is not autarky or self-isolation, radically different value system, one rooted but a strategic redefinition of values and in care, solidarity, reciprocity, and purpose. Aligned with the principle of responsibility, rather than competition and Ubuntu, it calls for making economic profit-seeking. While not an economic choices based on national priorities and ideology, the concept challenges the needs, not on the logic of global capital accumulation.

Valuing people over profit, care over competition, and collective dignity over extractive growth is not irrational – even if the current multilateral system treats it as Systemic change requires Africa to assert such. Pursuing this path will undoubtedly be its agency. That means revising the African difficult and appear impractical, if not naive. Union's Constitutive Act to delegate real But there is no other option: it is impossible decision-making authority to the African to reform the global order while playing by Union Commission, which is currently its rules. Africans must dare to imagine – and

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Angela Huyue Zhang

A TikTok Deal China Will Love

OS ANGELES – After four extensions of the statutory deadline to ban TikTok or force its Chinese owners to divest, US President Donald Trump has now signed an executive order transferring the app to US ownership. The announcement follows years of diplomatic sparring, bureaucratic maneuvering, repeated efforts by federal and state governments to curtail the platform, and even a ruling from the US Supreme Court. Has the fate of America's most viral social media app finally been decided?

Those expecting closure will be disappointed. This latest "framework consensus" still leaves China with significant leverage over TikTok. What looks like a victory for the United States may well be Chinese President Xi Jinping's biggest strategic triumph yet.

On the surface, the agreement does look like a grand bargain for America. Oracle and a consortium of US investors would control 80% of a newly created American entity that would run TikTok's operations in the US. All US user data would remain on Oracle's servers in Texas, and the new company would license TikTok's prized recommendation algorithms and retrain them on American data. Six of the entity's seven board seats will be held by Americans.

In other words, Americans' data and TikTok's servers and algorithms would all appear to be firmly under US control. And the deal even carries financial rewards for the Trump administration, in the form of a multibillion-dollar <u>payment</u> from investors (effectively a fee for brokering the settlement with the Chinese).

Look more closely, however, and the picture is less reassuring. After all, global investors already own roughly 60% of ByteDance, TikTok's parent company, while the company's founders own another 20% and its employees the remaining 20%. Thus, the deal merely raises US ownership of the American operation to 80%, leaving ByteDance with just under 20% – but still the single largest shareholder. More tellingly, the intellectual property behind TikTok's algorithms remains firmly in ByteDance's hands. Far from acquiring the recommendation engine outright, Oracle and other US investors are only receiving a licensed copy.

Algorithms are not static assets. Unlike a car or a house, they cannot be transferred once and for all. They are dynamic, data-driven systems that demand constant retraining, fine-tuning, and significant engineering support to remain effective. Oracle may be able to inspect the code, copy it in full, and retrain the licensed version on US data. But the new American TikTok will still depend on China for periodic updates. This raises difficult questions: will Oracle even receive those updates; and, if so, can it meaningfully monitor and audit them?

To be sure, what makes an algorithm powerful is not only its architecture but also the data on which it is trained. Yet because the US version will rely solely on American user data, Oracle will lack access to the vast global dataset that makes ByteDance's cutting-edge models so powerful.

China, meanwhile, will hold the legal levers to restrict or impose conditions on any transfer of ByteDance's technology. Since 2020, China has classified personalized recommendation algorithms as sensitive technology under its export-control regime. That means every export of updates or improvements to TikTok's algorithm is subject to Chinese government approval.

The Chinese authorities therefore can make TikTok a diplomatic tool. Should tensions rise over Taiwan, tariffs, Ukraine, or restrictions on Nvidia chip exports, China could delay or withhold licensing approvals, using TikTok as yet another bargaining chip. In this way, the platform has been transformed into a powerful instrument of Chinese statecraft.

Faced with a licensing arrangement that is governed less by legal terms than by shifting geopolitical winds, US investors in the new TikTok should brace themselves for heightened uncertainty. Rather than shifting TikTok from Chinese to American control, this deal merely replaces one form of dependence with another.

Yes, ByteDance will no longer oversee daily content recommendations; Oracle will, easing the US government's most immediate security concerns. But China will retain residual control over TikTok's algorithms. It has the freedom to set the scope of the license, determine the frequency of updates, and decide whether the US version can keep pace with the global one. Far from diminishing China's influence, the deal risks entrenching it.

With this agreement, the fear of Chinese access to Americans' data or direct manipulation of algorithms may fade. But it will be replaced by a subtler and more enduring risk: technological dependence on China, which holds a chokehold over TikTok's powerful recommendation engine. The Trump administration has simply traded one vulnerability for another.

That said, a less competitive US version of TikTok might not be bad for America. Some may even see it as a blessing in disguise. A less competitive TikTok would be a less addictive TikTok. That would ultimately benefit American teenagers – whether or not they realize it.

Iney realize it.

Angela Huyue Zhang, Professor of Law at the University of Southern California, is the author of High Wire: How China Regulates Big Tech and Governs Its Economy (Oxford University Press, 2024) and Chinese Antitrust Exceptionalism: How the Rise of China Challenges Global Regulation (Oxford University Press, 2021).

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OPINION

Gernot Wagner, Roland Kupers

Getting to Greener Steel

EW YORK – Burning coal to generate power is so uneconomical that the Trump administration has resorted to issuing <u>stay-open orders</u> to prop up the dying industry. However, there is one area where coal is still king: in the production of primary iron to make steel.

This matters, because iron and steel production account for over 10% of annual global greenhouse-gas emissions. Most of these emissions come from blast furnaces, where coal is used to strip oxygen from iron ore, producing not only iron but carbon dioxide (the main byproduct).

Fortunately, there are better ways to do this. One is simply to avoid making new iron in the first place. Steel is 100% recyclable, and over <u>one-fifth</u> of the global supply by now is derived from recycled scrap. Recycling requires only electricity, so one can envision a perfect circular economy in which wind turbines produce electricity to produce steel from recycled wind turbines. This is already largely economical in places where scrap steel is readily available, such as the United States and Europe, but less so for fast-growing Asian economies.

Another option is to use natural gas. Only around 7% of steel globally is produced this way, because it does entail some additional costs and complications. Nonetheless, this option paves the way to one of the primary methods of cutting steel emissions to near-zero: replacing gas with green hydrogen.

