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| WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2025 | L\$180.4322 US\$1.00 | L\$182.4247 /US\$1.00 |

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

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Confusion and contradictions



-After fire incident at former President Weah's residence

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Continental News

South Africa's top diplomat in France found dead near Paris hotel

South Africa's window was forced open, it ambassador to France, added.



Nathi Mthethwa served in the top diplomatic post in France since December 2023

been found dead near the four-star Hyatt Regency Hotel in Paris, French officials have told the BBC. Mthethwa, 58, was reported missing by his wife on Monday evening, after a "worrying message from him", the Paris prosecutor's office said. He had booked a room on the 22nd floor of the high-rise hotel, whose security

his death are unclear at this stage, and an investigation has been opened, the Paris prosecutor's office said, adding that a duty magistrate was "going to the scene". Mthethwa was a high-ranking member of the African National Congress, the party that brought in democratic rule in 1994 with Nelson Mandela as South Africa's first black president.

He had been serving as South Africa's ambassador to Paris since December 2023, and had previously been in government as police minister and also arts and culture minister. He was a close ally of former President Jacob Zuma and was implicated in what is known in South Africa as the state capture inquiry, which looked into allegations of high-level corruption during Zuma's presidency. In a statement, South Africa's Foreign Minister Ronald Lamola hailed Mthethwa as a "distinguished servant of the nation". "I have no doubt that his passing is not only a national loss but is also felt within the international diplomatic community," he added. Lamola confirmed that the circumstances around Mthethwa's death were being investigated by the French authorities. BBC

Former Congolese president sentenced to death for war crimes

Former Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila has been sentenced to death in absentia for war crimes and treason. The charges concern accusations that Kabila has been supporting the M23, a rebel group who have wreaked devastation across the country's eastern region. Kabila was convicted on Friday by a military court of treason, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, including murder, sexual assault, torture and insurrection. He denied the charges, but did not appear in court to defend himself.

The ex-president rejected the case as "arbitrary" and said the courts were being used as an "instrument of oppression". His current whereabouts are unknown. The 54-year-old led DR Congo for 18 years, after succeeding his father Laurent, who was shot dead in 2001. Kabila handed power to President Félix Tshisekedi in 2019, but

they later fell out and Kabila went into self-imposed exile in 2023. In April this year, the former president said he wanted to help find a solution to the deadly fighting in the east and arrived in the M23-held city of Goma the following month. President Tshisekedi accused Kabila of being the brains behind the M23 and senators stripped him of his legal immunity, paving the way for his prosecution. Decades of conflict had escalated earlier this year when the M23 seized control

of large parts of the mineral-rich east, including Goma, the city of Bukavu and two airports. Pointing to overwhelming evidence, the UN and several Western countries have accused neighbouring Rwanda of backing the M23, and sending thousands of its soldiers into DR Congo. But Kigali denies the charges, saying it is acting to stop the conflict from spilling over onto its territory. A ceasefire deal between the rebels and the government was agreed in July, but the bloodshed has continued. BBC



Joseph Kabila returned to DR Congo in May after a period of self-imposed exile

Nigeria banned shea nut exports to help women profit. But it backfired

Rows of women sit low to the ground in the central Nigerian town of Bida, holding sticks that rise and fall in a steady rhythm. The air is filled with the dull thud of wood against shell - the dark sun-dried, brown exterior of the shea fruit giving way to reveal the hard nut inside. The produce, harvested in the wild after falling from the trees, is being readied for the middlemen to collect and then supply factories. These are the early stages of a process that ends with shea butter on the counters of cosmetics shops across the world - as well as in other products such as chocolate. Women in Nigeria - which accounts for nearly 40% of the world's shea crop - are at the heart of the industry, but their livelihoods have been

chain. Hajaratu Isah, 40, who has been preparing the fruit all her adult life, tells the BBC that the government's new policy has left her, her family and other women in the community struggling to survive. Ms Isah lives with 11 other people, including her six children, and has a recurring eye condition, conjunctivitis, that flares up when the weather changes and requires regular medication. "We are feeling hopeless. We cannot eat, we do not have money, and our children can no longer go to school," she says. Before the export ban, she earned up to 5,000 naira (\$3.30; £2.45) a day, enough to cover school fees, which she paid daily, and her medicine. Now, her income has dropped to less than half that. "Since the announcement, we have been suffering. It does not affect



Hajaratu Isah is worried about how she will now pay for her children's education

threatened by a dramatic recent change in government policy. In late August, in the midst of the harvest season, the authorities announced a six-month ban on the export of the raw nut. The intention was to boost local production of the finished butter - as opposed to the nuts - and so increase the amount of the profit which stays in Nigeria. But the sudden shift has led to a fall in demand for the shea nut as there is not enough local capacity to process all of the country's harvest. The reduction in demand has led to a collapse in the price of shea nuts, which in turn has meant that the income from their work is no longer enough for the women to live on. In Niger state alone, where Bida is located, hundreds of thousands of women are believed to depend on some part of the shea production

only us but the entire chain of people working here, including the labourers," she adds, referring to the men who are paid to load the lorries with the sacks full of shea nuts. Their pay has also halved over the last few weeks. The income from her work was enough to sustain Fatima Ndako, 55, and her household of 14, including her seven children and several grandchildren. "When I heard about the export ban, I could not sleep... the money we make is what we use to feed our families," she says. "We are appealing to President Bola Tinubu to allow exportation again so that our children will not be pushed into illicit acts." The global shea industry is estimated to be worth some \$6.5bn (£5bn) but despite being the world's biggest producer, Nigeria earns just a tiny fraction of that sum. BBC

EDITORIAL

This is a voice of wisdom

Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's recent 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, 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.

COMMENTARY

By Joschka Fischer

The World of Yesterday

BERLIN - As World War II raged in Europe in the early 1940s, Stefan Zweig’s memoir Die Welt von Gestern: Erinnerungen eines Europäers (The World of Yesterday: Memoirs of a European) was published by a German exile publisher in Stockholm. Zweig, full of sorrow, describes the “rupture of time” that brought the old Europe to an end in the fury of two terrible world wars.

Are Europeans today undergoing another such rupture? Are we once again witnessing the disappearance of the old order - the only one that most of us have ever known? If so, it is an unspeakable loss. The old order guaranteed peace, security, and prosperity - only to Western Europe, initially, but then to the rest of the European continent (with the exception of the former Yugoslavia) after 1989. That happy time now increasingly looks like The World of Yesterday 2.0.

It is worth recalling that America’s previous withdrawal from the continent created a fatal opening for radical ideologies and hateful propaganda. Under Hitler and the Nazis, extreme nationalists, glorifiers of violence and racism, enemies of democracy, and ardent supporters of dictatorship decided that their moment had come. The Nazis seized power and deliberately brought on WWII, plunging Europe into the abyss.

