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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025	L\$199.6372/US\$1.00	L\$202.0035/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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French Version Inside

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All eyes on July 17 protest



Koffa case ends Justice Gbeisay's hearing



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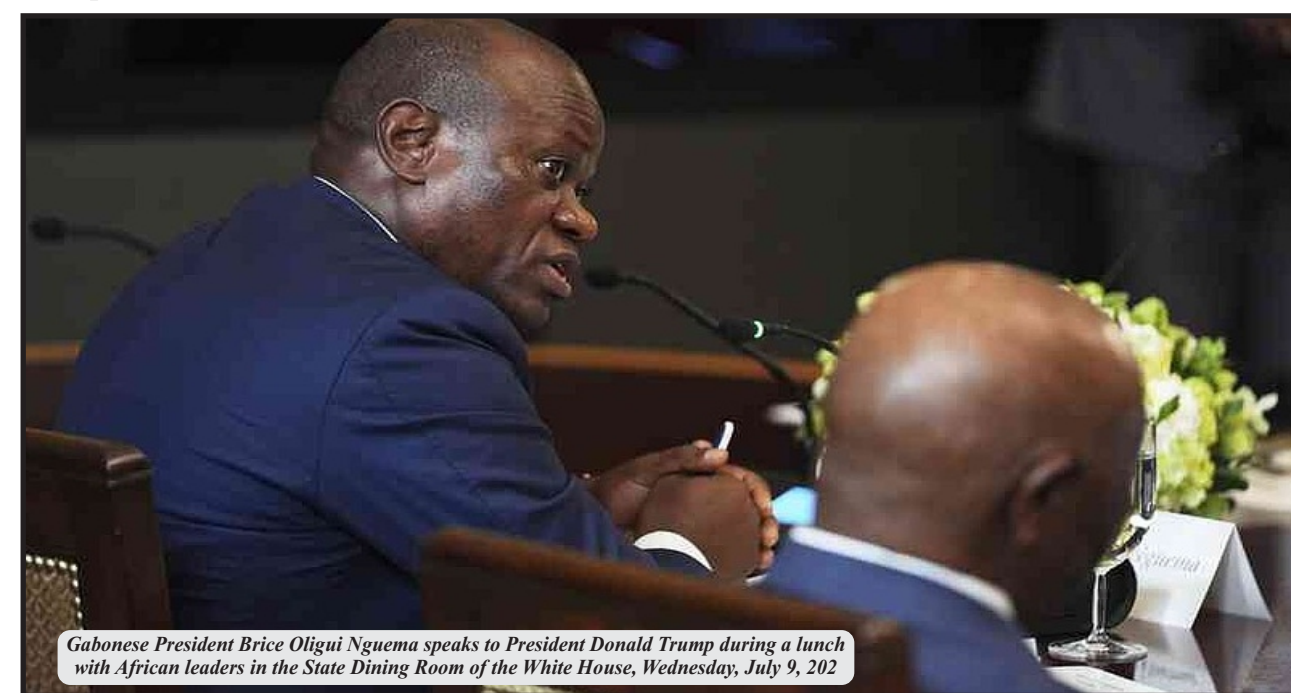
Continental News

Commonwealth lifts Gabon's partial suspension following April presidential vote

Gabon has been restored to full membership of the Commonwealth following the country's recent presidential election. The association made the announcement on Tuesday, following a meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group. Gabon was partially suspended from the 56-nation group in September 2023, a month after the elected government of Ali Bongo Ondimba was ousted in a coup.

In April this year, coup leader Brice Oligui Nguema won the presidential election with almost 95 percent of the vote. The Commonwealth ruled the poll was credible, transparent and inclusive and decided to lift Gabon's partial suspension. The CMAG welcomed Gabon's return to constitutional democracy and reiterated its condemnation of any unconstitutional overthrow of a duly elected government, stressing that "such action violates the democratic

principles at the heart of the Commonwealth and is a serious breach of the Commonwealth Charter." It said Gabon would remain on the group's agenda as it works towards fulfilling its obligations under the Commonwealth Charter. Rooted in the British Empire, the Commonwealth is now open to all countries. Togo and Gabon are the newest members, both joining in 2022.



Gabonese President Brice Oligui Nguema speaks to President Donald Trump during a lunch with African leaders in the State Dining Room of the White House, Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Nigeria: inflation falls slightly for third month straight, crisis not over

It's a small silver lining, at least on paper: Nigeria's headline inflation rate fell for the third month straight in June, according to data from the country's national statistics agency released on Wednesday. The rate slowed down to 22.22% in June year-on-year from 22.97% in May. This comes after inflation last year rose to record

peaks, worsening the country's ongoing cost-of-living crisis. The rate at which inflation has been falling has however recently slowed down and the prices of food and commodities in particular are putting a strain on many Nigerian's incomes. Many felt the pressure from inflation on ram prices during last month's Eid celebrations.

And protests in major cities in June to mark 26 years of uninterrupted democracy in Nigeria also addressed the cost-of-living crisis, a pressing issue for many citizens. The inflation rate for food increased slightly to 21.97% in June compared to the previous month. A sign that the economic tension in the country is far from over.



Nigerians protest against the cost-of-living crisis and economic hardship.

Ivory Coast: cocoa industry devastated by rains

Supplying around 40% of the world's cocoa, the Ivory Coast is the leading producer. But after exceptionally heavy rains this year, the country's cocoa warehouses are almost empty with producers expecting a harvest of between 3 to 4 times smaller than last year.

The west African country relies heavily on its cocoa production, with a fifth of the Ivorian population reliant on cocoa for their income. With the harvest devastated by the higher than average rainfall, many families will see a loss of income.

Unusual rainfall

In the Ivory Coast's south, July was especially wet. The country's meteorological agency Sodexam reported precipitation in some areas that was between 20 to 40% higher than the average in the years between 1991 to 2020.

For cocoa plants, this heavy rainfall was extremely destructive.

Cocoa requires a careful balance between sun and rain, requiring a little of both but not too much. The extreme rainfall in July destroyed the flowers on many cocoa plants and, thus, the harvest.

Global output

In anticipation of the poor crop, the country suspended cocoa

exports in July, pushing prices of the prized bean to record highs.

In London, the price of a tonne of cocoa peaked on 10 November at £3,478, the highest since 1989, while in New York it topped the \$4,000 mark, the highest level since the end of 1978, i.e. 45 years ago. An end to the rainfall will not necessarily mean an end to the crisis.

With the El Nino climate phenomenon threatening periods of drought in west Africa, the situation will remain critical.

"This is proof that climate change is hitting developing countries hardest," says Ivorian economist Séraphin Prao.

Loss of income

It is a worrying scenario for producers. The government, which fixes the cocoa price, has raised prices this year but the diminished harvest means that income loss is inevitable for Ivorian producers.

Prao argues that a free-market system would allow farmers to benefit from the current context.

"In Cameroon, for example, where the price is not set by the state, a kilo of cocoa sells for twice as much," he says.



An Ivorian cocoa farmer harvests cocoa pods in a cocoa plantation near Sinfra in the Central region in Ivory Coast, 12/10/2019

Forty years and counting: CAR once again postpones local elections

Scheduled to take place for exercise last year to update the the first time in almost forty electoral roll.

years, local and municipal Authorities say the postponement elections in the Central African Republic have been once again funds as well as technical and postponed.

Initially planned for the end of August, officials say the vote will now be held in December, in conjunction with the legislative and presidential elections. Members of the opposition BRDC are calling for an overhaul of the electoral authority and a dialogue with President Touadéra.

CAR has been battling conflict since 2013 when predominantly Muslim rebels seized power and biometric voter registration forced the then-president from office.

The United Nations has said the elections represent a "crucial opportunity" to strengthen democratic governance, promote reconciliation and consolidate stability.

The landlocked country is one of the poorest in the world, despite having significant natural resources, including uranium, oil, gold and diamonds.



EDITORIAL

Questioning GoL's decision on HPX Rail Access amidst AML's ongoing MDA

The recent decision by the Government of Liberia (GoL) to grant HPX (High Power Exploration) access to the national railway, while ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) continues to hold an active Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) with the government, raises several questions about national interest and strategic priorities.

At the heart of the matter is whether the GoL's actions serve Liberia's long-term goals, or whether they prioritize foreign interests over national interests or those of its own people.

Granting HPX access to the railway while AML MDA is still in effect creates a climate of uncertainty for current and potential investors.

AML's existing agreement with the government represents not only a legal commitment but also an implicit promise to prioritize the company's expansion and its resultant contributions to Liberia's economy.

While it is true that the railway is a state asset, by signing an access agreement with HPX, GoL appears to compromise the spirit, if not the letter, of its ongoing agreement with AML. This raises critical questions:

How does GoL justify entering into a new, potentially conflicting arrangement while its prior commitments remain unresolved?

What assurances exist to prevent operational or legal clashes between AML's expansion plans and HPX's anticipated access?

The optics of this new agreement suggest that foreign iron ore shipments are being prioritized over Liberian developmental interests.

AML's expansion is not merely a matter of corporate growth; it represents an opportunity for increased employment, local procurement, tax revenue, and infrastructural development.

This move may set a concerning precedent for future negotiations, signaling to both domestic and international actors that Liberia's commitments are manipulable and that foreign pressure can yield preferential treatment, even at the expense of national development.

This perception could impede AML's ability to finance future expansions, as investors may question the reliability of GoL's assurances and the stability of their investments.