The Swedish startup <u>Stegra</u> does just that. It broke ground in 2022 on the world's first "deep green" steel plant – a major achievement and a big step in the right direction. The company's goal of producing five million tons of low-carbon steel annually by 2030 is both ambitious and achievable under the <u>right policy conditions</u>. Moreover, similar other projects are imminent, heralding a future of low-carbon steel.

It will be a steep climb. Stegra's five million tons are dwarfed by the 1.5 billion tons produced today using coal. For every new green steel plant under discussion, more than two traditional plants are also being planned. Unlike coal power plants, coal-powered blast furnaces will remain economical unless CO_2 is priced appropriately. The European Union is starting to do that with its emissions-trading system, charging polluters around $\in 80$ (\$94) per ton; but steel producers in China, India, and elsewhere face little to no carbon price.

Moreover, while direct or indirect carbon pricing must be part of the sector's <u>climate-policy portfolio</u>, it cannot be the only measure. Another big part of the picture is methane. While this greenhouse gas does inevitably leak when natural gas is used to produce steel, the main culprit is coalbed methane, which vents directly into the air when mining for metallurgical coal to use in blast furnaces.

Methane is a far more potent greenhouse gas than CO₂. Over the first 20 years, it traps about 80 times more heat than CO₂. While CO₂ remains the most potent greenhouse gas in the long run, <u>around half</u> of the *rate* of warming experienced from the preindustrial period to the 2010s was due to methane emissions rather than CO₂.

This outsize effect makes coalbed methane an underappreciated problem of global steel production. It alone adds around 25% to blast-furnace steel's climate footprint – or the equivalent of around one billion tons of CO₂ per year. These emissions will continue for as long as blast furnaces dominate the industry.

Fortunately, while no industry-wide change will happen on its own, preliminary calculations suggest that methane could be removed from the supply chain of coalbased blast furnaces relatively cheaply, at less than 1% of steel's market price. Moreover, metallurgical coal is produced by a limited number of mining companies in a handful of countries. That means partnerships to measure and effectively mitigate these emissions are well within reach. These could include not only countries like Australia, an <u>early focus</u> of the United Nations Environment Programme's methane effort, but also China, which accounts for <u>over half</u> of global metallurgical coal and steel production.

With the US ceding the field on climate policy, the EU and China have been working more closely on key climate initiatives. Coalbed methane in the steel supply chain ought to be on their list of problems to tackle. Cutting methane emissions in the steel supply chain will not produce green steel overnight, but it could reduce the sector's emissions by the equivalent of a billion tons of CO₂ annually, and at little cost.

Unlike some arguments for gas as a "bridge" fuel from coal to renewables, there is little danger that a focus on coalbed methane might <u>detract</u> from the need to move away from coal (and gas) toward greener methods. The world must not lose sight of the importance of moving toward truly low-carbon steel. On the way there, "light green steel" is well worth the small investment.

"light green steel" is well worth the small investment.

Gernot Wagner is a climate economist at Columbia Business School. Roland Kupers, an adviser on complexity, resilience, and energy transition, is the lead

architect of the United Nation's International Methane Emissions Observatory.

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Striking a Balance Between Borrowi 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 revenue-generation initiatives. For example, embracing cutting-edge 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 noncompliance 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

Bong County: AML launches job training program in Concession Communities

2025

ong County - As part of its Community Relations officers, local for employment and training skills of residents in fenceline assessments administered to people in fenceline communities communities and prepare them for applicants in Liberia as part of the because they are directly future job opportunities, the entry requirements for AMLTA impacted. The ongoing training is ArcelorMittal Liberia Training revealed that many could not pass designed to prepare them for their Academy (AMLTA) has launched due to low numeracy and literacy desired areas. Beneficiaries must another training program in Bong skills. To address this gap, AMLTA take this opportunity seriously

job applicants and those seeking in English, Math, Job Readiness, to access future opportunities, vocational training opportunities with Business, and Emotional Loubser stressed. the foundational skills required to Intelligence. Each session will be AMLTA, in partnership with the complete aptitude tests administered followed by tests to monitor African Bible College University by the Academy successfully.

ongoing efforts to strengthen chiefs, and 22 selected applicants. the numeracy and literacy According to Mr. Loubser, operation needs to benefit the

designed an eight-week training because successful completion The initiative is designed to prepare program that will tutor young people will place them in a better position

opportunities. "ArcelorMittal's

had earlier trained teachers and deployed them across Grand Bassa, Bong, and Nimba Counties to conduct the program Applicants were categorized into P1, P2, and P3 levels based on their assessment results. Each trainee must undergo eight weeks of numeracy and literacy lessons to remain in their category, with the possibility of advancing to higher levels depending on their progress.

In Bong County, three centers are currently hosting the training: Greenhill Quarry, Gbarta Public School, and Rock Crusher. Ruth Kamara, a trainer at Gbarta Public School, reported that while a few trainees initially struggled with reading and writing, all 24 The program was officially launched He explained that the training aligns participants are now on course and



on September 11 at Greenhill Quarry with a mandate from ArcelorMittal expected to succeed. Similarly, in Bong County and brought together Global Mining CEO, Kleber Silva, trainer Tony F. Gborlorwolo from a team of AMLTA staffled by Training that people from fenceline Rock Crusher noted that Manager Victor Loubser, along with communities should be prioritized altho

r. Gongioe reflects on war al

Former Presidential Candidate and renowned human rights lawyer, become a progressive and Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe is calling on the Boakai Administration to prosperous country, built on a desist from greed, corruption, and injustices.

By Lincoln G. Peters onrovia, Liberia; September 29, 2025 -Former Presidential candidate Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe has deeply reflected on war drum elements of fourteen years of civil conflict in Liberia, while warning the current administration to desist from greed, corruption, and injustices, which plunged the country into past civil unrest.

Delivering a speech on September 27, 2025, at the New Liberian Women better healthcare, affordable Organization Skills Training and housing, more food, decent roads, Advocacy Center, in collaboration more jobs, and equal treatment for all understand a fundamental truth with the Universal Peace Federation, Liberians—guided always by on the theme: Peace begins with you", uncompromising commitment to problems; rather, it only delays Cllr. Gongloe said he believes deeply respect for the rule of law and human that nothing meaningful can be rights." Cllr. Gongloe stated. achieved in communities and the entire country if violence continues to destroy lives.

"My fellow Liberians, the war that destroyed our country did not begin with guns; it began with greed, corruption, and injustice. The peace that will save Liberia will not come from soldiers or speeches alone. It will come when each of us declares: "I will not cheat. I will not steal. I will not oppress. I will live as if every child is my child, every life is my responsibility", he stressed.