Where do we stand today? Russia has not only launched a war of conquest and annihilation against Ukraine but also begun to test NATO’s willingness to defend its airspace with drone intrusions into Poland and Romania, and fighter planes flying over Estonia. Still, while US statements of solidarity have often sounded rather weak since Donald Trump’s return to the White House, it would be a mistake to say that the situation is comparable to a world war.

Rather, Russian President Vladimir Putin sees an opportunity to reshape - with Trump’s (voluntary or involuntary) help - the world order in his favor. Europe is the first port of call for his revisionist strategy, because it is militarily weak and indecisive, and it can no longer count fully on America.

Here in Europe, many are asking themselves what purpose Trump’s policies are supposed to serve. Why is he going out of his way to weaken the United States and the broader West? Why is he so soft on Putin?

Trump may well fear an escalation of the Ukraine war into a major conflagration, but his approach is raising the odds of precisely that outcome. His administration’s policy of appeasement toward the Kremlin and aggression toward European allies has obviously encouraged Putin to push even harder.

The world-historic success of the transatlantic world rested on the military protection that America provided. But owing to the support from strong alliances (NATO for security, the European Union for the economy, democracy, and law), Western Europe, during the four decades of the Cold War, became a kind of protectorate. In the process, it lost - or perhaps forgot - its sovereignty.

Europeans lived well and safely in the world of yesterday, but we neglected the duties that arose with our growing prosperity. Everything changed when Trump arrived, declaring, in effect, “That’s it; no more.” The subsequent plunge from a state of cozy comfort into the icy reality of power politics happened so fast that we could not adapt. It all came as quite a shock, made even worse by the equally sudden return of war to the continent.

But another question has come into sharper focus under Trump’s second presidency: What will become of America? Though it remains the preeminent global power, this proud, old democracy is clearly in danger. Not a day goes by without news of some further loss of rights, disregard for procedures, or violation of norms. The entire federal government has become an instrument for satisfying Trump’s personal whims.

“The land of the free” is transforming into an oligarchic autocracy before our eyes. The endless flow of decrees from the White House has fundamentally changed America’s place in the world. The country used to represent the promise of freedom; now, it is the latest and most high-profile case of democratic erosion and rising authoritarianism.

Freedom of expression - once the sacred cow of American democracy - is being discarded, replaced by a regime of lèse-majesté (the criminalization of speech against a monarch). There are even serious debates about whether the US - the birthplace of modern democracy - will have free and fair elections in the future. Let us not forget, whatever happens in the US will always affect us all. A world without a powerful, democratic America would be fundamentally different, and unquestionably worse.

Like Zweig, I cannot shake off the impression that the sun is setting on us. Something is definitely coming to an end. My attachment to the idea of the transatlantic West, and to an image of America as a bastion of freedom, democracy, and security, has been deep and lifelong. But that was the world of yesterday.

Joschka Fischer, Germany’s foreign minister and vice chancellor from 1998 to 2005, was a leader of the German Green Party for almost 20 years.

OP-ED

By Yasuto Watanabe, Hiro Ito

How Asia Can Reduce Its Dollar Dependence

SINGAPORE - The US dollar remains the world’s leading reserve currency, but recent developments - particularly President Donald Trump’s unilateral economic diplomacy, including weaponization of the dollar - have fueled doubts about whether it will maintain that status. While some of America’s geopolitical rivals may hope to displace the dollar, the real challenge facing Asian economies is to manage the vulnerabilities created by their heavy dependence on it.

To be sure, no other currency currently rivals the dollar’s credibility and global reach. While geopolitical tensions and the risk of sanctions have fueled diversification efforts, the greenback’s international dominance is unlikely to diminish in the near term.

That is not necessarily good news for ASEAN+3 countries, because their longstanding reliance on the dollar makes them acutely exposed to US monetary-policy shifts and global financial shocks. Asian policymakers must therefore focus on bolstering financial resilience through deeper regional cooperation - not necessarily a euro-style monetary union, but rather pragmatic measures aimed at reducing risks and enhancing strategic autonomy.

For decades, the dollar has underpinned Asia’s trade and financial flows, reflecting both supply-chain linkages and the greenback’s status as a safe haven. In South Korea and Thailand, for example, more than 70% of trade with China and ASEAN countries is invoiced in dollars. For emerging economies in particular, dollar assets offer unmatched liquidity and reliability, even as they create structural vulnerabilities.

Those vulnerabilities, though, can be severe. US monetary tightening often triggers capital outflows and sharp currency depreciation, leaving borrowers who earn in local currencies and borrow in dollars with higher debt burdens. This currency mismatch was at the core of the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis, which devastated economies throughout the region, necessitating intervention by the International Monetary Fund.

ASEAN+3 policymakers today remain keenly aware that Federal Reserve rate hikes could once again destabilize their economies. To mitigate such risks, many countries in the region have amassed large foreign-exchange reserves - mostly in US Treasuries - as a form of self-insurance. These strategic stockpiles reflect both the painful lessons of past crises and the lingering “IMF stigma” that discourages reliance on external bailouts.

The idea of an Asian common currency, which briefly gained traction after the 1997 crisis, has since faded, as the continent’s diverse political systems, economies, and cultures make such an undertaking unfeasible. Instead, attention has shifted to more pragmatic, incremental initiatives.

For starters, advances in digital technology are enabling faster, cheaper cross-border settlements, driving demand for regional payment systems. ASEAN countries are currently piloting QR-code-based cross-border payment systems, while several central banks in East Asia are exploring distributed ledger platforms for multi-currency transactions.

But these efforts should not remain fragmented pilots. ASEAN+3 economies must work together to scale up and integrate payment systems, thereby reducing transaction costs and exchange-rate risks in intra-regional trade and tourism.

Another challenge is to reinforce regional financial safety nets. With a lending capacity of \$240 billion, the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization provides liquidity to ASEAN+3 economies facing balance-of-payments crises. Building on the work of the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), member economies hope to strengthen the CMIM by introducing a Rapid Financing Facility and are considering paid-in capital contributions. Such reforms would make the CMIM more flexible and credible, enabling it to respond more effectively to sudden dollar-related shocks.

Strengthening resilience through regional financial cooperation offers Asian economies a far better path than direct confrontation with the dollar. To guard against dollar-related shocks, they must build on existing ASEAN+3 initiatives in three core policy areas.

First, expanding local-currency settlement in trade and investment, especially through bilateral and regional currency swap arrangements, could help reduce vulnerabilities. Such frameworks - already operational between countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand - have proven effective in lowering transaction costs and mitigating risks.

OPINION

By Hippolyte Fofack

Trump's Beggar-the-Poor Remittance Tax

NEW YORK - US President Donald Trump seems intent on filling America’s coffers at the expense of other countries and the world’s most vulnerable people. In addition to foreign-aid cuts and steep tariff increases, the administration’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act has introduced a new 1% tax on remittances from the United States that are funded by physical instruments such as cash, checks, and money orders. This “tax on the poor,” as Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum refers to it, will impose severe economic and social costs on developing countries.