It is no secret that HPX has been mounting pressure, pushing GoL to sign this agreement, but not necessarily with Liberia's broader interests at heart.

Rather than develop, the company's strategy appears driven by the prospect of securing a lucrative deal, one that would enhance the value of the Guinean concession granted to HPX, thereby enabling it to “flip” the asset for significant profit.

In this regard, HPX's persistent lobbying can be seen less as a commitment to contributing to Liberia's long-term growth and more as a calculated move to maximize short-term gains, potentially at Liberia's expense.

These developments suggest a troubling narrative: Liberia, despite being the landlord and custodian of its own resources and infrastructure, is at risk of being the net victim in a zero-sum game orchestrated by external actors.

The benefits accrued by HPX, facilitated by GoL's acceptance, come at the cost of Liberia's own interests and the aim of AML to expand and deepen its economic impact.

In conclusion, the GoL's decision to sign a rail access agreement with HPX/Ivanhoe, while an existing agreement with a major investor remains unresolved, raises fundamental doubts.

Unless adjusted, this deal with HPX/Ivanhoe threatens to leave the nation at a disadvantage, undermining both sovereignty and future prosperity for the fleeting advantage of others.

COMMENTARY

By Gordon Brown

The Indictment of Vladimir Putin Is Coming

EDINBURGH – Recent days have witnessed some of the worst attacks against Ukrainian civilians since the start of the war in February 2022. According to Danielle Bell, the head of the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU), “The surge in long-range missile and drone strikes across the country has brought even more death and destruction to civilians far away from the frontline.”

In fact, according to new data from the HRMMU, which has monitored loss of life throughout all of Russia's major bombing offensives, the monthly casualty rate among Ukraine's civilian population in June was the highest in more than three years. Civilian casualties included 232 deaths, with a further 1,343 Ukrainians injured in the span of one month.

As dire as conditions for civilians have become, the surge in Russian violence may also mark a turning point in Ukraine's favor. US President Donald Trump has now signaled a shift in his position, which Ukrainians and their allies across the West hope will be sustained.

Trump's decision to supply the type of lethal missiles (paid for by Europe) that will allow Ukraine to continue its fight against Russian aggression reflects his slow loss of trust in Russian President Vladimir Putin's willingness to negotiate a peace agreement. Likewise, Trump's accompanying threat to impose new sanctions comes in response to Putin's failure to honor his promises.

Putin has another reason to worry. On July 15, Ukraine's parliament voted overwhelmingly in favor of establishing, together with the Council of Europe, a special tribunal to try Russia for the crime of aggression against Ukraine. The Ukrainian decision ratifies the agreement that was signed in Strasbourg on June 25, during Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's first visit to the Council of Europe.

An unmistakable signal has now been sent that there will be no safe haven for Putin and the clique who made the decision to wage aggressive war against Ukraine. The future tribunal will allow investigations of all the highest-ranking leaders of the Russian state. While heads of state, heads of governments and foreign ministers benefit from personal immunity from prosecution, this will be no bar to gathering evidence against them and being prepared to issue a formal indictment the instant they leave office.

The agreement follows the Council of Europe's suspension of Russia's representation rights in February 2022, after 26 years of Russian membership, and then expelling Russia a month later, in accordance with Article 8 of its statute.

The tribunal is the culmination of three years of pressure to hold the Kremlin accountable for its actions in Ukraine. Already the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova, Russia's commissioner for children's rights, for her role in the unlawful deportation of thousands of Ukrainian children to Russia. Last year ICC judges issued arrest warrants for former Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chief of the Russian General Staff of the Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov for attacks on Ukraine's electricity infrastructure.

But a tribunal has become necessary because, despite having jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity (which now include the destruction of schools, hospitals, and infrastructure, and the deliberate targeting of civilians), and genocide committed on Ukraine's territory, the ICC cannot prosecute Russia's political and military leaders for the crime of aggression.

This is because Russia is not a party to the Rome Statute, which established the ICC, and because the country's veto power at the United Nations prevents the Security Council from referring the matter to the Court. That leaves only a special tribunal to prosecute Putin's foundational crime: planning, preparing, and executing the invasion, occupation, and attempted annexation of Ukraine, dating back to the invasion of Crimea in 2014.

Prosecuting the regime for the crime of aggression against Ukraine falls squarely within the mission of the Council of Europe, founded in the aftermath of World War II, when much of the continent lay in ruins, with the goal of upholding the rule of law and human rights. It would also send the important message that a rules-based system is still the best way to create a more stable and peaceful world.

That message is needed now more than ever as Putin ramps up Russia's war machine and increases the pressure not only on the front line in Ukraine but also on civilians. The Kremlin has reportedly imported laborers from Asian and African countries to bolster the workforce in factories manufacturing drones, with China accused of providing vital components in large quantities.

So, what has happened this week is of great significance. New American armaments will begin to arrive soon, and the message has gone out to Putin and his criminal cabal: criminal indictments are coming, and there will be nowhere to hide. Quite simply, there will be few places outside of Russia where Putin can be certain of not facing the humiliation of a potential arrest. His impunity is coming to an end.

OP-ED

by Zhang Jun

Demystifying China's Manufacturing Success

SHANGHAI – Chinese manufacturing has come a long way – and by some measures, it is stronger than ever. Whereas foreign-invested enterprises were the driving force behind China's manufacturing exports 20 years ago, most of these firms are now leaving China, having lost their market share to domestic competitors. And these dominant Chinese companies are not limited to the low-value-added production of the past. They are global leaders in many high-tech industries, such as semiconductors and electric vehicles, where they hold an absolute price advantage.

Today's China is reminiscent of Japan and South Korea in their heyday. In the 1970s, Japan was producing high-tech products, including home appliances and automobiles, that outperformed American alternatives. And in the 1990s, South Korea emerged as a powerhouse in the electronics and automobile industries. The difference is that the per capita GDP of Japan in the 1970s and South Korea in the 1990s was approaching half that of the United States, but China's per capita GDP, in nominal terms, amounts to less than 16% of America's today (\$13,300, compared to \$85,800).

The obvious question is how a country with such low per capita GDP has managed to reach the technological frontier in so many sectors. Another, perhaps more interesting question is how China manages to keep the prices of the cutting-edge technologies it produces so low. In both cases, an important part of the answer is China's massive scale.

If a country with a huge population can deliver high-quality education to its people, it will eventually accumulate disproportionate human capital. Such a country will learn more readily from advanced economies and develop its own innovative capacity earlier in its development. Though China had little trade with the West during the Mao era, it had a large contingent of elites who had studied at Western universities prior to the establishment of the People's Republic. This group played an extremely important role in advancing China's scientific research and technology sector, helping to industrialize the economy with technical assistance from the Soviet Union. More importantly, China successfully established a modern basic education system in the 1950s, making it free for all Chinese children despite the country's high levels of extreme poverty, and also restructured its higher-education system.

Most of China's prestigious universities at the time had been established by Western religious institutions and missionary groups during the late Qing Dynasty (which ended in 1911) and the early Republic of China period (1911-49). But under Mao, China embraced the Soviet model of higher education, which emphasized vocational and technical training, with a special focus on science and engineering. Unlike the Western model, which emphasized liberal education, the Soviet system aimed to produce specialists with practical qualifications.

Over the last 40 years, China has retained this basic model and made it increasingly accessible. Since the government's 1999 decision to expand university enrollment, the annual number of university graduates has surged from one million in 1999 to 12 million today, roughly half of whom hold degrees in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. Today, China has nearly five times as many STEM graduates as the US, and seven times as many engineers. This explains why, unlike American consumers, Chinese consumers enjoy effective, affordable, and widely available after-sales and maintenance services on the products they purchase, from electronics to Evs.

China has also seen the value of learning from the West, sending more than six million students to foreign universities over the last 40 years, the majority of whom have returned to China after completing their studies. This has contributed substantially to China's manufacturing catch-up, especially over the last two decades.

But education was just part of the equation. China's 1979 decision to allow local firms to establish joint ventures with foreign companies led to technological upgrading in a broad range of sectors. Crucially, as China built up increasingly advanced manufacturing capabilities, it also developed supply chains and supporting infrastructure. Today, China's manufacturing sector depends on a robust network of suppliers, innovators, manufacturers, and logistics providers.

China's government has played a vital role in building and nurturing this ecosystem. But, contrary to the prevailing impression in the West, this is not an exclusively – or even primarily – top-down process. China is composed of 31 provinces, around 300 prefecture-level cities, and about 2,800 counties and cities, and at every level, governments compete with one another to promote growth and industrial development. While the central government sets priorities, any policy it introduces to support specific industries functions, in practice, as a horizontal competition policy. This economic strategy – made possible by China's massive scale – has been essential to the rapid development and continued competitiveness of Chinese manufacturing.

OPINION

by Lee Jong-Wha

The Sino-American Battle for Brains

SEOUL – Around the world, governments are racing to build world-class universities. From Germany's Exzellenzinitiative to India's “Institutes of Eminence,” the goal is the same: to cultivate institutions that attract and nurture top global talent, conduct cutting-edge research, and drive innovation and growth. But the stakes are particularly high in the United States and China, given the escalating competition between the world's two largest economies.

The struggle to lead in higher education is about more than prestige. Elite universities affect economic performance in myriad ways, including by fostering innovation, boosting productivity, and increasing individual earnings. Graduates from top-tier institutions are more likely to become scientists, inventors, and entrepreneurs. At the national level, countries with higher average university quality tend to enjoy faster technological development and stronger productivity.