The political leader of the Liberian People's Party challenged each of the participants to return home and ask if they are a peacemaker or a peacebreaker, whether they lift others up or pull them down.

He believes that as each of them believes that peace starts with them, peace will spread from their homes to communities, schools, churches, and from their hearts to the nation.

"My friends, I ran in the 2023 Presidential Election, and God's willing, I intend to run again. But hear me clearly: I do not seek power for power's sake. I seek power to serve, to sweep corruption out of our government and to prove that Liberia can be better - with better schools,

He pointed out that if Liberia is to

foundation of sustained peace, then every leader, every community, and every citizen must live the truth they proclaim today, that peace starts with them.

"Let this be our pledge: From this institution to the highest office of the land, from the poorest village to the richest community, let each on our own terms. of us be the candle of peace that lights the darkness of violence. Together, let us say, "I will no engage in violence, because peace starts with me." He urged.

The LPP political leader pointed out that as a nation, Liberians must solutions, urging Liberians to remember that every decision that resorts to violence begins with an



allow fear to rob

By Lewis S. Teh

University of Liberia Faculty noting that many graduates Association (ULFA), Prof. Dr. hesitate to apply for jobs or Edna G. Johnny, has admonished pursue opportunities because graduates of Gonet Academy to they feel unqualified, fear, remain steadfast as they step into rejection, or worry about the larger society and not let fear embarrassment. Others hide their overtake them.

"Do not allow fear to rob you of being laughed at. your future; failure is not the end; it "When I returned from my is often the best way to discover master's program, I was asked to your path. Every failed experiment present research findings on brings you closer to success", Dr. Liberia's minimum wage to the Johnny said.

while delivering a keynote address was terrified, afraid of failing and to the Cohort 12 graduating class of embarrassing myself. I made Gonet Academy. "Your being here excuses. But eventually, I prayed, today shows resilience. It shows with focus and determination, I fortitude. It shows that you are made it, and the University of people committed to perseverance, Liberia benefited." she added.

you. Yes, we face many challenges something they never had, they as women, but we remain resilient, must do something that they've determined not to be left behind." We are taking ownership of our achievements and building success

communities, and for Liberia."

She also said that women onrovia, Liberia; normally take bold steps, but too September 29, 2025 - often, what holds them back is The President of the fear, especially fear of failure, talents because they are afraid of

government, even before She was speaking at the weekend, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. I

She urged the graduates to "Ladies, I especially congratulate remember that if they want never done.

> "Imagine being on your deathbed, surrounded by the 'ghosts' of unfulfilled potential



She told the graduates that each of you never shared. They would ask them had come to the institution you: 'Why didn't you use us? Why with different goals, aspirations, are we going with you to the and challenges, but today they had grave? Do not let fear rob you of completed their academic journey. your future. Failure is not the end; "Every graduate here has acquired it is often the best way to discover the training and discipline to your path. Every failed that violence does not solve succeed. The next step is reflection. experiment brings you closer to Ask yourself: Who am I? What do I success. You have invested want? What do I want to do after heavily in your education, and graduation? What kind of person do others have also invested in you. I want to be?"

She said the surest thing is that each energy." of them does not want to remain the In remarks, the Chief Executive same, and that is why they are Officer of Gonet Academy, seeking changes in their lives and Mohammed Kerkulah, said as a careers, but quoted the late U.S. forward-thinking institution, the Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Academy's mission deeply aligns Luther King, Jr., as saying, 'Change with this global, national, does not roll in on the wheels of regional, and continental agenda. inevitability but comes through Mr. Kerkulah noted that Gonet continuous struggle.'

noted, "are unlocked through development responds directly to struggle and a determination to the global call for inclusive drive change."

She encouraged the graduates to be individuals with the skills to

for your families, for your n

dreams you never pursued, talents Liberia needs your talent and your

Academy's commitment to "Greatness and potential", she continuous professional learning ecosystems that equip prepared and focused, saying, "You adapt and lead in a complex,

g CONT'D ON PAGE 10

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

HEADLINE NE

It's a public trust

-U.S. Chargé d'Affaires describes PhD program at UL

An official from the Embassy of the United States near Monrovia states beyond Liberia, as it helps that the College of Health Sciences (ULCHS) Doctor of Philosophy detect, prevent, and respond to (PhD) program at the University of Liberia is a public trust.

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, Liberia; September 29, 2025 -United States Embassy in Liberia Chargé d'Affaires, Joseph Zadrozny, says the University of Liberia College of Health Science (ULCHS) Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program in biomedical and public health is not only an achievement, but a public

Delivering a special remark at the official orientation of the program over the weekend, Mr. Zadrozny

knowledge, train the next regional stability and global generation of leaders, and address health security. When Liberia challenges with solutions rooted succeeds in this work, the scrap iron from disadvantaged in local experience.

initiative, a nation grows stronger for prosperity expands. and more resilient. Over the years, Zadrozny noted. American institutions, including He indicated that, based on this the United States National the program matters because residents, Mohamed had been Institute of Health and other U.S. what happens in one classroom operating a major drug supply institutions, have worked together and clinic must have an impact to confront public health crises on the lives of others, and expand opportunities.

than just respond to the and shared progress.

However, the impact extends emerging threats through in the capacity to generate research, thereby strengthening

'It reminds us that when Nation invests in people, they not only uplift their own society, but they can contribute to a safer, most stable and most prosperous world. I encourage you to meet this challenge with integrity and ambition. Uphold the highest standard of ethics. Share your discovery widely and mentor those who follow you. In doing so, you carry Liberia's traditional resilience and help in sharing that science serves humanity

Jonathan Browne

said the moment and emergency. They brought a Congratulations to the new establishment of the UL PhD foundation for a lasting capacity, students beginning this journey program represents a milestone for and today that foundation and to the facility, staff, and the personal achievement. It's public

26 jailed for running major

The Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) has arrested and jailed 26-year-old Mohamed Kieta for running a major drug supply network in Fiamah, Sinkor.

By: Kruah Thomson

onrovia, September 29, 2025: Mohamed, Lknown for buying region is safer, the world is youth in Fiamah, had been on the He believes that with such stronger, and the opportunity run from the LDEA following a recent operation targeting him weeks ago.