The amount of money sent by migrant workers to family and friends in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) has increased more than 17-fold over the last three decades, reaching \$685 billion in 2024 - more than official development assistance and foreign direct investment combined. Remittances now comprise at least 3% of GDP in more than 77 countries and far exceed the World Bank Group’s annual lending to developing countries (\$128 billion) and the International Monetary Fund’s total outstanding loans (around \$145 billion).

This immense growth signifies a fundamental shift: remittances are now the most direct and dynamic link between migration and development, serving as both a source of foreign-exchange reserves and as a macroeconomic stabilizing force in LMICs. Trump’s new 1% tax threatens to undermine these global gains and further increase the opportunity cost of brain drain.

The justification for Trump’s remittance tax mirrors that for his trade war. Just as America’s imports have grown faster than its exports, widening the trade deficit, remittance outflows from the US have increased more rapidly than inflows. For example, while around \$200 billion was transferred out of the US in the form of remittances in 2021, only \$7 billion was sent to the US from other countries - a 34% increase in net outflows from 2017. America is now the world’s top remittance-sending country, with at least 134 recipient countries in 2021 (the most recent year with reliable bilateral data).

Trump’s new tax will have far-reaching consequences. In the US, it is expected to discourage immigration, deter unauthorized employment, and reduce net resource outflows. Preliminary estimates suggest that the levy - which applies to all remittance senders, regardless of immigration or citizenship status - will generate just under \$10 billion in revenue over the next decade. And those who share Trump’s zero-sum thinking - that money sent abroad is money not spent on US goods and services - even argue it could boost domestic consumption and growth.

But the global implications are more worrying. Research has shown that transaction cost is a significant predictor of formal remittance volumes, implying that Trump’s tax would reduce these outflows. A decline in remittances, coupled with cuts to international aid, could cause currency depreciation in LMICs, fueling inflation and exacerbating macroeconomic instability. These risks would be particularly acute for countries with high debt burdens, leaving them even more exposed to trade or capital shocks.

In the most vulnerable LMICs, remittances also play an important role at the microeconomic level. These funds allow households to smooth consumption, manage economic shocks, and invest in health and education, all of which are crucial for reducing poverty and improving welfare.

Evidence from Asian developing economies shows that a one-percentage-point increase in international remittances as a share of GDP can reduce the poverty gap ratio by 22.6%. Similarly, a study of 122 developing countries between 1990 and 2015 found that a 10% increase in per capita remittances lowered malnutrition and child mortality rates.

Not only does Trump’s remittance tax threaten to erode these benefits. It also runs counter to the international community’s commitment, as part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, to reduce transfer costs of migrant remittances - which averaged 6.4% at the end of 2023 - to less than 3% by 2030. The higher fees will steer migrants toward informal channels, such as cryptocurrency and hawala, and may even expand the black market for such services, which carries substantial risks.

If there is a silver lining, it is that Trump’s new tax has highlighted the dangers for LMICs of relying on remittances to support economic development and finance essential items such as food, education, health care, and housing. Although steady remittance inflows have lowered the opportunity cost of brain drain, they do not address its underlying causes.

Achieving this will require LMICs to devise economic strategies that support broad-based growth, increase employment opportunities, close technological gaps, and boost productivity. To climb the global value chain and build lasting prosperity, these countries will still need their diasporas - but for their technical knowledge and scientific expertise, not just their money. By contributing to “brain circulation” and technology transfer, migrants would promote development in their home and host countries.

This win-win arrangement depends on improving the investment climate for private enterprise and deepening regional integration, which would enable LMICs to leverage economies of scale for robust economic growth and long-term sustainability. To create a better business environment, policymakers must strengthen regulatory standards and institutions, improve accountability and governance, and address barriers such as financial repression and inadequate infrastructure. Doing so would also increase the likelihood that remittances are used for long-term investments, rather than just for consumption. Moreover, LMICs could diversify their funding sources by offering diaspora bonds at a discounted rate of return.

The Trump administration’s remittance tax is only the latest in a series of punitive US measures aimed at the developing world. More are surely to come. LMICs should recognize that it is in their own interest to break the cycle of dependency and create a virtuous circle of technology-led growth that builds economic resilience while also boosting shared prosperity and mitigating migration pressures.

Hippolyte Fofack, a former chief economist at the African Export-Import Bank, is Parker Fellow at the Sustainable Development Solutions Network at Columbia University, a research associate at Harvard University’s Center for African Studies, a distinguished fellow at the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils, and a fellow at the African Academy of Sciences.

ARTICLEARTICLE

Liberia Cannot Sell Its Future Any Longer

By Dr. Chris Tokpah

I do not claim to be a financial expert, but I have studied how other countries manage investment, and I know Liberia can do better if we choose to. During my MBA studies, I gained practical training in how investments and ownership structures work. What I am proposing is not rocket science; It is common sense. If Liberia is to achieve real progress, we need bold strategies that put citizens at the center of growth, rather than repeating tired policies that benefit a few while the majority remain spectators. On September 27-28, 2025, the Government of Liberia hosted a conference with Liberians in the diaspora to explore ways of boosting investment. Finance Minister Ngafuan assured participants that the government is taking concrete steps to improve Liberia's investment climate. He highlighted partnerships with the U.S. Development Finance Corporation and the World Bank's International Finance Corporation, offering low-interest financing for sectors such as agribusiness. He also noted progress in modernizing the financial system. The Central Bank has introduced a payment switch to support remote transactions, port services have been extended into the night, and mobile money platforms will soon be interconnected.

Every inaugural speech has promised to move Liberians from spectators to participants in their own economy for as long as I can remember. It has become a copy-and-paste refrain, yet the dream remains out of reach. Liberians are still watching from the sidelines while others profit from their resources. This reality is even more troubling because Liberia already has a Liberianization policy to promote local ownership. That policy sets aside sectors such as retail trade, transportation services, small-scale construction, and other businesses exclusively for Liberians. Yet in practice, it has failed because most ordinary citizens lack the financial strength to enter these reserved sectors as individuals. Without a collective approach, the policy has excluded the very people it was supposed to empower. Reforms are being made, but they will not change this reality unless Liberians are given a direct stake. That is why it is time to try something bold.

A citizen ownership model
Imagine an international company wants to open a gold mine in Liberia, requiring an investment of fifty million dollars (US\$50,000,000). Traditionally, the company bears the risk and keeps most of the profit, while the government collects taxes and royalties. But what if the Government of Liberia demands a fifty percent (50%) stake? That would mean raising twenty-five million dollars (US\$25,000,000). Instead of borrowing, the government could sell one hundred thousand (100,000) shares at two hundred fifty dollars (US\$250) each.

This approach would allow ordinary Liberians to become co-owners. When profits are made, half would flow back into the country and into the hands of its people. The same model could apply in other areas, such as building a beachfront boardwalk from Monrovia to Marshall for fifty million dollars (US\$50,000,000). Shops and entertainment spots along the boardwalk would create jobs, boost tourism, and provide rental income for shareholders.