A few years ago, any comparison of US and Chinese higher education would have been no contest. For decades, US universities have dominated global rankings, with institutions like MIT, Stanford, and Harvard forming the core of the innovation hubs that have been integral to the country's global scientific leadership and entrepreneurial dynamism. Many of the world's most valuable companies – including Google, Meta, Nvidia, and Tesla – were built by graduates of elite US universities.

As often as not, those graduates were not American. Over half of America's billion-dollar startups have at least one immigrant founder, and a quarter were launched by individuals who first arrived in the US as international students. This points to a key strength of America's university system: its ability to attract the world's top talent. International students account for 14% of enrollment at America's top research universities, and 28% at elite institutions, such as the Ivy League universities, Stanford, and MIT. In the 2023-24 academic year, international students contributed nearly \$44 billion to the US economy and supported more than 378,000 jobs.

But America's continued dominance in higher education is far from guaranteed. While US (and European) institutions still lead in global rankings, Chinese universities have been rapidly gaining on them in recent years. In the QS and Times Higher Education rankings, Peking and Tsinghua universities have now broken into the top 20. And in the 2025 Nature Index, eight of the top ten global research institutions are based in China, with Harvard and Germany's Max Planck Society being the only Western institutions that made the cut.

Moreover, Zhejiang University, which has modeled itself on Stanford, has helped to transform Hangzhou into a Chinese Silicon Valley, with a vibrant startup ecosystem underpinned by strong government support and active university-industry collaboration. The AI powerhouse DeepSeek emerged in Hangzhou.

Chinese universities are particularly strong in the so-called STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). China now produces some two million science and engineering graduates annually, more than double the number in the US. Engineering degrees comprise 33% of all undergraduate qualifications in China, compared to just 8% in the US, and more than 600 Chinese universities now offer undergraduate programs in AI. Today, nearly half of the world's top AI researchers are of Chinese origin – and a growing number of them are choosing to work in China.



These developments are no accident. Rather, they reflect three decades of sustained government commitment, exemplified by initiatives like Project 985 and the Double First-Class Construction program. And continued progress is virtually guaranteed: earlier this year, China released a national strategy aimed at turning the country into an “education power with global influence” by 2035, particularly in areas like AI, semiconductors, and robotics.

To be sure, China's push to lead in higher education will face considerable headwinds. Cutting-edge research and breakthrough innovation demand intellectual and academic freedom – the freedom to question prevailing ideas, explore new concepts, and update modes of thinking. As critics have warned, the Communist Party of China's tight control over universities and the media is not conducive to any of this.

Nonetheless, China's commitment to strengthening higher education is clear. The same cannot be said for the US, where President Donald Trump's administration has effectively declared war on leading universities in the name of combating alleged ideological bias. This has included freezing billions of dollars in research funding and demanding sweeping reforms by institutions like Harvard and Columbia, from curricula changes to the elimination of diversity programs. Meanwhile, the Trump administration has sought to revoke and restrict visas for international students.

Though the Trump administration's attacks have been met with some resistance from universities, there has been at least as much capitulation. Now, trust in higher education is plunging, and foreign applications are falling sharply – a trend that is no doubt compounded by Trump's broader immigration crackdown. These developments jeopardize not only US academic freedom, but also America's long-standing economic, scientific, and technological edge.

One can only hope that the Trump administration's assaults on higher education will prove to be short-lived, and the US will recommit to promoting academic freedom, welcoming international students, and supporting universities as incubators of groundbreaking ideas. With China investing heavily in building world-class universities, courting foreign talent, and strengthening ties between industry and academia, the US cannot afford to take its academic primacy for granted. How the global “brain race” unfolds could affect technological leadership, economic power, and geopolitical influence for decades to come.

<div></div> <div>MANO RIVER UNION UNION DU FLEUVE MANO</div>	<div></div> <div>MANO RIVER UNION UNION DU FLEUVE MANO</div>
<div>REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICE)</div> <div>TO SUPPORT ACCESS TO MARKET THROUGH THE ORGANISING OF REGIONAL TRADE FAIRS ACROSS THREE (3) VALUE CHAINS FOR WOMEN CROSS BORDER TRADERS.</div>	<div>REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICE)</div> <div>FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF A FULL-TIME COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICE FOR THE BUILDING INCLUSIVE BUSINESS ECOSYSTEMS FOR STABILIZATION AND TRANSFORMATION (BI-BEST) PROJECT.</div>
<div>COUNTRIES: Sierra Leone and Liberia</div> <div>Sector: Gender Equality</div> <div>Mode of Financing: Grant</div> <div>Project ID: P-Z1-ID0-009 Grant No: 5900155016801</div> <div>Issued Date: 16 July 2025</div>	<div>COUNTRIES: Sierra Leone and Liberia</div> <div>Sector: Gender Equality</div> <div>Mode of Financing: Grant</div> <div>Project ID: P-Z1-ID0-009 Grant No: 5900155016801</div> <div>Issued Date: 16 July 202516 July 202515 July 2025</div>
<p>The Mano River Union Secretariat has received a grant from the African Development Bank (AfDB) to implement the project to Build Inclusive Business Ecosystems for Stabilization and Transformation (BI-BEST) in the Mano River Union (MRU) and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grant to payments under the contract for the recruitment of a consultant for to Support Access to Market through the Organizing of Regional Trade Fairs across 3 Value Chains for Women Cross Border Traders.</p> <p>The consultant is expected to organize at least two (2) trade fairs per each value chain at designated border points targeting the four project communities (Jendema, Bo-Waterside, Koindu & Foya) that will bring together value chain actors to include traders, service providers and relevant state actors at border points with the aim of increasing access to market and strengthening linkages between Women Cross Border Traders and service providers in the two countries (Sierra Leone and Liberia) across the 3 selected value chains (Cassava, Palm Oil, & Vegetables).</p> <p>The assignment to Support Access to Market through the Organizing of Regional Trade Fairs across 3 Value Chains for Women Cross Border Traders will include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">To identify appropriate exhibitors, market/trade actors across the three value chains and generate as well influence their interests to participate.Create sufficient awareness of the fairs and ensure that publicity and participation are high and that follow ups, registration, branding, visibility, advertisement, and networking plans are designed and executed.Ensure effective site identification and setup, layout and booth branding, security for traders and their commodities, proper organization and management of the events, promotional exhibitions, workshops/presentations, transportation arrangements, storage arrangements, etc. are in place and well communicated to all attendees, exhibitors and stakeholders.Initial measures to ensure timely registration, effective on-site engagements and networking opportunities; especially, for the women, easy identification, educational activities as well as effective follow-up, data collection and reporting mechanism/strategies are in place. <p>The assignment will be undertaken in three (3) Months (not to exceed 60 working days), and the duration of the contract is six (6) months, from the date of signature of contract.</p> <p>The Mano River Union Secretariat is therefore inviting eligible individual consultants to submit their Interest with their CVs for providing these services. Interested Consultants shall provide information on their qualifications and experience (cover letter, academic credentials, supporting documents referencing similar services and showing demonstrated experience in similar assignments, etc.) to undertake this Assignment.</p> <p>Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank’s “Procurement Policy and Methodology for Bank Group funded Operations” (BPM), dated 2015, which is available on the Bank’s website at http://www.afdb.org. MRU is under no obligation to shortlist any consultant who expresses interest.</p> <p>Interested Individual Consultants may obtain further information and Terms of Reference (ToR) from the Procurement Specialist email address: kensah@mru.int during the Office’s working hours between 09:00 to 17:00 hours GMT.</p> <p>Proposals (technical and financial) must be delivered to the address below or by email procurement@mru.int not later than August 15th, 2025 at 2:30pm Sierra Leone time and mention “<i>Expression of Interest to Support Access to Regional Markets Through the Organizing of Trade Fairs</i>” for MRU/BI BEST Project”</p> <div>Attention: Mano River Union Secretariat 32 S Spur Loop, Wilberforce, Freetown Rep. of Sierra Leone Tel: +23276964965 E-mail : procurement@mru.int</div>	<p>The Mano River Union Secretariat has received a grant from the African Development Bank (AfDB) to implement the project to Build Inclusive Business Ecosystems for Stabilization and Transformation (BI-BEST) in the Mano River Union (MRU) and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grant to payments under the contract for the recruitment of Communications Assistant to support the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) set up at the Mano River Union Secretariat in Freetown, Sierra Leone.</p> <p>The services to be provided under the Assignment include the following:</p> <p>Duties and Responsibilities:</p> <p>The overall responsibility of the Communications Assistant will be to strengthen/improve communication and visibility of the BI-BEST project as well provide strategic communication related backstopping support to the MRU.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Support the development and implementation of a communication and visibility plan for BI-BEST.Develop advocacy materials and build strategic relationships with major partners and stakeholders to enhance BI-BEST project’s visibility.Represent BI-BEST in communication groups as appropriate and provide guidance and advice on various issues relating to communication.Develop and disseminate communication products through avenues such as the Bank’s web page, and social media channels among others in accordance with the Bank’s Communication guidelines.Support development of communication materials for BI-BEST project impact/ results to be shared at regional and national level.Research, prepare fact-checking, edit, and produce professional media and communications materials for various audiences and ensure their timely dissemination and amplification via AfDB communications channels.Assist in drafting and editing articles, press releases, human interest stories and other advocacy materials.Contribute to policy, strategy, and reports formulation/development.Support the M&E Assistant and ensure that project indicators and field activities are tracked and reported in a timely manner.Gather/compile success stories of beneficiaries across the project communities and disseminate stories in an effective and professional mannerOversee internal communications and liaise with the Front Office communication focal person.Support the preparation of periodic and quarterly reports to feed in the overall project quarterly reports and assist in the synthesis of the overall reports from the PIU.Participate in coordination meetings for the project.Participate in working sessions and events organized or arranged by the Bank.Perform any other task that the Project Coordinator will wish to entrust to you. <p>Minimum Education Qualification and Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">He/she must have at least an undergraduate degree/certificate in Communication Studies, Gender/Development Studies, Business Studies, Economics, Sociology, Project Management, or related field with at least five (5) years of active work experience within the field of communication.Good knowledge of gathering/collecting, writing, editing and hosting stories on women’s economic empowerment, socio-economic development, regional integration and related issues in the MRU and its member states.Experience in social media communication, website design, publishing and management.Experience in developing and implementing a communication plan.Experience in compiling learning activities, success stories, reviewing and writing results-based donor reports.Good report writing and analytical skills.Familiarity with computerized management information systems and management.Experience with the management of international technical cooperation programmes.Familiarity with AfDB programmes policies and procedures will be an added advantage. <p>Other Qualities or Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Demonstrated ability of high level/strategic report writing is a must.High Proficiency in the use of design software is a must;Very good time management skills and ability to multi-task and work under time pressureDemonstrated ability to communicate ideas and analyses clearly and tactfully, both orally and in writing;Fluency in English including demonstrated report writing skills;Ability to work effectively in a team-oriented environment.Demonstrated capacity to rapidly gain familiarity. <p>The contract is expected to run for eleven (11) months from the date of signature of contract. (August 2025- June 2026).</p> <p>The Mano River Union Secretariat is therefore inviting eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested Consultants shall provide information on their qualifications and experience (cover letter, CV with work experience, contact address/phone number, references and photocopies of certificates, etc.) to undertake this Assignment.</p> <p>Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank’s “Procurement Policy and Methodology for Bank Group funded Operations” (BPM), dated 2015, which is available on the Bank’s website at http://www.afdb.org. MRU is under no obligation to shortlist any consultant who expresses interest.</p> <p>Interested Individual Consultants may query, obtain further information or Terms of Reference (ToR) from the Procurement Specialist email address: kensah@mru.int during the Office’s working hours between 09:00 to 17:00 hours GMT.</p> <p>Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by July 30th, 2025 at 4:30pm Sierra Leone time and mention “CONSULTANCY SERVICE FOR COMMUNICATION ASSISTANT”.</p> <div>Attention: Mano River Union Secretariat 32 S Spur Loop, Wilberforce, Freetown Rep. of Sierra Leone Tel: +232 76964965 E-mail : procurement@mru.int</div>