According to the LDEA and network for more than 12 years in Fiamah and its surrounding areas. improving lives across borders A community source, who "These collaborations did more and demonstrating the value declined to be named, revealed

entering the house," a source said. However, the source claimed that Mohammed eventually walked into the LDEA offices with his lawyer after nearly a week on the agency's arrest list, contradicting the version released on the LDEA's official Facebook page.

When contacted, the LDEA Public Relations Department denied the allegations, noting that "no one who steals will ever admit it, even if caught in the act."

In a WhatsApp communication with New Dawn, the Public Relations Department emphasized that the case is



transform society.

Liberia and all who believe in the supports this program. To the University of Liberia that

public health, Liberia is investing strengthen public health, and

power of education and research to students entering, it's not only a brings about this vision. Thank He added that by establishing the trust, trust that you will undertake, you," he concluded. *Editing by* program in biomedical science and that can inform science policy,

w Dawn Correspondent heads Maryland Press Association By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

In the midst of critical county." MAPA).

Reporter Mensah, who has been With his new role as county backg practicing journalism for over 13 years now, ran a successful campaign on a promise to bring transparency and accountability to the Association in the county. His experience and background as a station manager have given him a unique perspective on issues facing the media community, and he has vowed to use his experience to bring about

positive changes. Upon hearing the news of his victory, Mensah said, "I am incredibly humbled and honored to be chosen by critical

County Press Association (corruption among journalists will serve as a reminder that

iournalists of the county to lead president, Mensah has promised that Mohamed regularly bought currently before the court and that our association. I will work to continue his work as a critical aryland, Liberia; tirelessly to fulfill my promises journalist, in keeping the public commonly referred to as "Zogo." September 29, 2025 - and serve the press of this great in formed and holding government accountable.

Maryland County widespread celebration and win demonstrates his purchase narcotics from dealers Correspondent, Patrick N. hope for a brighter future. Many commitment to effective positioned at strategic locations. Mensah, has been elected of his colleagues have praised leadership and his hope for President of the Maryland him for his role in exposing genuine change, noting that it and reporting on critical issues. anyone, regardless of their CONT'D ON PAGE 10

scrap iron from at-risk youth, And some of these youths, being involved with drugs, often used and logical journalists, NEW His election has been met with He emphasized that the historic the money from selling iron to

> are reportedly drawn into drug use and other risky activities while loitering in the area.

The source further disclosed that this was not the first time LDEA agents had visited Mohamed. According to her, on several occasions, agents reportedly seized large sums of money from him but later released him.

Weeks ago, when the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) visited him, he could not be located, prompting agents to stake out where he allegedly sold drugs, particularly at Fiamah Matadi Junction in Sinkor.

"The LDEA has spent weeks here trying to question anyone

they could not provide any additional information beyond what had already been posted on their official page.

"All I can say is he was apprehended in hot pursuit and found in possession of 93 grams As a result, the scrap business of Kush, with a street value of center becomes crowded at night LRD 353,400 (approximately with at-risk youth, many of whom USD 1,860) at his scrap business in Fiamah," LDEA said

Meanwhile, following his arrest, the LDEA revealed that Mohamed was investigated, charged, and brought before the city court on September 26, 2025. And he was then processed and sent to Central Prison, where he spent his first night in custody.

Despite the eyewitness account, the LDEA Public Relations Department stated that, under current drug laws, this offense is classified as a non-bailable crime. The public will be regularly updated on Kieta's case and other similar cases as they proceed through the court system.

Liberia : Signature de contrats pétroliers majeurs avec Atlas Oranto restées en sommeil depuis plus de dix ans.

SEPTEMBER 29

uatre blocs offshore attribués dans le cadre de la relance énergétique

L'Autorité de régulation du pétrole du Liberia (LPRA) a annoncé la signature de quatre contrats de partage de production (PSC) avec Atlas cadre de la loi sur l'exploration et la production pétrolière du Liberia, prévoient des garanties strictes sur les plans environnemental et social, des conditions fiscales transparentes ainsi qu'un bonus de signature de 15 millions de dollars américains. Ils entreront en vigueur après ratification par le Parlement et

Atlas Oranto, plus grande société privée africaine d'exploration et de production, étend ainsi sa présence au Liberia. Déjà implantée dans plusieurs pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest, l'entreprise apporte une expertise régionale reconnue et un engagement en faveur du contenu local, du développement durable et du transfert de compétences.

« L'arrivée d'Atlas Oranto témoigne du potentiel pétrolier du Liberia et de notre volonté d'impliquer des entreprises africaines dans le développement du secteur amont », a déclaré Marilyn T. Logan, directrice générale de la LPRA.

« Leur présence permettra non seulement de favoriser la réussite de l'exploration, mais aussi de créer des emplois, de développer les compétences locales et de renforcer le savoirfaire national.»

De son côté, Prince Arthur Eze, président exécutif d'Atlas Oranto, a souligné la vision de long terme de son groupe:

« Nous sommes fiers de

CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Oranto Petroleum International Ltd., portant sur les blocs offshore LB-15, LB-16, LB-22 et LB-24, situés dans le bassin libérien.

approbation du président Joseph N. Boakai.

Cette signature marque une étape déterminante dans la stratégie du Liberia visant à relancer les Ces accords, conclus dans le activités d'exploration pétrolière,

Boakai plaide pour l'acti

e président du Liberia, Joseph Nyuma Boakai, ✓ Sr., a exhorté mardi les dirigeants mondiaux à renforcer la coopération multilatérale, à faire face collectivement aux crises urgentes et à soutenir la quête de justice et de réconciliation de son pays à travers l'établissement d'un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et économiques.

S'exprimant devant la 80e Assemblée générale des Nations unies sur le thème « Mieux ensemble: 80 ans et plus pour la paix, le développement et les droits humains », le chef de l'État a rappelé le rôle historique du soulignant que le pays fut l'un des quatre premiers États africains signataires de la Charte de 1945. Huit décennies plus tard, a-t-il déploré, le monde est confronté à une série de défis - conflits armés, déplacements massifs, changement climatique et inégalités croissantes - qui nécessitent des solutions collectives et non la division.

« Le recul du multilatéralisme n'est pas une option pour bâtir un monde juste et pacifique », a affirmé Boakai, insistant sur le fait que la crédibilité des Nations unies repose sur leur capacité à agir

ensemble au service de

Le Liberia au Conseil de sécurité

Le président s'est félicité de l'élection du Liberia comme membre non permanent du Conseil de sécurité pour la période 2026-2027, la première participation pleine depuis l'adhésion à la Charte. Il a promis que son pays porterait la voix de l'Afrique et renouvelé son appel à une représentation permanente et équitable du continent.