Lessons from Ghana
Ghana offers a practical example of how this can work. The Ghana Stock Exchange (GSE), launched in 1990, allowed citizens to buy shares in major companies. When Ashanti Goldfields, one of Africa's largest gold producers, listed on the exchange, thousands of ordinary Ghanaians invested directly in the mining sector. They received dividends when the company performed well and could resell their shares if they needed cash. This broadened wealth creation and turned mining from a purely foreign-driven venture into an opportunity for national participation.

The same principle can be applied in Liberia. A national stock exchange, supported by strong regulations, could manage shares in mines, infrastructure projects, and tourism ventures, giving citizens at home and in the diaspora the chance to build wealth from their country's resources.



The missed opportunity in oil
This opportunity became especially clear on September 17, 2025, when Liberia signed four Production Sharing Contracts with Atlas Oranto Petroleum for offshore Blocks LB-15, LB-16, LB-22, and LB-24. The agreement included a signature bonus of fifteen million dollars (US\$15,000,000) and commitments to invest heavily in exploration and development. The government celebrated the deal as a milestone in reviving the petroleum sector, with promises of transparency, local content, and job creation.

Yet this was the kind of project where a citizen ownership model could have been applied. Instead of treating the oil blocks purely as a concession, the government could have offered shares in the venture to Liberians willing to invest. Even modest investments would allow citizens to share in dividends when production begins. Such an approach would spread the benefits of natural resources beyond royalties and bonuses, reduce the temptation for mismanagement, and turn one deal into a nationwide opportunity for empowerment.

Safeguards against mismanagement
For a citizen ownership model to succeed, safeguards must be uncompromising. An

Independent Investment Board should be created by law to oversee citizen shares. Its members should come from civil society, the private sector, and the diaspora, with the government represented only by a seat from the Central Bank. Staggered terms and independent funding, raised from a small percentage of transaction fees or investment returns, would help insulate the board from politics.

Transparency is essential. All financial records must be audited and published annually so investors can follow how every dollar is managed. Shares should be traded under the supervision of a Liberia Securities and Exchange Commission modeled after Ghana and Nigeria. Dividend policies must be clear and consistent. Mobile banking should allow Liberians everywhere to buy shares and receive dividends directly without bureaucratic delays.

The Choice Before Us
The government's current reforms are steps in the right direction, but they will not be enough unless citizens are given a direct stake in investment. Ghana's experience with Ashanti Goldfields shows that African nations can build vibrant stock markets that empower citizens and attract capital. Liberia has the same opportunity, but only if we are willing to think differently.

A citizen ownership model would complement government reforms by making Liberians wealth creators, not bystanders. Investors would gain capital, the government would earn a share in profits without excessive borrowing, and citizens would see tangible returns on their own soil. Liberia leaned on aid dependency. She signed concessions that favored others more than herself. Liberia waited for foreign direct investment to deliver prosperity. None of these paths transformed the nation. The time has come to take a new direction. Real progress will come when Liberians own their share of the nation's wealth and build an economy that reflects their aspirations. If the Government of Liberia is truly committed to making citizens genuine participants in their own economy, it must move past rhetoric and act swiftly to implement bold initiatives like this.

About the Author
Dr. Chris Tokpah is the Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness at Delaware County Community College in Pennsylvania. He holds a Ph.D. in Program Evaluation and Measurement, an MBA with an emphasis in Management Information Systems, and a B.Sc. in Mathematics. Dr. Tokpah also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Research Methods and Statistics in the Ph.D. program at Delaware Valley University. He is an independent consultant who supervised baseline studies and evaluations sponsored by the World Bank, IDA, Geneva Global, USAID, and the African Development Bank. He is a co-owner of the Center for Research, Evaluation, and Policy (CENREP), a Liberian consulting firm that specializes in strategic planning, monitoring, evaluation, social science research, and training services. His email address is ctokpah@cenrepliberia.org.

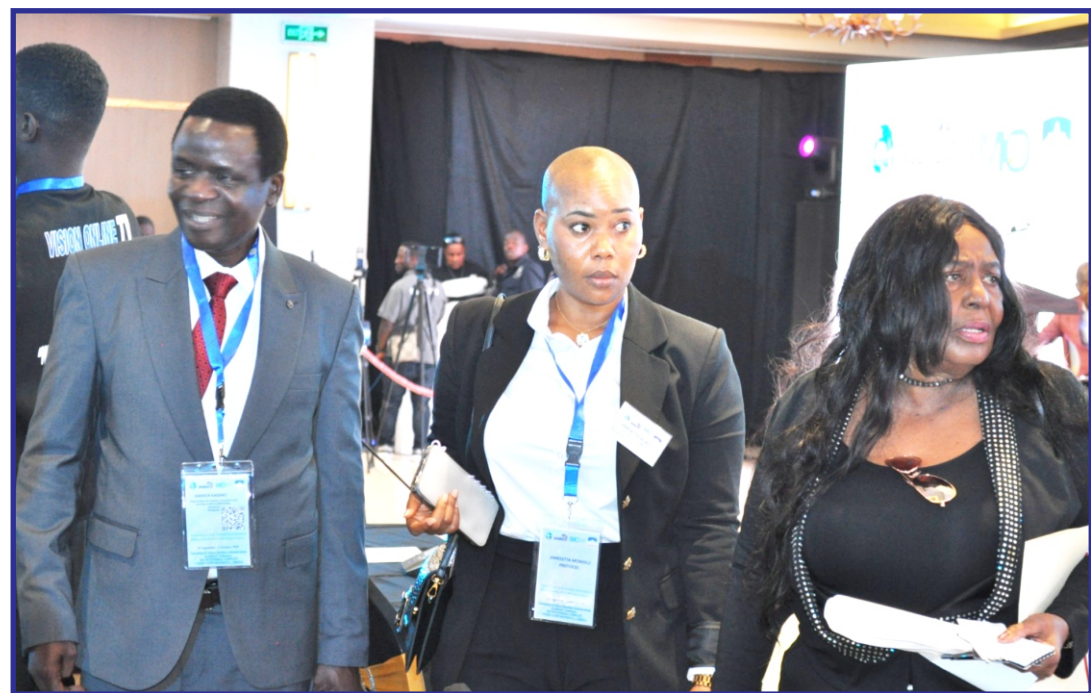


OPENING OF THE 8TH CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN MARITIME ADMINISTRATIONS (AAMA) HELD AT THE EJS MINISTERIAL COMPLEX SEPTEMBER 30TH 2025 – A PICTORIAL





OPENING OF THE 8TH CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN MARITIME ADMINISTRATIONS (AAMA) HELD AT THE EJS MINISTERIAL COMPLEX SEPTEMBER 30TH 2025 – A PICTORIAL



Français

Liberia : Vives tensions entre la juge en chef Gbeisay et la juge Sammy autour d'accusations de népotisme

Un climat de confrontation s'est installé au sein du pouvoir judiciaire libérien entre le juge en chef de la Cour suprême, Yamie QuiQui Gbeisay, et la présidente de l'Association

exposant publiquement des affaires personnelles qui entachent l'image de la justice. Au cœur de la controverse se trouve la nomination du fils du juge en chef Gbeisay comme magistrat, décision validée par le président Joseph N. Boakai.

parents dans leur secteur d'influence.