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
MONTERRADO COUNTY

IN THE DEBT COURT FOR MONTERRADO CO.
SITTING IN ITS JUNE TERM, A.D. 2025.

BEFORE HIS HONOR: JAMES E. JONES, JUDGE, DEBT COURT, MO. CO

The Management of Master Trading Center, by & thru its General Manager, Khaled Ismail of Randall Street, Monrovia, Liberia

PLAINTIFF

VERSUS
The Management of Ginko Energies Liberia, by & thru its Managing Director, Mr. Jack Yu, of the City of Monrovia, Liberia

DEFENDANT

ACTION OF DEBT

GREETINGS:

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
BAILIFF RUTH C. SUMO
ACTING SHERIFF, DEBT COURT, MO. CO.

RE-SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION & MAILING:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMON BY PUBLICATION & MAIL:
The Management of Ginko Energies Liberia, by & thru its Managing Director, Mr. Jack Yu, of the City of Monrovia, Liberia, DEFENDANT to appear before the Debt Court for Monterrado County, sitting in its August Term A.D. 2025, same being the 12th day of August A.D. 2025, at the hour of 10: 00A.M. at the Debt Court House, Temple of Justice Building, City of Monrovia, Liberia, to answer to the complaint of Plaintiff in the above captioned cause of action and to notify the said Defendant that upon it failure to appear, judgment will be entered against it by default.

YOU ARE HEREBY FURTHER COMMANDED to notify the said defendant to file its formal appearance/answer in my office on or before the 18th day of July A.D. 2025. Meanwhile, you will return this Writ in my Office on or before the said 18th day of July A.D. 2025 with your Official returns endorsed on the back thereof as to the form and manner of service.

AND HAVE YOU THERE THIS WRIT OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION & MAILING:

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF
COURT THIS 7TH DAY OF JULY, A.D.2025.

SEAL

Marcathys S. Hne, Jr.
CLERK OF COURT
DEBT COURT, MO. CO.

\$5.00 Revenue Stamp Affixed On The Original Copy.

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA) IN THE DEBT COURT FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY
MONTERRADO COUNTY) SITTING IN ITS MAY TERM A.D. 2025

BEFORE HIS HONOR: JAMES E. JONES, RESIDENT JUDGE DEBT COURT

The Management of Master Trading Center
By and thru its General Manager of Mr. Khaled Ismail of Rendell Street Monrovia, Liberia

PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

The management of Ginko Energies
Liberia by and thru its Managing Director
Mr. JACK YU of the city of Monrovia

DEFENDANT

ACTION OF DEBT

PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT

AND NOW COMES THE PLAINTIFF, praying your honor and this honorable court to hold the defendant liable to the Plaintiff in debt for the following legal and factual reason to wit:

1. Plaintiff says that it is a registered business entity operating under the laws of the Republic of Liberia and is authorized to bring this action of debt against the Defendant, and attached and marked as P/1 is a copy of the plaintiff's document to substantiate this claim.
2. Plaintiff says that he runs a Moto Garage and spare parts store of which defendant has been taking parts and drawing down on account for spare parts and services of the defendant's vehicle.
3. Plaintiff says that the defendant left his 2010 black Toyota Land Cruiser SUV, which the defendant left with the plaintiff for repairs, and the defendant is yet to pay the repair cost. Attached and marked as P/2 is a copy of the Black Jeep title to substantiate this claim.
4. Plaintiff says that the defendant paid some of the money and has an outstanding balance of (US\$2,610.00), two thousand six hundred and ten United States dollars as the amount owed. Attached and marked as P/ 3 is a copy of the statement of accounts.
5. Plaintiff says that since the 2nd day of February A.D. 2024, the defendant refused to answer the plaintiff's calls, refused to settle his debt with the plaintiff, and refused to pay for the servicing of the vehicle.
6. Plaintiff says that in May of 2024, the plaintiff hired his lawyer to collect his debt from the defendant. The defendant's lawyer then sent a demand letter to the defendant but was told that the defendant is out of the bailiwick. Attached and marked as P/4 is a copy of the demand letter.
7. Plaintiff says that based on the facts stated above, the action of debt will lie.

WHEREFORE AND IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, the plaintiff prays your honor and this honorable court to adjudge the defendant liable to the Plaintiff and also dispose of the collateral or assets that is the Jeep of the defendant that is in the possession of the Plaintiff.

A). (US\$2,610.00), Two Thousand Six Hundred and Ten United States Dollars as debt owed.

B). Six percent statutory interest C) 2% of successful attorney fees. D) 6 % percent sheriff collection fees.

Respectfully Submitted
the within named Plaintiff by and thru
His legal counsel

CLLR: BENJAMIN B. STEWART, JR.
Tel: 0886413930/0777413930

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA) IN THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
MONTERRADO COUNTY) FOR AND IN MONTERRADO COUNTY

The Management of Master Trading Center
By and thru its General Manager of Mr. Khaled Ismail of Rendell Street Monrovia, Liberia

PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

The management of Ginko Energies
Liberia by and thru its Managing Director
Mr. JACK YU of the city of Monrovia

DEFENDANT

ACTION OF DEBT

PLAINTIFF'S AFFIDAVITS

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME a duly qualify Justice of the Peace in and for Monterrado county CLLR. BENJAMIN B. STEWART, JR, who, made oath and swore that the attached Complaint of the Plaintiff is correct to and as to the facts he verily believed them to be true to the best of his knowledge and beliefs.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEALS THIS
DAY OF JULY, A.D.2025

Signed:
CLLR: BENJAMIN B. STEWART, JR..
AFFAINT

LISGIS & UNFPA evaluate population policy development

The Government of Liberia, through the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-information Services (LISGIS), with partnership funding from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), has reviewed and validated the National Population Policy Development Document.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, July 17, 2025: The two-day (July 15-16, 2025) consultative symposium for stakeholders, held at a local hotel in Monrovia, was organized by the Population Policy Unit (PPCU) at LISGIS, the secretariat of the National Population Commission of Liberia.

The objective of the initiative is to review the National Population Policy, which has been in existence since 1988, to ensure that it is updated to meet the current development and planning needs of the country, especially those of the vulnerable Population. Additionally, it aims to gather the input of stakeholders to enable everyone to understand the policy and contribute their insights to guide Liberia's development drive, ensuring comprehensive and inclusive development.

Consultant provided by UNFPA will help them develop a better contemporary population policy that incorporates everyone in society and gives a voice to the ordinary.

Mr. Quoi pointed out that within the context of the International Development standard, it is important that every policy be reviewed and validated after every five years to enable incorporation of every new change, while adding that the review of the policy is in alignment with the government of Liberia's Agenda for Inclusive Development.