« Si le nom qui figurera sur la plaque est celui du Liberia, ce siège appartiendra à l'Afrique », a-t-il déclaré.

Paix et diplomatie

Revenant sur l'expérience douloureuse de la guerre civile libérienne, Boakai a rappelé l'importance du dialogue et de Liberia au sein de l'ONU, la médiation dans la résolution des les mesures nationales – projets de crises. Il a affiché son soutien aux défense côtière, politiques de efforts de médiation dans la guerre en marc

Ukraine et réaffirmé l'adhésion de l'Afrique à une solution à deux États dans le conflit israélopalestinien.

« Sorti des ruines de la guerre civile, le Liberia sait trop bien le coût humain des conflits et la valeur de la paix », a-t-il dit, citant les trois transitions démocratiques pacifiques réalisées depuis 2003.

Urgence climatique et justice environnementale

Le président a qualifié le changement climatique de « menace existentielle », rappelant ses effets déjà visibles au Liberia : érosion côtière, pluies diluviennes, insécurité alimentaire. Il a détaillé





Éditorial

Le programme de désintoxication du gouvernement, une farce nationale

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Starts from page 8 Liberia: Signature de contrats pétroliers

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rejoindre le Liberia à ce moment historique. Nous considérons ce pays non seulement comme une destination d'investissement, mais comme un véritable partenaire de succès. »

Ces nouveaux contrats constituent les premiers accords pétroliers en amont signés par le Liberia depuis une décennie. Ils intègrent des mécanismes de gestion transparente des revenus et un dispositif solide de contenu local, garantissant des retombées directes pour les Libériens à travers l'emploi, les opportunités d'affaires et le développement des capacités.

L'annonce survient quelques jours après la signature, à Paris, de quatre autres PSC avec le géant énergétique TotalEnergies, concernant les blocs offshore LB-6, LB-11, LB-17 et LB-29. Cet accord, également en attente de ratification,

représente la première opération pétrolière amont conclue par le Liberia en plus de dix ans et l'un des investissements étrangers les plus significatifs dans le secteur depuis le début des années 2010.

Accueillant favorablement ce partenariat, le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai a salué « un tournant décisif dans le parcours énergétique du Liberia », réaffirmant son engagement à garantir le respect des normes environnementales, sociales et sécuritaires les plus strictes.

En tant qu'autorité indépendante, la LPRA est chargée de la régulation du secteur pétrolier amont, notamment de l'octroi des licences, de la gouvernance, du suivi de la conformité et de la promotion d'une exploitation transparente et responsible, au service du développement durable du pays et de ses partenaires.

Starts from page 8 BOAKAI DIAIDE DOU

hés carbone, stratégie d'économie bleue – mais insisté sur le fait que ces efforts sont insuffisants sans un engagement mondial accru.

« Ceux qui contribuent le moins à cette crise ne doivent pas en payer le prix le plus élevé », a plaidé Boakai, appelant à l'application stricte de l'Accord de Paris, à la capitalisation du Fonds pour pertes et dommages, et à une véritable justice climatique pour les nations vulnérables.

Réforme financière et développement inclusif

Aux côtés d'autres pays en développement, le président a dénoncé le poids insoutenable de la dette qui empêche d'investir dans la santé, l'éducation et le développement. Il a présenté l'Agenda ARREST du Liberia – Agriculture, Routes, État de droit, Éducation, Assainissement et Tourisme/Technologie – comme pierre angulaire de la transformation nationale, en cohérence avec la Vision 2030 et l'objectif d'atteindre le statut de pays à revenu intermédiaire tout en réduisant les inégalités.

Justice transitionnelle

Dans un passage marquant de son allocution, Boakai a renouvelé l'appel du Liberia à l'appui international pour la création d'un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et économiques.

« Ces démarches sont essentielles pour

parvenir à une paix durable et à une véritable réconciliation nationale », a-t-il souligné, rappelant l'importance de rendre hommage aux victimes et de promouvoir la justice.

Vers une ONU réformée

Le président a apporté son soutien au Pacte pour l'avenir et au Pacte numérique mondial, appelant à une réforme des structures onusiennes pour les adapter aux réalités actuelles.

« On ne peut pas affronter les défis de 2025 avec des solutions de 1945 », a-t-il mis en garde.

Enfin, il a insisté sur l'urgence d'accélérer la mise en œuvre des Objectifs de développement durable (ODD), qu'il a qualifiés « d'urgence mondiale ». Le Liberia présentera son prochain rapport national volontaire en 2026, en phase avec l'Agenda 2063 de l'Union africaine et la Vision 2050 de la CEDEAO.

Clôturant son intervention, Boakai a réaffirmé la vocation du Liberia à être un « pont pour la paix, un partenaire du développement et un défenseur des droits humains ».

« Pour les 80 prochaines années, nous continuerons d'honorer la promesse de 1945 en renouvelant notre engagement pour un monde où la paix est juste, le développement inclusif et la dignité universelle », a-t-il conclu, sous les applaudissements.

Incendie chez l'ex-président Weah : accident domestique ou attaque ciblée ? ans la nuit du 24 septembre, un incendie s'est déclaré au

domicile de l'ancien président George Weah, situé sur la 9e Rue à Sinkor, endommageant gravement sa chambre à coucher. Si les flammes ont pu être maîtrisées par les sapeurspompiers, les causes de l'incendie restent sujettes à controverse. Selon plusieurs témoins, c'est M. Weah lui-même qui a donné l'alerte, aidé par des voisins qui ont tenté de contenir le feu avant l'arrivée des

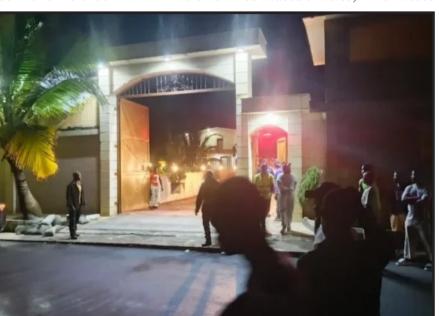
secours. Le gouvernement affirme pour sa part que les pompiers sont arrivés sur place six minutes après l'appel, soit à 0h54, qu'ils ont éteint l'incendie à 1h30 et quitté les lieux vers 2h03.