Le juge en chef contre-attaque

Lors d'une visite à Lofa County, le juge Gbeisay a rejeté ces accusations, les qualifiant d'attaques personnelles. Selon lui, la critique de la juge Sammy est infondée et hypocrite :

« Il est malvenu, a-t-il déclaré, pour quelqu'un qui vit dans une maison de verre de lancer des pierres. Ceux qui prêchent l'équité doivent eux-mêmes avoir les mains propres. »

Évoquant la situation familiale de sa collègue, il a relevé que le mari de la juge Sammy, Cllr. Aaron Kpanlie, est assistant ministre des Finances pour la fiscalité, et que son beau-frère, Stanley S. Kpaline, siège à la Commission de bonne gouvernance. « Si vous dites que mon fils ne peut pas servir, alors vous devez démissionner. Je n'ai violé aucune loi », a-t-il insisté.

Le juge

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Chief Justice, His Honor, Yamie QuiQui Gbeisay

Resident Judge Nancy F. Sammy

nationale des juges de première instance (NATJL), la juge Nancy F. Sammy. Les deux hauts magistrats s'accusent mutuellement de pratiques de népotisme,

L'Association des juges, par la voix de la juge Sammy, a dénoncé une violation flagrante du Code de conduite des responsables publics, qui interdit aux autorités de favoriser l'emploi de proches

L'ex-président de la Chambre saisit la justice pour diffamation

Il réclame 4,5 millions de dollars au Bukonjeh Group L'ancien président de la Chambre des représentants, Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa, a déposé une plainte pour diffamation contre la société libérienne Bukonjeh Group of Companies et son directeur général, Elton Johns, réclamant 4,5 millions de dollars américains de dommages et intérêts pour atteinte à sa réputation, pertes économiques et préjudice moral.

L'affaire a été portée devant la Cour civile du sixième circuit judiciaire du comté de Montserrado. Dans sa plainte, Koffa accuse les défendeurs d'avoir diffusé de fausses informations malveillantes visant à nuire à sa réputation professionnelle et à ses intérêts économiques. Des accusations jugées malicieuses

Selon la plainte, les déclarations incriminées suggéraient que Koffa se serait rendu coupable de

malversations financières et de malhonnêteté. L'ancien président de la Chambre affirme que ces propos, tenus « avec malveillance et mépris flagrant de la vérité », ont gravement entaché sa crédibilité publique et professionnelle.

Koffa invoque la jurisprudence Bakleh c. Greene, 14 LLR 204 (1960), qui établit que certaines accusations relèvent de la diffamation per se, c'est-à-dire qu'elles sont intrinsèquement préjudiciables sans qu'il soit nécessaire d'en démontrer les conséquences. Il estime que les propos tenus l'ont exposé au ridicule et ont entraîné une

perte significative de réputation, tant au Liberia qu'à l'international.

Des preuves audiovisuelles attendues

Le second défendeur, Elton Johns, est spécifiquement accusé d'avoir cité directement Koffa dans des déclarations publiques « destinées à l'humilier et à lui causer un préjudice économique ». L'ancien président de la Chambre affirme disposer de preuves vidéo et audio pour étayer ses accusations.

La plainte détaille également que la campagne diffamatoire

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Éditorial

Une voix de sagesse

L'appel lancé récemment par l'ancienne présidente du Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, en faveur d'actions concrètes plutôt que de simples discours, résonne comme un cri du cœur. Ce n'est pas seulement la voix d'une dirigeante, mais aussi celle d'une mère qui a connu de près les ravages de la guerre civile et a dirigé son pays dans l'après-conflit en tant que première cheffe d'État élue du Liberia.

Sa mise en garde ferme selon laquelle le silence de la communauté internationale face aux conflits en cours à Gaza, en Ukraine ou en Afrique trahit la promesse fondatrice des Nations unies est d'une justesse implacable. L'ONU, créée pour préserver la paix mondiale, apparaît aujourd'hui comme un « bulldog édenté », observant sans agir alors que la Russie dévaste l'Ukraine et qu'Israël ravage Gaza.

À 80 ans, Mme Sirleaf déplore une organisation qui ne ressemble en rien à ce que le monde avait imaginé à sa création : une institution mondiale capable de prévenir la destruction et d'arrêter les massacres. Elle rappelle avec raison que la paix ne peut être atteinte par des discours solennels, mais seulement par des actions concrètes sur le terrain — protéger les civils, instaurer la sécurité et reconstruire la confiance.

S'exprimant la semaine dernière à New York devant l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies, lors de la session de haut niveau sur la paix et la sécurité, l'ancienne présidente libérienne a dénoncé l'échec des structures multilatérales, incapables de répondre aux défis d'un monde façonné par la technologie. Elle a souligné l'injustice d'un système où une nation peut lancer des centaines de drones armés pour tuer et conquérir, tandis que la communauté internationale reste spectatrice.

« Devons-nous continuer à accepter le déséquilibre des rapports de force mondiaux, tel qu'il se reflète au Conseil de sécurité et dans l'usage du droit de veto qui paralyse les outils de maintien de la paix ? », a-t-elle interrogé, avant de rappeler que les commémorations sans franchise sont vaines. « Le monde attend de savoir si l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies protégera les civils et fera respecter le droit international humanitaire. Ce ne sont pas des paroles de désespoir, mais un appel à réparer. »

L'ancienne lauréate du prix Nobel de la paix a averti que la crédibilité du système multilatéral est en jeu, alors que les conflits s'étendent du Soudan et du Sahel jusqu'à Gaza et l'Ukraine.

S'appuyant sur l'expérience libérienne de sortie de guerre, elle a rappelé ce que la coopération internationale peut accomplir. Grâce aux Casques bleus, aux organisations régionales africaines et aux initiatives portées par des femmes, le Liberia a pu désarmer les combattants, réformer ses institutions sécuritaires et restaurer la confiance publique. Mais, a-t-elle insisté, « là où les armes se taisent, doivent immédiatement suivre la formation, l'emploi, la justice et la dignité ».

Face au mutisme sur les armes meurtrières utilisées en Ukraine, à Gaza, au Soudan et au Sahel, la voix d'Ellen Johnson Sirleaf se dresse, pleine de compassion pour les vies humaines — en particulier celles des femmes et des enfants innocents.

Il appartient désormais aux dirigeants du monde d'entendre cet appel de sagesse et d'agir sans délai pour sauver des vies, rétablir la paix et raviver l'espérance d'une humanité solidaire.