According to him, the process took longer to be validated due to the Liberian Civil War. However, after fourteen years of Civil conflict, the process stalled due to the absence of key policymakers, who had either died, retired, or been displaced by the war.



The validation of the policy was attended by international Development Partners, local Civil Society Organizations, the disabled community, as well as government institutions, including the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the University of Liberia's Institute of Population Studies, among others.

At the close of the program, the participants, based on the knowledge they had gathered from the training, divided themselves into three groups and evaluated and reviewed the Population Policy Development Document, making recommendations to guide national development.

Speaking in an interview with the Director for Population Policy (PPCU) Coordination Unit at LISGIS, Mr. Stephen Quoi stated that since the National Population Policy came into existence, Liberians had validated the policy only once, and that was in 2005 during the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

He expressed appreciation and gratitude to the UNFPA and LISGIS for collaboration and support, while disclosing that the

" So, when President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf came to power in 2005, Liberia reviewed the Policy. Now, since 2005, we have not revisited the policy. In 2008 and 2022, Liberia conducted censuses. All these censuses have introduced a lot of data that is not found within the policy; therefore, this revision process will help us to ensure that all of the information from those censuses is incorporated in the Policy to enable inclusive development planning," Mr. Quoi added.

He disclosed that, beginning next week, they are expected to conduct key informant interviews in Liberia's 15 counties to gather practical, accurate data to update the policy and make it more comprehensive.

" I want to express my gratitude to UNFPA for the support and to LISGIS for reaching out to them. The UNFPA has provided us with a consultant who you saw in the meeting, who is part of the process. He will help us to develop a modern, contemporary, and more comprehensive Population Development Policy that will project an inclusive development and planning," he added. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Bong County: MFDP & Development Partners launch Fiscal Decentralization and Financial Management Training

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), with support from international partners, has officially launched a three-day Fiscal Decentralization and Financial Management Training in Gbarnga, Bong County.

By: Edwin N. Khakie

Gbarnga, Bong County, July 17, 2025: The training, held under the theme “Empowerment of Local Government Officials Through Financial Management and Budget Disaggregation,” brings together over 60 local government officials from Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, and Margibi Counties. The workshop is a part of ongoing national efforts to build local capacities for responsible governance and more effective public service delivery. The training focuses on several critical areas, including Budget Disaggregation, Budget Execution and Reporting, Revenue Sharing Laws and Regulations, and Implementation of the Local Government Act. These components are essential for enhancing the way local

governments plan, allocate, spend, and report public funds. As Liberia transitions toward a more decentralized governance system, these skills will be vital in ensuring transparency, accountability, and citizen trust.

Mr. Anthony G. Myers, Deputy Minister for Fiscal Affairs, delivered the official opening remarks, highlighting the importance of the initiative in enhancing local financial autonomy. He emphasized that empowering counties through sound fiscal management is crucial for sustainable development.

“By building the financial management capacities of our local officials, we are creating the foundation for more responsive and effective governance. Counties must be able to plan, execute, and report on their budgets independently while staying aligned with national goals,” Myers stated.

He further urged participants to take

the training seriously, noting that the success of Liberia's decentralization policy depends largely on the readiness and competence of local actors.

Also speaking at the ceremony, Prof. Alaric Tokpah, Acting Chairman of the Governance Commission, praised the MFDP and its partners for the timely initiative. He reiterated that decentralization is not merely a policy choice but a constitutional mandate that ensures citizen participation in decision-making and resource allocation.

“We must continue to build synergy between central and local government institutions. Without collaboration and shared responsibility, the dream of effective decentralization will remain distant,” Prof. Tokpah stressed.

Representatives from key development partners including the European Union (EU), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) also addressed the gathering. Each partner expressed strong commitment to Liberia's decentralization and governance reforms.

“Strong, accountable, and capable local governments are essential to achieving Liberia's long-term development goals,” one partner representative remarked. “We are proud to be part of this capacity-building initiative that empowers local leaders to serve their communities better.”

-Edited by Othello B. Garblah.



Liberian stakeholders endorse Sartla project to advance climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia; July 16, 2025: A diverse group of stakeholders from across Liberia gathered at the Bella Casa Hotel in Monrovia on July 8, 2025, for the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting to review and endorse the SARTLA project, which aims to strengthen agricultural resilience through transformational livelihood adaptation.

Jointly developed by the Government of Liberia and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the \$10 million project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

SARTLA aims to enhance climate resilience in rural communities by promoting nature-based solutions

resilient management practices.

Participants included representatives from national government institutions such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, and the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority.

Civil society organizations, youth and women's groups, and local government officials from the target counties also contributed to the dialogue and appraisal process.

Following robust discussions, the LPAC concluded with a unanimous endorsement of the SARTLA project, underscoring



Teachers distance from planned protest

Monrovia, Liberia; July 17, 2025 - The National Teachers' Association of Liberia (NTAL) distances itself from protest being organized by the Solidarity of Trust for a New Day (STAND) and the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) Youth League.

The NTAL in a press statement urged all its members to refrain from associating the Association with political protests or activities that are outside the scope of its professional mandate.

The statement said the NTAL is a non-political, independent, and professional organization, adding that its mission is to advocate for the welfare, rights, and professional development of teachers and education workers in Liberia, including promotion of quality, inclusive, and equitable education across the country.

The NTAL maintained that it believes in constructive dialogue with government and education stakeholders through lawful, peaceful, and professional engagement mechanisms.

The Association clarified that it is not a party to the ongoing protest actions or public demonstration(s) organized by STAND or the CDC Youth League because no

authorization, verbal or written, has been issued by the National Executive Committee or the National Secretariat of NTAL for teachers or education workers to participate in these events under the NTAL banner.

It cautioned that any teacher or education worker who chooses to attend or support such actions is doing so entirely in their own name and shall bear fully a stronger, more professional responsibility for their actions.

The NTAL is therefore urging all teachers and education workers and not political or civil disobedience”, the release to their professional responsibilities in schools,

The National Teachers' Association of Liberia calls on all education stakeholders, partners, parents, and the general public to take note of its position.

“We remain focused on building a teaching workforce that advances national development, not political or civil disobedience”, the release concludes. *Press Release*



NTAL President Mary Nyumah

and sustainable livelihood interventions.

This LPAC meeting marks a key milestone for the project, which will be implemented across seven counties-Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Maryland, and Montserrado.

Through this initiative, 3,640 hectares of land and coastal zones will be brought under climate-

Liberia's commitment to adaptive and inclusive climate action.

As the country faces escalating climate-related challenges, the SARTLA project is a bold and strategic effort to support vulnerable communities and enhance pathways to sustainable development and environmental resilience.

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Français

L'audition de confirmation du juge Gbeisay clôturée sur l'affaire Koffa

L'audition de confirmation du juge Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay, pressenti pour le poste de président de la Cour suprême du Liberia, s'est achevée sur sa dissidence affirmée à propos de l'arrêt rendu en mai dernier par la Haute Cour dans

maintenu que la décision de la Cour suprême en faveur de l'ancien speaker était « illégale et inconstitutionnelle ». En avril 2025, la Cour avait validé la requête de M. Koffa, ordonnant au bloc parlementaire majoritaire dirigé par le président désigné Richard N. Koon de respecter l'arrêt du 6

la législature qui ne respecte pas l'esprit des articles 33 et 49 de la Constitution est nulle et non avenue ».

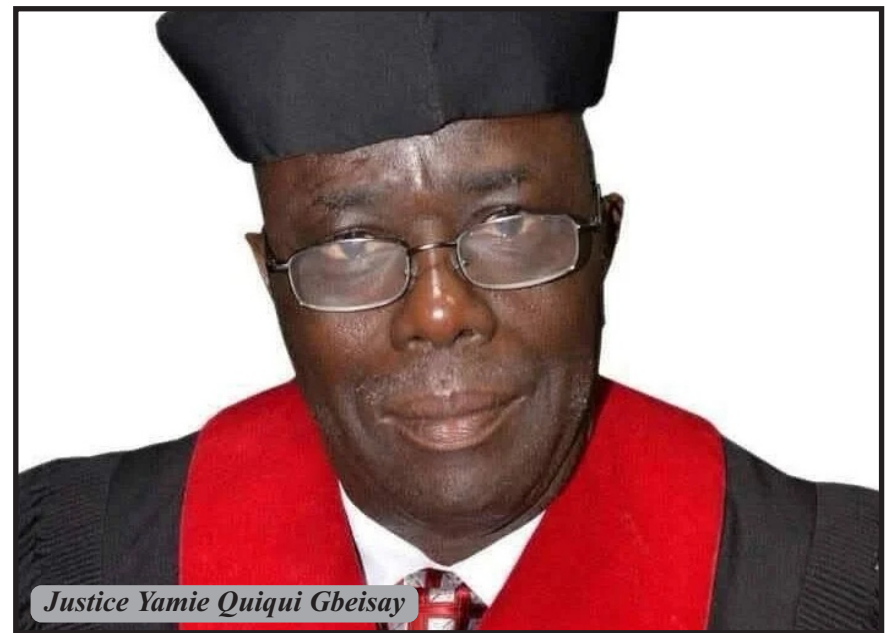
Cependant, selon le juge Gbeisay, le recours de M. Koffa ne relevait pas du droit mais de la politique :