Des versions divergentes

Le Congrès pour le changement démocratique (CDC), parti de George Weah, dénonce un « acte prémédité » et réclame une enquête approfondie, allant jusqu'à demander une commission internationale. Son président par intérim, Janga Kowo, estime qu'il s'agit d'une tentative d'attentat contre l'ancien chef d'État.

Le gouvernement rejette fermement ces accusations. Le vice-ministre de l'Information chargé de la presse et des affaires publiques a déclaré que les premières constatations indiquent un départ de feu dans la chambre de M. Weah, probablement dû à un court-circuit électrique. Il a qualifié les accusations du CDC de « discours inconsidérés », tout en soulignant que l'enquête officielle n'est pas encore achevée. Enquête entravée?

Selon des sources officielles, des enquêteurs ont tenté d'accéder au domicile mercredi matin afin d'établir les causes exactes, mais l'accès



leur aurait été refusé, avec la promesse d'être contactés ultérieurement. Les autorités regrettent également de n'avoir pas pu examiner les enregistrements des caméras de surveillance de la résidence, qui pourraient constituer des preuves déterminantes. L'opinion dans l'incertitude

Alors que le CDC persiste à parler de tentative d'assassinat et que le gouvernement maintient la thèse de l'accident électrique, le Liberia National Fire Service n'a pas encore publié de rapport officiel. En l'absence de conclusions définitives, l'opinion publique demeure partagée et s'interroge : qui dit vrai?

Le procès pour incendie criminel du Capitole suspend

président de la Chambre des preuves de l'accusation. représentants, Cllr. Jonathan Les arguments du juge Willie Fonati Koffa, ainsi que plusieurs Le 24 septembre 2025, le juge limitées en raison: coaccusés.

un bref de certiorari, au alléguant des actes de torture soumettre à certains examens lendemain du refus du juge de la Cour criminelle « A », Roosevelt Z. Willie, d'écarter les preuves présentées par l'accusation.

Dans une citation officielle adressée aux parties, la Cour suprême a convoqué une conférence avec la juge Wolokolie pour le 2 octobre 2025 à 15h00, précisant que toutes les procédures en cours devaient être suspendues dans l'attente de l'issue de cette rencontre.

Contexte iuridique

Le certiorari, du latin « rendre certain », est un recours discrétionnaire permettant à une

'associée à la Cour juridiction supérieure d'examiner infligés aux accusés lors de leur suprême du Liberia, la légalité d'une décision rendue détention. ✓ Jamesetta H. Wolokolie, par une juridiction inférieure. Dans son jugement, le magistrat a siégeant en Chambre, a ordonné Dans ce dossier, la défense reconnu que le rapport médical la suspension immédiate du cherche à obtenir un réexamen de établi par le Dr Philip Zochonis procès pour incendie criminel du la décision du juge Willie Ireland faisait état de cicatrices et Capitole impliquant l'ancien concernant l'admissibilité des d'affections compatibles avec des

Willie avait rejeté la demande de 1. Cette décision intervient à la suite la défense visant à invalider faits présumés et l'examen d'une requête déposée par les certaines preuves, malgré la médical, avocats de la défense sollicitant présentation d'un rapport médical 2.

violences. Toutefois, il a relevé que les conclusions demeuraient

Du délai écoulé entre les

Du refus des accusés de se



(notamment génitaux et anaux),

Et des contraintes Ø médical local.

Le rapport indiquait par ailleurs accusations de sodomie. Pour le septembre 2025. juge, cette rétractation affaiblissait la thèse de la défense et rendait inutile un examen plus poussé.

Estimant que les éléments présentés ne permettaient pas de confirmer de manière certaine les que le rapport médical justifier l'exclusion des preuves procédure.

recueillies par l'accusation.

« En conséquence, la diagnostiques liées au contexte motion visant à écarter les preuves est rejetée, et le procès se poursuivra », a déclaré le juge que certains accusés avaient Willie, avant d'assigner finalement retiré leurs l'ouverture du procès au 26

Une affaire sensible

Ce dossier très médiatisé suscite une attention particulière en raison du profil des accusés et de la gravité des accusations. La décision de la Cour suprême de suspendre les audiences accusations de torture et de constitue une étape clé : elle sévices sexuels, le juge a conclu laisse entrevoir un réexamen des décisions antérieures et pourrait comportait trop de limites pour influer sur la suite de la

Starts from page 6 Bong County: AML launches job training program

ugh attendance was initially poor, the trainees are now Through this initiative, AMLTA is not only showing marked improvement in both attendance and addressing immediate literacy and numeracy needs performance.

In Nimba County, the training is simultaneously taking place in Lugbehyee, Gbapa, Zolowee, and Zuluyee, with similar results being recorded.

but also ensuring that young people from communities around its concession areas are better equipped to access sustainable livelihoods, jobs, and skills training in the future.

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CIIr. Gongloe reflects on wai

individual.

According to him, in 1980, Liberians violently organizations." Cllr. Gongloe continued. overthrew the government and ended one-party rule. He urged Liberians to be honest with themselves, as

was used again in response to the disputed elections, hate and refuse revenge, when they treat their and it solved nothing, but cost many Liberians their neighbor's child as their own. lives, lives that could still have been here today.

address the problem of bad governance, and some struggling, yet all of you are holding onto the hope of Liberians decided to plunge the country into 14 years of fulfilling your dreams. Your very lives teach us that war before they could hold truly free and fair elections peace is not an abstract idea. Peace is food in your in 2005.

handed down by leaders, governments, or international

However, elections did not take place until 1985, and peace does not begin in the palaces of presidents, in the when they did, many felt that the polls were not free and conference rooms of ministers; rather, peace begins in biomedical and public health the heart of an individual.

He also reflected that on November 12, 1985, violence According to him, it begins when people choose not to

He further indicated that once more, on December 24, "You women and children sitting here today have 1989, on the eve of Christmas, violence was used to different situations. Some of you are orphans, some are "Therefore, if each Liberian promises never to use stomach. Peace is education in your mind. Peace is violence as a means of solving any problem, then dignity in your soul. When a society cares for its most violence will disappear from Liberia. On this note, I vulnerable, it plants the seeds of peace. When it have chosen to speak to you on the theme 'Peace Starts abandons them, it plants the seeds of violence." He with Me.' We often speak of peace as if it is a gift to be cautioned. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Starts from page 7

New Dawn Correspondent heads Maryland round, can make a difference.