Français

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Liberia : Vives tensions entre la juge en chef Gbeisay

Gbeisay a défendu la nomination de son fils, étudiant en troisième année à la faculté de droit Louis Arthur Grimes, affirmant que le président dispose de l'autorité constitutionnelle pour nommer des magistrats, y compris des non-juristes, pratique déjà observée par le passé. « Si vous pouvez me montrer une loi interdisant au président de nommer un non-juriste comme magistrat associé, je démissionnerai », a-t-il lancé.

La juge Sammy réplique
De son côté, la juge Nancy F. Sammy a maintenu sa position, affirmant que sa démarche visait uniquement à protéger l'intégrité de la magistrature. Selon elle, plusieurs magistrats associés avaient saisi son bureau pour se plaindre de la nomination de personnes n'ayant pas terminé leurs études de droit. Répondant aux accusations de conflit d'intérêts dans sa propre famille, elle a précisé :

« Mon mari est assistant ministre depuis 18 ans, bien avant que je ne devienne juge. Sa fonction n'a rien à voir avec mes responsabilités judiciaires. Il n'existe aucun lien de conflit d'intérêts. »

La juge Sammy a également déploré la fuite de sa lettre adressée au juge en chef, qui a circulé sur les réseaux sociaux. « Ma communication n'était pas malveillante. Je cherchais simplement à obtenir l'intervention du juge en chef. Je n'ai jamais publié ce document, et je regrette profondément qu'il ait été divulgué », a-t-elle ajouté.

Une image ternie de la justice
Cette querelle publique met en lumière des tensions profondes au sein du système judiciaire libérien, où les accusations croisées de népotisme et de favoritisme risquent d'affaiblir davantage la confiance des citoyens dans l'impartialité de leurs institutions.

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L'ex-président de la Chambre

l'aurait contraint à rompre plusieurs partenariats locaux et internationaux, entraînant des pertes financières substantielles. Koffa affirme avoir subi un traumatisme émotionnel, marqué par l'angoisse, le stress et la stigmatisation publique.

Montant des dommages réclamés
4 000 000 USD de dommages spéciaux, correspondant aux pertes économiques et à la rupture de relations d'affaires.
500 000 USD de dommages généraux pour souffrance morale, stress et préjudice émotionnel.
Représenté par le cabinet International Law Group, Koffa demande que les défendeurs

soient déclarés solidairement responsables, ce qui impliquerait que chacun d'eux puisse être tenu de verser la totalité des sommes en cas de condamnation.

Une affaire très suivie
La Cour civile a déjà délivré un mandat de comparution aux défendeurs. En cas d'absence de réponse, un jugement par défaut pourrait être prononcé en faveur de l'ancien président de la Chambre. Cette procédure, impliquant une personnalité politique de premier plan et des accusations graves, devrait susciter une forte attention tant dans les milieux judiciaires que dans l'opinion publique.

Le Chargé d’Affaires américain salue l’efficacité du port de Monrovia

Le Chargé d’Affaires de soutenus par le gouvernement l’ambassade des États-Unis libérien, à travers l’Autorité à Monrovia, Joseph portuaire nationale (NPA), parmi Zadrozny, a conduit mercredi lesquels figurent l’introduction une délégation diplomatique au des navigations nocturnes, la terminal d’APM et au Port modernisation des aides à la autonome de Monrovia. Cette navigation, l’acquisition visite avait pour objectif de d’équipements de manutention mettre en lumière le rôle central des infrastructures portuaires des capacités locales dans le dans la croissance économique secteur maritime. du Liberia et de renforcer les Ces initiatives visent à accroître partenariats internationaux la productivité du Port de pour un commerce durable. Monrovia, à améliorer la La délégation, composée sécurité et à faire du pays une notamment de la conseillère plateforme plus compétitive politico-économique Sara pour les échanges commerciaux. Horner, du conseiller en gestion Michael Aguilera, de l’attaché de défense Darin Hunter et de l’attaché économique Andrew Pilger, a été accueillie par la direction générale d’APM Terminals Liberia. Les responsables ont présenté un aperçu des opérations actuelles ainsi que des récentes améliorations visant à accroître l’efficacité et la qualité des services.Modernisation et efficacité
Les discussions ont porté sur les investissements récents

Un moteur de croissance
Pour le diplomate américain, le port de Monrovia constitue bien plus qu’une simple infrastructure logistique : « Un port efficace ne se contente pas de transporter des marchandises, il crée des opportunités, attire les investissements et consolide les bases d’un développement durable. Les États-Unis sont fiers de soutenir les efforts qui font du Liberia un environnement propice aux affaires », a déclaré Joseph Zadrozny. Il a ajouté que la compétitivité et la fiabilité des opérations portuaires étaient essentielles pour attirer les entreprises américaines :



Cllr. Gongloe met en garde contre les dérives qui mènent à la guerre

L’ancien candidat à la présidence et éminent avocat défenseur des droits humains, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, a mis en garde le gouvernement du président Joseph Boakai contre les dérives de la cupidité, de la corruption et de l’injustice, rappelant qu’elles ont été les véritables déclencheurs des quatorze années de guerre civile au Liberia.S’exprimant le 27 septembre 2025 lors d’une conférence organisée par le New Liberian Women Organization Skills Training and Advocacy Center, en partenariat avec la Universal Peace Federation, autour du thème « La paix commence avec vous », Cllr. Gongloe a affirmé qu’aucun progrès durable n’était possible tant que la violence continuait de détruire des vies.

« Mes chers compatriotes, la guerre qui a dévasté notre pays n’a pas commencé avec les armes, mais avec la cupidité, la corruption et l’injustice. La paix qui sauvera le Liberia ne viendra pas seulement des soldats ou des discours, mais de la décision de chacun : je ne tricherai pas, je ne volerai pas, je n’opprimerai pas. Je vivrai comme si chaque enfant était le mien, chaque vie ma responsabilité », a-t-il déclaré.Le leader politique du Liberian People’s Party (LPP) a invité les participants à s’interroger : sont-ils des artisans de paix ou des fauteurs de troubles, élèvent-ils les autres ou les abaissent-ils ? Selon lui, si chacun adopte cette attitude, la paix s’étendra



des foyers aux communautés, des écoles aux églises, et finalement à toute la nation.Un engagement personnel et politique
Revenant sur sa candidature à la présidentielle de 2023 et sur son intention de se représenter en 2029, Cllr. Gongloe a souligné que sa quête du pouvoir n’était pas une ambition personnelle, mais un engagement au service du peuple :

« Je veux balayer la corruption de notre gouvernement et démontrer que le Liberia peut être meilleur - avec de meilleures écoles, de meilleurs soins de santé, des logements abordables, davantage de nourriture, des routes décentes, plus d’emplois et une égalité de traitement pour tous, guidés par le respect de l’État de droit et des droits humains. »Il a appelé chaque citoyen, chaque leader et chaque communauté à incarner les valeurs de paix qu’ils proclament.

« Que ce soit dans cette institution ou au plus haut sommet de l’État, du village le plus pauvre au quartier le plus riche, que chacun devienne une bougie de paix pour éclairer l’obscurité de la violence », a-t-il exhorté.es leçons du passé
Rappelant l’histoire récente du pays, l’avocat a souligné que le recours répété à la violence n’avait jamais apporté de solution durable.