« L'affaire Koffa, selon moi, était plus politique que juridique. L'arrêt de la Cour était déclaratif : il reconnaissait les droits, mais ne donnait aucun mandat. Koffa n'avait pas de quorum pour exercer ses fonctions ; le bloc majoritaire, lui, avait la majorité mais pas le Speaker. Rien n'exigeait donc une interprétation supplémentaire de la part de la Cour. Le fait de revenir devant la Cour avec une *Bill of Information* était, à mon sens, une démarche illégale. »

Le Sénat favorable à la confirmation

Malgré cette position controversée, le Sénat libérien semble prêt à confirmer le juge Gbeisay à la tête de la Cour suprême. Le mardi 15 juillet 2025, l'audition s'est conclue dans une atmosphère favor

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Justice Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay

l'affaire de la *Bill of Information* déposée par l'ancien président de la Chambre, Fonati Koffa. Lors de son audition devant le Sénat, le juge Gbeisay a

décembre 2024, relatif à la crise persistante au sein de la Chambre des représentants. Dans cet arrêt historique, la Cour avait déclaré que « toute session ou décision prise par des membres de

Le LISGIS et l'UNFPA révisent la politique nationale de population du Liberia

Le gouvernement du Liberia, à travers l'Institut Libérien de la Statistique et de l'Information Géographique (LISGIS), avec l'appui financier du Fonds des Nations Unies pour la population (UNFPA), a procédé à la révision et à la validation du document de développement de la Politique Nationale de Population. Organisé les 15 et 16 juillet 2025 dans un hôtel de Monrovia, le symposium consultatif a réuni divers acteurs nationaux et internationaux. L'événement, mis en œuvre par l'Unité de coordination de la politique de population (PPCU) du LISGIS, qui assure également le secrétariat de la Commission nationale de la population du Liberia, visait à actualiser une politique initialement adoptée en 1988. L'objectif principal de cette révision est d'adapter la politique nationale de population aux réalités actuelles du développement et de la planification au Liberia, en tenant compte en particulier des besoins des populations vulnérables. La démarche vise également à favoriser la participation des parties prenantes pour garantir une

compréhension partagée de la politique et orienter les actions de développement vers plus d'inclusivité. Une révision attendue depuis près de deux décennies Parmi les participants figuraient des partenaires internationaux au développement, des organisations locales de la société civile, la communauté des personnes en situation de handicap, ainsi que plusieurs institutions publiques telles que le ministère des Finances et de la Planification du Développement, le ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports, et l'Institut d'Études de Population de l'Université du Liberia. À l'issue des deux journées de travaux, les participants se sont répartis en trois groupes pour

examiner le document de politique et formuler des recommandations destinées à guider la stratégie nationale de développement.

Interrogé à cette occasion, M. Stephen Quoi, directeur de la coordination de la politique de population au LISGIS, a rappelé que la politique n'avait été validée qu'une seule fois depuis sa création, lors de l'administration de l'exprésidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, en 2005.

Il a exprimé sa gratitude à l'UNFPA et au LISGIS pour leur soutien, en saluant notamment la mise à disposition d'un consultant international chargé d'acc ompa

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

La doctrine Trump

NEW YORK – En à peine quatre mois de deuxième administration du président américain Donald Trump, les premiers signes d'une doctrine en matière de politique étrangère apparaissent d'ores et déjà. Comme bien d'autres aspects de la présidence Trump 2.0, cette doctrine marque une rupture majeure par rapport au passé.

Les doctrines jouent un rôle de premier plan dans la politique étrangère américaine. À travers la doctrine Monroe formulée en 1823, les États-Unis ont affirmé qu'ils s'imposeraient comme la puissance prééminente sur le continent américain, et qu'ils empêcheraient tout autre pays d'établir des positions stratégiques concurrentes dans la région. De même, au début de la guerre froide, la doctrine Truman a promis un soutien des États-Unis à tous les pays qui lutteraient contre le communisme et la stratégie de subversion soviétique. Plus récemment, la doctrine Carter a énoncé que les États-Unis ne resteraient pas spectateurs si une force extérieure cherchait à prendre le contrôle de la région du golfe Persique, riche en pétrole. La doctrine Reagan a promis assistance aux mouvements et pays opposés au communisme. Celle de George W. Bush, axée sur la liberté, a notamment adressé le message selon lequel ni les terroristes, ni ceux qui les protégeraient ne seraient à l'abri d'une intervention armée.

Point comme entre ces doctrines, elles font toutes savoir à différents destinataires quels sont les intérêts fondamentaux des États-Unis, et ce que le pays est prêt à faire pour les promouvoir. Les doctrines visent à rassurer amis et alliés, à dissuader ennemis réels ou potentiels, à galvaniser les agences en charge des questions de sécurité nationale, ainsi qu'à informer les citoyens.

Non formulée explicitement pas Trump, une nouvelle doctrine américaine émerge pourtant actuellement, que l'on pourrait qualifier de doctrine des « yeux fermés », du « rien vu, rien entendu », ou du « cela ne nous regarde pas ».

Quelle qu'en soit l'appellation, cette doctrine semble énoncer que les États-Unis ne chercheront plus à influencer ni à réagir à la manière dont les autres pays se comporteront à l'intérieur de leurs propres frontières. C'est ainsi que l'administration américaine s'est abstenue de condamner l'arrestation arbitraire d'un opposant politique de premier plan par le président turc Recep Tayyip Erdogan, les manœuvres répétées du Premier ministre israélien Benyamin Netanyahu pour affaiblir le pouvoir judiciaire dans son pays, ou encore la manière dont le Premier ministre hongrois de longue date, Viktor Orbán, ne cesse de malmenier les institutions démocratiques en Hongrie.

De même, Trump dénonce certes la politique étrangère du président russe Vladimir Poutine, ainsi que la politique économique du dirigeant chinois Xi Jinping, mais ne s'indigne en aucun cas de la répression que mènent l'un et l'autre contre leur propre population. L'administration Trump a par ailleurs décidé d'affaiblir voire de démanteler bon nombre des instruments – Voice of America, Agence des États-Unis pour le développement international, ou encore Dotation nationale pour la démocratie – employés depuis longtemps pour promouvoir la société civile et les mouvements démocratiques à travers le monde.

Ce qui se rapproche le plus d'une [formulation](#) publique de cette nouvelle doctrine a eu lieu en Arabie saoudite, le 13 mai dernier. Trump a en effet exprimé son admiration pour ce qu'il décrit comme une formidable transformation du Royaume, ajoutant que cette évolution n'était pas le fruit des efforts « d'interventionnistes occidentaux [...] qui vous donnent des leçons sur la manière de vivre et de gouverner vos propres affaires [...] Ces dernières années, trop de présidents américains ont considéré à tort qu'il était de notre devoir de sonder les âmes des dirigeants étrangers, et d'user de la politique américaine pour absoudre ou non leurs péchés ».

Les agissements de Trump, notamment sa recherche d'accords commerciaux avec plusieurs gouvernements autoritaires du Golfe et d'ailleurs, soulignent le poids de cette déclaration. À la différence de Reagan, de Carter, de Bush, de Barack Obama et de [Joe Biden](#), Trump adresse ici clairement le message selon lequel les États-Unis n'ont plus l'intention de défendre les droits de l'homme et la démocratie, de condamner les méfaits de dirigeants étrangers autoritaires, ni de faire pression pour la libération d'opposants politiques.

Cette doctrine du « rien vu, rien entendu » évite certes aux États-Unis une dérive caractéristique de la présidence Bush, durant laquelle le zèle dans la propagation de la démocratie avait conduit à une invasion irréfléchie et coûteuse de l'Irak. Elle facilite par ailleurs pour les États-Unis un travail constructif auprès de gouvernements appliquant chez eux des politiques qui, en temps normal, constitueraient un obstacle aux relations commerciales ou à la coopération sur des questions bilatérales, régionales ou mondiales essentielles.

Ce sont néanmoins les retombées négatives de cette approche qui l'emportent. La doctrine Trump accroît la probabilité que les gouvernements engagés sur cette voie redoublent d'efforts de répression intérieure et de subversion de la démocratie – régime politique caractérisé par davantage de liberté pour les individus, mais également par des marchés libres, soutenus par l'État de droit, et par une politique étrangère généralement moins agressive. La promotion de la démocratie est par conséquent bénéfique pour les investisseurs américains, et limite le risque que l'Amérique s'enlise à l'étranger dans des conflits coûteux ou prolongés.

Richard Haass, président émérite du Conseil des relations étrangères, conseiller principal chez Centerview Partners, et chercheur universitaire émérite à l'Université de New York, est l'auteur de la newsletter hebdomadaire Substack [Home & Away](#).