Pleebo City Hall on Saturday, September 27, opportunity to participate. 2025, drawing journalists from across the county. The IEC chairperson implored the newly elected The Independent Election Committee, chaired officials to uphold the spirit of peace and to by Henry Kolenkey, commended the journalists continue keeping the community informed. continue fostering peace among their ranks.

various positions, namely, President, Vice committee for the induction ceremony. emerged.

applicant for the presidency, Christopher Tarwily Administrators (MAPA). as the vice-presidential candidate, and Peter P. "I would like to extend my gratitude for the Ministry of Health, and the United

manner. Still, he expressed bewilderment as to The most widely discussed election took place at why other journalists did not seize the

of Maryland County for their exemplary conduct In his remarks, the outgoing president and throughout the election, while urging them to correspondent for the Liberia News Agency, Joe Langston Wilson, lauded the Independent He said that although ample time was allotted for Election Committee for the peaceful execution individuals to submit their applications for of the election and pledged to form a special

President, Secretary General, Financial He praised the collaboration and cooperation of Secretary, and Treasurer, only three candidates the Maryland County Managers Association and vowed to work closely with the newly elected He identified Patrick N. Mensah as the sole officials of the Maryland Association of Public

Toe, Jr., as Secretary General, with the posts of peaceful conduct of the election. Although there Financial Secretary and Treasurer uncontested. were no contenders, we firmly believe the Mr. Kolenkey noted that the electoral process process was transparent and equitable," he was conducted in a free, fair, and transparent emphasized. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Don't allow fear to rob you Starts from page 6

centre for continual professional development, Driven by a belief in the transformative power o African region and on the African continent.

to thrive in today's dynamic job market."

and professional programs.

monitoring and evaluation, project management, communities. Editing by Jonathan Browne procurement and contract management, resource

world, highlighting the power of Gonet Academy. management, information and communication He said that when it comes to this critical moment, technology, business, finance, communication, Gonet Academy's ambition is to be the premier entrepreneurship, and leadership, among others. not just in Liberia, but also in the entire West education, Gonet Academy was founded with a bold vision to build human capacity, unlock "We are committed to equipping individuals with individual potential, and empower professional the practical skills, knowledge, and tools required and young people through accessible and resource-driven learning opportunities.

According to him, since its inception, the As Liberia seeks to strengthen its human capital Academy has empowered and trained over 5,000 and respond to a rapidly evolving labor market, professionals through short-term, career-focused, Gonet Academy aims to be at the forefront responding to workforce demand, fostering He highlights various sectors critical to entrepreneurship, and contributing to inclusive sustainable development in Liberia, including development across various sectors and

NOW DELIVER DAI

L ends orientation for first PhD candi

The University of Liberia has held an orientation for the first batch of students in its College of Health Sciences Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program.

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, Liberia; September 29, 2025 - The Government of Liberia, through the University of Liberia, has taken a giant step to mentor the next generation of independent researchers and leaders in science, following climax of the official orientation for the first batch of students for the College of Health Sciences Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program.

On Friday, September 26, 2025, the College of Health Sciences at the University of Liberia held at an orientation program for its PhD students in the auditorium of the

pedagogical training, while years three and four focus on dissertation research and proposal defense, and dissertation completion and final defense.

He added that each phase builds upon the previous one, preparing candidates for the challenges of advanced scholarship and research. He also disclosed that students will engage with courses such as philosophy of science, advanced research methods, statistics, research ethics, and cultural competency.

He further indicated that in Phase Two, candidates will learn scientific writing, grant and proposal development, and teaching and



medical school. The program was graced by international partners, government institutions, including the National Public Health Institute of Liberia, Ministry of Agriculture, States Embassy in Liberia, World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization and Africa-CDC.

The program's expectations and academic standards aim to maintain high academic standards, as students are expected to demonstrate high intellectual curiosity, professional integrity, and make consistent progress during their studies.

The program emphasizes the importance of research ethics and integrity, as students are expected to adhere to guidelines for responsible conduct, authorship, and respect for human and animal subjects, where applicable.

Its concentration is on biomedical science, public health, epidemiology, and biostatistics, with a focus on educating highly skilled and independent researchers and leaders in the health sciences through rigorous coursework, research, and professional

development. In a PowerPoint presentation on curriculum structure of the PhD Program, Dr. Peter S. Humphrey said that the program is organized

around four major phases, which

include year one and two, coursework and seminar,

comprehensive examination and

monitoring. In contrast, Phases Three and Four conclude with the dissertation and evaluation.

Speaking earlier, Dr. Bernice T. Dahn, Vice President of the University of Liberia College of Health Sciences, welcomed the participants and provided background information on the program, expressing appreciation and gratitude to international partners and government officials for their support.

"It's a pleasure to welcome all of you to the first day of the orientation for this first-ever cohort of PhD students at the University of Liberia, and one of the first PhD programs in Liberia. The process of developing the first PhD program at ULCHS started in 2021, following the W.H.O. call for countries to prepare for future pandemics. To fulfill this call, UL decided to leverage partnership and training opportunity for Liberian researchers, as a means of growing our timber", Doctor Dahn noted.

In separate remarks, the World Health Organization, the Africa CDC, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Agriculture, among others, commended the ULCHS for initiating the program, describing it as timely and appropriate.

Various institutions separately pledged support and commitment to the process, while urging that it drives local independent research and innovation to address Liberia's current and future public health crises. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Liberia kicks off 8th AAMA Conference. Fight over Methodist institutions

over 200 delegates.

of its decade-long civil war, in maritime professions, Liberia with a unique Liberia is preparing to host the 8th Implementation of maritime opportunity to showcase its Association of African Maritime single windows to facilitate trade maritime resources, blue Administrations (AAMA) and commerce and Establishing economy initiatives, and Conference and General sustainable financing tourism potential. Furthermore, Assembly, commencing frameworks for maritime projects it serves as a strategic platform tomorrow, September 30, at the in Africa EJS Ministerial Complex. This These deliberations aim to re-election to Category A on the

onrovia prepares for women and youth within the blue expected to have a positive landmark Maritime economy, Capacity building, impact on Monrovia's local gathering, welcoming infrastructure development, and economy, as participants will technology transfer utilize local goods and services Monrovia, September 29, 2025 opportunities, Promotion of throughout the four-day event. - For the first time since the end gender diversity and inclusivity This year's conference provides

for advancing Liberia's bid for

of kids at the school. A statement issued by the Liberian and schools, to possess those Annual Conference says the Office institutions of the Resident Bishop and the "We therefore call on the relevant Ministry of Education have been authorities, including the Liberia duly informed of the situation.