En 1980, le coup d’État militaire a mis fin au régime de parti unique, mais il a fallu attendre cinq ans pour des élections, jugées par beaucoup ni libres ni équitables. Le 12 novembre 1985, une nouvelle flambée de violence a éclaté, sans résoudre les problèmes, mais au prix de nombreuses vies. Le 24 décembre 1989, à la veille de Noël, la rébellion armée a plongé le pays dans 14 années de guerre civile, jusqu’aux premières élections véritablement démocratiques de 2005.Pour Cllr. Gongloe, la leçon est claire :

« Si chaque Libérien s’engage à ne jamais utiliser la violence comme solution, alors la violence disparaîtra de

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“Leadership has failed this nation”

-ECOWAS Resident Rep. Nkrumah

The Economic Community of West African States laments Liberia's failed leadership.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia; October 1, 2025 - The Resident Representative of the Economic Community of West

came to Liberia in 2022, and conducted a tour, she learnt that some of the counties visited were certainly established before the existence of the Press

it was reported that Liberia, with its vast natural resources, even in instances where any crop is disposed of, will germinate into something edible.

"But, in that year, Liberia was among and on the World Hunger Index at one hundred thirteen, out of one hundred twenty-one countries. And I said to myself, Liberia has no business being a nation of hunger. Liberia has the ability to be the breadbasket of West Africa, I believe sincerely", the ECOWAS envoy stated.

She indicated that is why she fully aligns with President Joseph N. Boakai and the government of Liberia's ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development, of the Pillar of Agriculture.

"I believe agriculture will drive Liberia's transformation. I want to challenge you to take a keen interest in the government's Arrest Agenda for Inclusive Development and to hold the government accountable for its implementation of that agenda. Hold the government accountable in a manner that is objective, analytical, and in a manner that serves the people to make an informed decision ", Ambassador Nkrumah urged.

She believes that a press that is not free and plays its role will underserve the nation it belongs to, while adding that transformation will be difficult to achieve because the Press will have failed the people by failing to hold them accountable.



Resident Rep. Nkrumah

African States (ECOWAS) to Liberia, Josephine Nkrumah, says leadership has failed Liberia, while challenging the Press to take a keen interest in President Joseph N. Boakai's government ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development to hold the government accountable.

Delivering the keynote address at the Press Union of Liberia 61st Anniversary Celebration on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, held under the theme: Commemorating our past, constructing our future", Ambassador Nkrumah said the basis of her statement is based on a nationwide tour when she came to Liberia to ascertain infrastructure development and economic challenges of Liberians.

She reflected that when she

Union of Liberia, but during her visit, she was confronted with a stark reality that development began and ended not only in Montserrado, but in Monrovia.

"I saw some counties, and I was in a state of shock. I said that for a country that has existed longer than any other country on the continent of Africa, to see the level of underdevelopment was sad. And I remember looking at someone and saying Since Liberia's establishment about 177 years now, but at that time, I think it was about 174 years; I said, my God, leadership has failed this nation." Amb. Nkrumah noted.

Disappointingly, she disclosed that she was saddened not just because of the lack of infrastructure, but was equally saddened because, in that year,

Gov't Hails PUL for 51 Years of Defending Press Freedom

By : Kruah Thompson

The Government of Liberia has commended members and officials of the Union in upholding press freedom and creating an enabling environment for the

Liberia (PUL) for its more than six decades of championing press freedom and protecting the rights of journalists, as the Union Government of Liberia in celebrates its 61st anniversary of press freedom in the country.

Commending the PUL for its outstanding advocacy, MICAT Deputy Minister for Press and Public Affairs, Daniel Sanoe, emphasized the collaboration between the Union and the Ministry of Information.

According to him, the PUL president's recent appearance at the weekly press briefing is a testament to that relationship.

"On this note, I now

announce our warm government's commitment to congratulations to all continuously work with the members and officials of the Union in upholding press freedom and creating an enabling environment for the

However, he congratulated media. On behalf of the relationship with the Government, the Ministry extends congratulations to the PUL," he concluded.

He reiterated the



Starts from page 11 Liberia champions maritime

potential, is as valuable to Liberia as it is to the European Union.

She highlighted the EU's support through its Global Gateway initiative, saying through its Global Gateway, the European Union supports partner countries, such as Liberia, and closes the global investment gap in areas such as digital, transport, health, education, and, last but certainly not least, climate and energy.

Touching on shared environmental goals, she noted that it is well known that the European Union's 2030 target is a 55% net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels. This is a legally binding target established by the European Climate Law as part of the European Green Deal, aiming to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

She applauded Liberia's leadership at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), "The EU is working fervently to meet this target through the Fit for 55 legislative package, which revises and creates new legislation and instruments, including the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. It is with this in mind that the European Union wishes to recognize Liberia's important role as Chair of IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), in addition to its critical role as Alternate Permanent Representative of Liberia to the IMO. Under your leadership, the IMO 2023 GHG Strategy was successfully adopted," she added.

Also speaking, CPA Omae Nyarandi, Chairman of AAMA, referenced the African Union's long-term vision, saying, "The

Africa we want clearly envisions a prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, driven by its own citizens, the African Maritime Transport Charter, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The Blue Economy is central to this vision."

He noted that AAMA is now better positioned to implement this agenda, while emphasizing that AAMA now has a fully furnished office space and a bank account.

The 8th AAMA Conference, being hosted by Liberia Maritime Authority, runs from September 30 to October 3, 2025, at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Ministerial Complex. It brings together over 200 delegates from more than 40 countries, including government officials, industry leaders, and international partners.

The conference provides a platform for high-level discussions on a wide range of maritime topics, including maritime governance and international cooperation, digital technology and innovation in the sector, youth and women empowerment in the blue economy, infrastructure development and capacity building, gender diversity in maritime professions, implementation of maritime single windows for trade, and sustainable financing models for African maritime projects.

Views as the largest maritime gathering in Liberia's recent history, this assembly marks a pivotal moment for Africa's maritime future, anchored in cooperation, innovation, and sustainable growth. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 11 Confusion and contradictions

with the government report," The fire incident has done Barclaysaid.

Abraham T. Teah described the situation as a national security threat, noting that the contradictory statements are dangerous and misleading.

"There are two statements, and they do not yield the same fruits. This is life-threatening and should be treated as a national security matter," he warned.

Teah urged the government to set aside politics and conduct a thorough investigation.

"The public is watching. The root cause must be found to avoid future threats," he concluded.

Liberia champions maritime reform and sustainability

The Association of African Maritime Administrations (AAMA) is meeting in Liberia for its 18th Conference and General Assembly.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah
Congo Town, Liberia; October 1, 2025 - Liberia has emphasized that the 8th Association of African Maritime Administrations (AAMA) Development (AAID), Liberia is placing governance, the rule of law, and accountability at the very center, including maritime.