Français

Starts from page 8

L'audition de confirmation

able, plusieurs sénateurs ayant publiquement exprimé leur soutien à sa nomination. Le président de la commission judiciaire, le sénateur du comté de Sinoe, Augustine Chea, a salué la compétence, la probité et la maîtrise du droit constitutionnel du juge Gbeisay. Il a promis d'œuvrer pour sa confirmation. Parmi les autres sénateurs ayant manifesté leur soutien verbal figurent Bill Tweahway (comté de Rivercess), Joseph Jallah (Lofa), Momo Cyrus, Abraham Darius Dillon (Montserrado) et Albert Chie (Grand Kru), entre autres. Le sénateur Chea a profité de l'occasion pour interroger le juge sur sa compréhension juridique des notions de *domicile* et *résidence*, des critères essentiels pour l'éligibilité à une élection publique. En réponse, le juge Gbeisay a reconnu que la Cour suprême avait déjà tranché sur ces définitions, mais a livré son interprétation personnelle :

« Être domicilié ne signifie pas nécessairement résider physiquement dans un lieu. On peut avoir son domicile officiel dans un comté et vivre dans un autre. Par exemple, une personne vivant à Monrovia peut avoir sa famille à Grand Gedeh — ce lieu peut constituer son domicile. Je ne suis toutefois pas certain que la loi permette d'avoir deux domiciles. » Il a ensuite été invité à commenter la doctrine de la séparation des pouvoirs, notamment l'interprétation de l'article 3 de la Constitution de 1986, qui consacre l'indépendance des trois branches du gouvernement. À ce sujet, le juge Gbeisay a déclaré : « Lorsqu'un dossier est pendant devant la justice, la notion de coordination entre les pouvoirs ne s'applique pas, car toute tentative d'ingérence serait perçue comme une violation du principe de séparation. »

Starts from page 8

Le LISGIS et l'UNFPA révisent la politique

gner l'élaboration d'une nouvelle politique inclusive, moderne et représentative de toutes les composantes de la société. « Selon les standards internationaux en matière de développement, une politique nationale devrait être revue et validée tous les cinq ans afin de prendre en compte les évolutions et changements », a souligné M. Quoi. Il a également précisé que cette révision s'inscrit dans le cadre de l'Agenda pour le Développement Inclusif du gouvernement libérien. Vers une politique fondée sur des données actualisées Il a rappelé que le processus de révision avait été interrompu pendant la guerre civile, en raison de l'indisponibilité ou du décès de plusieurs décideurs clés. « Après quatorze années de conflit, il a fallu attendre l'arrivée au pouvoir de la présidente Sirleaf pour revoir la politique. Depuis 2005, elle

n'a plus été actualisée. » M. Quoi a également noté que les recensements nationaux de 2008 et 2022 ont produit une quantité importante de données qui ne sont pas intégrées à la politique actuelle. « Cette révision permettra d'y incorporer les informations issues de ces recensements, essentielles pour une planification inclusive et efficace du développement. » Il a par ailleurs annoncé que, dès la semaine prochaine, des entretiens ciblés seront menés dans les 15 comtés du Liberia pour recueillir des données fiables, concrètes et représentatives afin de rendre le document final plus complet. « Je tiens à remercier l'UNFPA pour son soutien constant et le LISGIS pour sa collaboration. Le consultant mis à notre disposition jouera un rôle clé dans l'élaboration d'une politique de population contemporaine, ambitieuse et inclusive, au service du développement de notre pays », a-t-il conclu.

Bong County : le ministère des Finances lance une formation sur la décentralisation fiscale et la gestion financière

Le ministère libérien des capacités des administrations capables de planifier, d'exécuter Finances et de la locales en matière de et de rendre compte de leur Planification du planification, de gestion et de budget de manière autonome, Développement (MFD) avec le reddition des comptes, en phase tout en s'alignant sur les soutien de partenaires avec la transition du Liberia vers objectifs nationaux. » Il a également exhorté les participants à tirer pleinement profit de la formation, rappelant que le succès de la politique de décentralisation repose sur la préparation et la compétence des acteurs locaux. Un engagement partagé pour la décentralisation S'exprimant à son tour, le professeur Alaric Tokpah, président par intérim de la Commission de la Gouvernance, a salué cette initiative du MFD et de ses partenaires. Les comtés doivent être

lancé une formation de trois jours sur la décentralisation fiscale et la gestion financière à Gbarnga, chef-lieu du comté de Bong. Placée sous le thème « Renforcement des capacités des autorités locales en matière de gestion financière et de ventilation budgétaire », cette session regroupe plus de soixante responsables locaux issus des comtés de Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa et Margibi. L'initiative s'inscrit dans les efforts nationaux visant à doter les gouvernements locaux des compétences nécessaires pour une gouvernance responsable et une meilleure prestation des services publics. Vers une gouvernance locale plus efficace La formation porte sur des domaines essentiels tels que la ventilation budgétaire, l'exécution et le suivi des budgets, la réglementation relative au partage des recettes, ainsi que la mise en œuvre de la Loi sur les gouvernements locaux. Ces modules visent à renforcer les



La LRA atteint 100 % de conformité en matière de déclaration de patrimoine

L'Autorité fiscale du Liberia (LRA) a annoncé avoir atteint une conformité totale à la politique nationale de déclaration de patrimoine, devenant ainsi la première institution publique du pays à atteindre cet objectif. Lors d'une conférence de presse conjointe tenue le mercredi 16 juillet au siège de la LRA à Paynesville, en présence de la Commission libérienne anti-corruption (LACC), le commissaire général de la LRA, James Dorbor Jallah, a salué cette performance comme un jalon majeur pour la transparence dans l'administration publique. « Nous sommes honorés d'annoncer officiellement, aux côtés de la LACC, que la LRA est la première institution gouvernementale du Liberia à atteindre 100 % de conformité en matière de déclaration de patrimoine pour l'ensemble de son personnel », a-t-il déclaré. Le commissaire Jallah a souligné que cette réalisation ne se limite pas à une simple statistique, mais incarne l'engagement profond de l'institution envers la transparence, la responsabilité et l'intégrité dans la gestion publique. « En tant qu'autorité fiscale nationale, nous comprenons que la confiance est la pierre angulaire d'une administration fiscale efficace. En nous imposant les standards éthiques les plus élevés, nous espérons établir un précédent et renforcer la confiance du public dans nos missions », a-t-il ajouté. Une collaboration exemplaire entre institutions Il a également exprimé sa reconnaissance à la LACC pour son accompagnement tout au long du processus, qualifiant cette réussite de succès commun illustrant ce que peuvent accomplir les institutions



nationales lorsqu'elles œuvrent de concert pour une gouvernance plus transparente. De son côté, la présidente de la LACC, Me Alexandra Kormah Zoe, a salué la démarche de la LRA, qu'elle a qualifiée de modèle de leadership éthique. « L'intégrité n'est pas un simple slogan. C'est un comportement, une action délibérée et constante, qui doit prendre racine dans les institutions publiques », a-t-elle déclaré. Me Zoe a rappelé que la déclaration de patrimoine constitue l'un des piliers fondamentaux de la stratégie nationale de lutte contre la corruption, servant à la fois de barrière contre les abus de fonction et de pont de confiance entre l'État et les citoyens. « La LRA démontre que son engagement pour la bonne gouvernance dépasse les discours. Elle incarne un leadership par l'exemple », a-t-elle insisté, en appelant les autres institutions à emboîter le pas : « Faisons de la déclaration de patrimoine une norme nationale, et non une exception. » Une culture de redevabilité qui s'enracine La présidente de la LACC a également souligné que cette initiative s'inscrit pleinement dans le cadre de l'article 10 du Code national de conduite et dans le mandat élargi de la Commission visant à promouvoir l'intégrité, enquêter sur la corruption et renforcer les mécanismes de prévention dans tous les secteurs. « Ce que nous observons aujourd'hui dépasse une simple déclaration de patrimoine. C'est un signe de maturité institutionnelle, d'une culture où la redevabilité devient une valeur intériorisée », a-t-elle conclu, en félicitant l'ensemble du personnel de la LRA pour leur engagement, leur courage et leur patriotisme. Huit ans de réformes et plus de 5 milliards de dollars mobilisés Le responsable de la communication de la LRA, D. Kaihenneh Sengbeh, a rappelé que cette performance est le fruit d'une collaboration stratégique amorcée il y a huit ans avec la LACC, à travers un protocole d'accord visant à renforcer l'intégrité interne et à combattre la corruption au sein de l'administration fiscale. « Aujourd'hui, la LRA peut se targuer d'avoir mobilisé plus de 5,2 milliards de dollars de recettes domestiques, avec une croissance annuelle de 51 %. Ces chiffres racontent l'histoire d'une institution résiliente, engagée dans la réforme et tournée vers l'avenir du Liberia », a déclaré M. Sengbeh.