official UMC administration of the of Education, and other Everlyn S. Chapman United institutions—along with the Methodist School in the Newgeneral public, Georgia Housing Estate is to note that the United Methodist authorized to issue valid UMC Church in Liberia has not changed report cards", the statement warns. the names of any of its The statement recalls that the institutions, including the Everlyn Global Methodist Church (GMC), S. Chapman United Methodist had earlier attempted to forcefully School in the New Georgia seize and vandalize the Everlyn S. Housing Estate", the statement

onrovia, Liberia; narrative has fueled further acts of September 29, 2025 - lawlessness, including attempts to The crisis in the United seize churches, health centers, and Methodist Church has taken educational facilities that serve another dimension with the not only UMC members but also Education Department of the the broader Liberian public." Liberia Annual Conference (LAC) According to the LAC's of the United Methodist Church statement, the Global Methodist alarming of a fraudulent scheme Church recently staged a forceful being allegedly orchestrated by the takeover of the Weala Clinic in breakaway group, Global Margibi County, noting that such Methodist Church, falsely claiming alleged actions are provocative to operate the Everlyn S. Chapman and constitute clear violations of United Methodist School in the therule of law.

New Georgia Housing Estate and It says the GMC and its leadership issuing graduation certificates and are fraudulently falsifying and report cards to students and parents changing names of legitimate institutions, such as UMC clinics

Medical and Dental Council, the 'It must be noted that only the Ministry of Health, the Ministry



highly anticipated event, hosted highlight the manifold benefits IMO Council, with elections by the Liberia Maritime for African nations, including scheduled for December 2025. Authority, will bring together enhanced capacity, improved Throughout the conference, over 200 delegates from more infrastructure, and increased delegates will benefit from the than 40 countries, including both technological advancements. regional organizations.

maritime development and the assembly. economic future.

Participants will engage in a organizations, including the charting the future of Africa's series of discussions addressing a International Maritime Blue Economy for a greener, wide array of pressing maritime Organization, the European cleaner, safer, and more topics, including: Maritime Union, the African Development sustainable future."- Edited by governance and international Bank, the International Shippers' Othello B. Garblah. cooperation for future growth, the Union, and other industry leaders, role of digital technology in the are expected to be in attendance. maritime sector, empowering The influx of delegates is

African and international The opening of the conference experts participating in panel participants, as well as will be graced by Vice President discussions on maritime representatives from over 10 Jeremiah Kpang Koung, who will governance, international deliver special remarks to cooperation, women's The 8th AAMA Conference is a welcome the distinguished empowerment, and digital milestone for Liberia, marking delegations. Liberia's Maritime innovation. The event will the largest maritime gathering in Commissioner and CEO, Cllr. conclude on Friday, October 3, Monrovia's recent history. The Neto Zarzar Lighe Sr., will lead after which foreign guests will event will serve as a crucial the host country's delegation, depart for their respective platform for maritime leaders to emphasizing the importance of home countries. Looking discuss vital issues affecting the collaboration in maritime ahead, Ghana has been sector, including the blue regulation, security, and announced as the host for the economy, maritime safety, coordinated action. Ambassador Association's 9th session next security, environmental Robert Wilmot Kpadeh, Liberia's year, with details to be finalized protection, and trade. The Permanent Representative to the in Monrovia. conference theme, "Safeguarding International Maritime As Ambassador Kpadeh aptly the Oceans, Promoting Organization (IMO), has stated, "Liberia is profoundly Decarbonization, and Exploring underscored the historic nature of honored both to be chosen to Africa's Blue Economy," reflects this event and Liberia's honor in host this historic gathering of

critical role of oceans in Africa's Approximately 45 African states maritime leaders, experts, and and several prominent political stakeholders in

insights of leading maritime



Chapman United Methodist School clarifies. in the New Georgia Housing Estate The LAC warns parents, and the church edifice.

It notes that in response to vigilant and avoid accepting mounting violence and repeated school credentials that are not attempts to seize UMC properties authorized by the Ministry of unlawfully, the LAC/UMC Education and the United petitioned the Civil Law Court, Methodist School System, as a commitment to sustainable hosting such a significant African Maritime nations and which has since declared the doing so could jeopardize their to join the ranks of African Liberia Annual Conference of the children's educational future and UMC the rightful owner of all its prevent them from gaining properties in Liberia. admission to other universities. "As part of its ongoing deception, The breakaway Global Methodist the GMC sect continues to mislead Church, led by Dr. Jerry Kula, has its members, claiming that it has not responded officially to this requested the presiding judge to latestallegation. Press Release recuse himself and rescind his ruling and that it has filed an appeal to the Supreme Court. This

sponsors, and guardians to remain





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Mrs. Sirleaf commits to building the African Women's House

-A first-of-its-kind pan African hub for women's leadership

Clinton Global movement building. scale existing programming at into positions of power.

ew York, September leadership development, 29, 2025: At the feminist organizing, and

Initiative's 20th Anniversary Designed to nurture a new meeting, the Ellen Johnson generation of women leaders, Sirleaf Presidential Center for the House will provide space for Women and Development (EJS training, convening, and Center) announced a landmark research, ensuring that women USD 30 million Commitment and girls across Africa have the to Action to establish the infrastructure, networks, and African Women's House and support systems needed to rise

the Center, as a bold investment Thanks to a growing



in the future of women's community of friends and leadership across the continent. supporters, the EJS Center is As the world's first Presidential now ready to begin construction Center for a woman leader, the of the African Women's House African Women's House will in Monrovia, Liberia.

serve as a pan-African hub for "The African Women's House

will be a place where women leaders come together to learn, to lead, and to change the future of our continent," said Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, EJS Center founder and former President of Liberia. "We have long known that African women are the backbone of our societies.

Now, we are building the House that their leadership deserves." The announcement aligns with the EJS Center's #GapZero agenda, which calls for urgent action to close the gender gap in public leadership by providing data, evidence, and pathways to equity.

The African Women's House builds on the Center's flagship Amujae Initiative, which has already supported over 50 African women leaders in breaking barriers across politics, civil society, and business, with plans to also build the next generation of public service leaders.

Through this Commitment to Action, the EJS Center is calling on philanthropists, governments, development institutions, and private sector partners to join in accelerating the journey toward gender parity in public leadership in Africa.







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