Mr. Stevquoah emphasized that reforms in maritime governance can yield substantial national and regional benefits. He said transparency and efficiency in marine governance will not only strengthen Liberia's economy but will also serve as a model for the region. Liberia's maritime program is already one of the most successful in the world, but more is needed. Reaffirming Liberia's vision, he continued, "Liberia is determined to do more, to protect its ocean, promote clean energy, and is uncompromising in cementing its position as a driver of effective maritime programs and sustainability in Africa." Mr. Stevquoah also called on African maritime leaders to act decisively, noting that Liberia views the Association of African Maritime Administrators not only as partners and collaborators, but also as leaders in shaping the future of Africa's blue economy. This assembly must be clear about one thing, it must leave here with a determination to do more for respective countries. He emphasized the need for concrete outcomes, saying, "It must be much more than a dialogue; it must lead to concrete action, including a roadmap for decarbonization. It must also come out with a strategy for combating illegal fishing, and at the end of the assembly, a framework will be formulated that will ensure that the young people are trained, empowered, and employed in the maritime sector." Mr. Stevquoah expressed appreciation to Liberia's development partners, including international partners and stakeholders

such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), as well as investors, whose continued support strengthens their capacity. He added that Liberia values this cooperation and is committed to working closely together to achieve its objectives.

Earlier, in opening statement, Cllr. Neto Zarzar Lighe, Sr., Commissioner and CEO of the Liberia Maritime Authority, said the event comes at a crucial time for Africa's maritime sector. According to him, the conference comes at a time when Africa's maritime sector is facing numerous challenges. These challenges include, but are not limited to, piracy, geopolitical tensions, infrastructure deficits, environmental degradation, and regulatory gaps. He stressed the importance of collective effort: "While these challenges are not insurmountable, what is clear is that they transcend national boundaries and no country can solitarily address them within its institutional and jurisdictional limits." They are shared challenges and addressing them requires the sector to pool together resources, expertise, and knowledge. AAMA provides the institutional framework for collaboration and cooperation in tackling shared challenges as a continent and establishing Africa as an enviable maritime powerhouse. Cllr. Lighe further called for deeper coordination at the continental level. "I believe AAMA, the Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa (MOWCA), and other continental and regional organizations should collaborate more with the AU on the maritime transport component of the blue economy. This is crucial and needs urgent attention," he emphasized. Speaking at the conference, European Union Ambassador to Liberia, Ms. Nona Deprez, aligned the EU's interests with Liberia's maritime goals, stating that the topic of this year's conference, safeguarding our ocean, promoting decarbonization in shipping, exploring Africa's blue economy

Confusion and contradictions

Debate heightens here, among ordinary Liberians, after a recent fire incident at the residence of former President George Weah amid claims and counter-claims from both the government and the former ruling CDC of Mr. Weah's.

By: Naneka A. Hoffman
Monrovia, Liberia; October 1, 2025 - A recent fire outbreak at the residence of former Liberian President George M. Weah has sparked conflicting accounts and heated debate among politicians, party members, and ordinary citizens.

Speaking to the NEW DAWN in Monrovia on Monday, September 29, 2025, Joel D. Nyarku said CDC chairman Janga Cole should stop the blame game. Mr. Nyarku cautioned against Janga Cole's politicizing the incident too quickly.

"We have to do away with the blame game and deal with the real issue," he said.

Nyarku argued that Chairman Janga Cole, who is also an Attorney-at-Law, should have allowed government investigators to conclude their work after the incident before alleging that the blaze was an attempt on the former

insisted.

However, Razzel Kanneh disagrees, saying that CDC's contradictions hurt credibility.

Razzel expressed sympathy for Weah, but criticized the party for sending mixed messages.

"The chairman said the fire started in the bedroom, but later Moses Acarous Gray contradicted him. That should not have happened," Kanneh argued.

He also condemned the denial of fire service officials full access to the premises during the fire incident.

"How do you expect them to give a proper report if they are denied entry? It is embarrassing," he said.

Muctaru Sando wants CCTV Cameras at the former President's residence thoroughly checked to establish all facts surrounding fire.

Muctaru: "If I were the former president, I would ask the party



president's life.

"If you say it was a government attempt, then what about the statesman's house that was also burned? Should we blame CDCians for that? Sometimes, we must give the government the chance to do its work," he added.

But Robert Zlatan Ibrahimovic said he doesn't trust the Liberia National Fire and Rescue Service in any investigation.

According to him, he stands firmly by the party's statement that the fire originated from Weah's bedroom.

"This government has made several attempts on the former president," he declared. "At the airport, AFL attacked us and brutalized peaceful partisans. I lost my phone in that chaos."

He linked past incidents, including petrol bomb attacks during the 2023 elections, to the latest fire and demanded an international investigation. "We don't trust the fire service," he

chairman how fire entered my house when there is security everywhere."

He urged authorities to review CCTV footage installed during Weah's presidency.

"Both the chairman and the government are at fault. One says bedroom, another says electrical shock. Which one should we believe?" He asked.

Barclay Weah (no relation to the former President) said he trusts the government's account of the incident.

"Whenever fire occurs, it becomes a crime scene. Cole should have waited for the Fire Service. They are trained and paid with taxpayers' money to give us the truth," he argued.

He insisted that only an official investigation, not political speculation, should guide public opinion on the matter.

"If CDC disagrees, they can call for an independent probe. But I sta

By Kruah Thompson

test, provide a police clearance certificate, and successfully complete a series of physical assessments, which will be conducted at a later date.

“Our target is to recruit up to 5,000 personnel over time, as resources permit. This recruitment drive aligns with national security strategies and the government’s budgetary plans,” Dr. Larmin said.

The Deputy Minister emphasized that the recruitment initiative is aimed at increasing the manpower and operational capacity of the AFL to

strengthen national defense and security. Applications and further details on the recruitment process will be made available through official AFL channels in the coming weeks.



announced that in February 2026, the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) will carry out a nationwide recruitment process for 650 new personnel.

personnel. He stated that candidates must be high school graduates, pass a drug


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- Flyers, Posters, Calendars**
- Brochures, Letterhead**
- Receipts, Invoices**
- Souvenirs, Gifts**
- Designs, etc...**



A person is shown from the chest up, wearing a blue shirt and reading a newspaper. The newspaper is the 'New Dawn' sports section, with headlines such as 'Dawn raises red flag' and 'Uncertainty hangs over schools'. A large, bold, black text box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'PLEASE! KEEP THE DOOR CLOSE'. The background is a solid yellow color.

A composite image showing two different Heidelberg printing machines in a workshop setting. The left machine is a smaller, older model with a yellow bed. The right machine is a larger, more modern model with a black frame. The text "2 Colors Heidelberg Machines" is overlaid in the center.

A hand holding a black pen, poised to press a button labeled "PRESS" in white capital letters. The button is set against a vibrant, abstract background of swirling colors like pink, yellow, and blue, suggesting a creative or digital environment.

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