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Koffa case ends Justice Gbeisay's hearing

The confirmation hearing of Chief Justice Designate Justice Gbeisay was concluded on his rehearsed dissenting opinion in the Supreme Court's ruling on former Speaker Koffa's bill of information in May this year.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Chief Justice designate, Justice Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay, remains firm on his position that the Supreme Court ruling in favor of former Speaker Fonati Koffa was illegal and unconstitutional. The incoming Chief Justice voiced his dissent to the Supreme Court ruling, which granted the now former speaker Bill of Information while mandating and ordering the majority bloc of “Regime Speaker” Richard N. Koon to respect the Court's ruling and act accordingly during the House's prolonged impasse. The ruling came months after the



Justice Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay

Supreme Court, in its landmark ruling on Friday, December 6, said, “Any sittings or actions by members of the Legislature not in conformity with the intent of Articles 33 and 49 of the Constitution are ultra vires and void. On March 3, 2025, the now-former Speaker Koffa filed a Bill of Information, mandating and ordering the majority bloc of “Regime Speaker” Richard N. Koon to respect the Court's ruling of December 6, 2024, and act accordingly. On April 23, 2025, the Supreme Court granted Koffa's Bill of Information while mandating and ordering the majority bloc of “Regime Speaker” Richard N. Koon to respect the Court's ruling and act accordingly. However, addressing the issue during his confirmation hearing this week, Justice Gbeisay maintains that the Supreme Court decision to grant Koffa a bill of information was in error. “In the instance case of Koffa that you just talked about, it is an issue that I personally believe was more political than legal. If you examine the ruling that was delivered carefully, it was intended to declare the rights of the person before us, and we did

so. We told him that you are a speaker, but you don't have a quorum as the law provides. To the majority, we told them that they are in the majority, but they don't have the speaker as the law provides. Subsequently, one of the parties came back to the court on bill of information asking us to interpret our decision. Now, my question is what was there to interpret. Under the law, in a declaratory judgment, the rule of the Supreme Court says you can only come to us if we give a judgment and mandate you to do something that was done wrongly. So, because we didn't

give a mandate, therefore, for one party to come back to us, in my mind, it was illegal,” he explained. Meanwhile, members of the Liberian Senate appear to have given the Chief Justice-designate a green light, signaling his potential confirmation. On Tuesday, July 15, 2025, the Liberian Senate concluded his confirmation hearing in an unprecedented manner as several senators including the Chair of the Judicial Committee, Sinoe County Senator Augustine Chea endorsed the nomination of Associate Justice Gbeisay, while committing to ensure that he is confirm by the senate. He argued that the Chief Justice designate is competent, has an in-depth understanding of the country's constitution and legal process, and possesses unmatched integrity. Other senators who verbally and publicly committed themselves to voting for the Chief Justice-designate, apart from those who expressed body language gestures following the grilling, are Rivercess County Sen. Bill Tweahway, Lofa County Sen. and Co-Chair of the Judiciary Committee, Joseph Jallah, Sen. Momo Cyrus, Montserrado

County Sen. Abraham D. Dillon, Grand Kru County Sen. Albert Chie, among others. The Judicial Committee Chair, while concluding the hearing, asked the Chief Justice-designate to provide his legal interpretation of domicile and residence, which are eligibility requirements for contesting a public election. He went a little further, expressing his fullest commitment and support to the Chief Justice-designate, his former classmate at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, saying, “Our class was one of the best classes at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, I must admit. The Chief Justice Designate was a classmate of mine. I give you my support, sir,' Sen. Chea stated. Responding, Justice Gbeisay said that the Supreme Court has an interpretation of what constitutes a domicile and residence; however, since he doesn't have the interpretation off-hand, he did not want to go contrary to that ruling. “But, speaking to you from my legal interpretation as I understand it, to be domiciled, you do not necessarily have to be a resident in the area, but you must be a person whose presence has been seen in that place for a period prescribed by law.” He argued. “That presence,” he continues, “doesn't necessarily mean your physical presence. Because you can be in Monrovia while your family is in Grand Gedeh, it serves as your domicile. A person can have an official domicile in one place and be a resident in another. So, the Supreme Court has provided interpretation, and so I don't want to go contrary. I don't know if you can have two domiciles by law.' He stated. Following the completion of his opinion, he was again asked to provide his legal interpretation of the doctrine of the separation of powers, while urging him to interpret the phrase “separate, coordinate branches of government” within the context of Article 3 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia. Providing his opinion, he stated that when a matter is in court, it doesn't extend to coordination as referred to in the constitution, which he believes will be considered and taken as an interference. -

Edited By Othello B. Garblah.

Partnerships based on mutual respect

-VP Koung flags vision at Liberia Investment Conference

Liberia's Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung has reaffirmed the government's commitment to building inclusive, transparent, and long-term investment partnerships, describing the nation's new development approach as a transition from "charity to partnership."

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, July 17, 2025: Speaking at the ongoing Liberia Investment Conference at the EJS Ministerial Complex, VP Koung stated that the country is now open for business with partners who align with its vision for sustainable development that delivers benefits not only for shareholders but also for Liberian citizens through job creation and human capital development. "Our country has transitioned from charity to partnership! We are moving beyond a past defined by sympathy and aid, toward a future built on equal collaboration, investment, and opportunity," he declared. VP Koung emphasized the

nation's political stability and economic potential. This milestone signals Liberia's credibility as a trusted partner for investment, trade, and global cooperation," he added. Addressing the international audience at the conference, VP Koung extended an invitation to stakeholders in sectors including mining, agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and technology: To our partners here today: Liberia is ready to work with you. The time to invest in Liberia is now. Together, we can build a future that honors our history and uplifts our people", he said. The Vice President highlighted Liberia's wealth of natural resources, including gold, iron ore, diamonds, and fertile



government's strategic priorities, including the modernization of port facilities, expansion of road networks, and investment in energy infrastructure, all aimed at positioning Liberia as a viable hub for trade and logistics in West Africa. He added that ongoing reforms are being implemented to improve the business climate through greater transparency, legal certainty, and investor protection. "We have streamlined procedures through the Liberia Business Registry and the National Investment Commission to support both local and foreign investors," he noted. Highlighting the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development, VP Koung stressed that the government's investment drive is closely tied to investing in Liberians themselves, particularly in education and skills training. "We are not only investing in our economy, but also in our people. A skilled workforce will be the backbone of our economy," he said. Vice President Koung also referenced Liberia's recent election to the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member, describing it as a symbol of international confidence in the

agricultural land, as well as its potential in fisheries and tourism. He also highlighted the country's strategic location on the West African coast, offering access to regional markets through ECOWAS and beyond. A few weeks ago, he commissioned new modern port equipment at the Free Port of Monrovia to increase trade access. This is part of our broader vision to enhance Liberia's infrastructure and boost its regional competitiveness. VP Koung concluded by recognizing the efforts of the NOVA Africa Venture Group and its partners in organizing the conference, calling it a landmark event that reflects Liberia's readiness for transformation. Investment is not just a financial transaction; it is a long-term partnership for development," he affirmed. The Liberia Investment Conference runs from July 15 to 18, 2025. It brings together members of the Cabinet, government officials, diplomats, development partners, and both local and international investors to explore Liberia's emerging opportunities and reform agenda. -

Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

All eyes on July 17 protest

By Lincoln G. Peters

The much-publicized July 17 protest, heralded by the Solidarity of Trust for A New Day (STAND), officially kicks off today, July 17, 2025, amid growing momentum. The Joint Security has issued cautions and caveats on public safety. The Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Justice and the Liberian National Police, officially granted the protest leaders permission last week, authorizing them to proceed with the "We the People" anti-government protest. The centralized protest is organized by the

Inspector General Gregory O. W. Coleman urged the protesters to respect the rights of other citizens while cautioning them against destructive actions.

Col. Coleman, ahead of the scheduled protest, urged the protest organizers to remain peaceful and law-abiding during the march.

"We recognize the constitutional right to peaceful assembly and expression," IG Coleman said. "However, we urge STAND and its supporters to conduct themselves responsibly. Any acts of violence, provocation, or public disorder will not be



Solidarity of Trust for a New Day (STAND) and endorsed by the former ruling Coalition for Democratic Change, as well as several other opposition political parties and Civil Society Organizations.

The motive of the much-touted protest is to draw the attention of the Boakai-Koung administration and international partners to the alleged prevailing economic hardship, including skyrocketing prices, stalled development, corruption, and abuse of power, among other issues.

On Friday, July 11, 2025, the Ministry of Justice and the Joint Security met with representatives of STAND (Solidarity of Trust for a New Day), a civic advocacy group planning to hold peaceful protests from July 15 to 17, 2025.

The meeting was held in the Conference Room of the Ministry of Justice. It was attended by representatives of Solidarity for Trust in a New Day (STAND), the Youth League of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), the Liberia Council of Churches, and members of the Joint Security.

Remarking during the STAND and Partners meeting, they expressed appreciation to the government of Liberia through the Joint Security for hosting the meeting and dialogue.

"We The People Movement", participating in Civil Society Organizations as well as the Youth League of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) have requested a permit to demonstrate on the dates mentioned above to voice concerns over alleged governance and injustice-related issues under the Boakai-Koung Administration," the group stated.

Meanwhile, the Organizers of the STAND protest have confirmed that they will fully cooperate with law enforcement and work within the perimeters of the permit that will be issued to them.

STAND's leadership also reiterated that the planned protest activities on the dates requested will be conducted peacefully and in accordance with the law, emphasizing their intention to engage constructively with the national government.

Responding to the group's concern, Police

tolerated," he stated.

The Ministry of Justice, through the Liberia National Police, reaffirmed the government's commitment to upholding democratic freedoms while ensuring public safety.

Meanwhile, on July 14, 2025], The Ministry of Justice officially granted a permit to the civil society Group, Solidarity and Trust for a New Day (STAND) for its planned public assembly, (July 15-17), following a thorough review of the security implications of the group's request to the Ministry of Justice, on July 3, 2025.

This decision underscores the Government of Liberia's ongoing commitment to upholding the constitutional rights of all Liberians to peaceful assembly, as stipulated in Article 17 of the 1986 Constitution.

However, the Ministry urges the organizers and participants of STAND to conduct themselves lawfully and must demonstrate the highest level of restraint and respect for the law as they protest. As the right to peaceful assembly is constitutionally guaranteed, the right to protect all citizens against lawlessness is also guaranteed under the constitution. Therefore, the gathering must take place within the boundaries of the law, as law enforcement will be available to arrest any individuals engaging in unlawful activity during the protest.

The right to assemble is fundamental, but it must be exercised responsibly; we expect full cooperation with law enforcement and compliance with the terms of the permit.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Justice wishes to inform the public that it has not granted a permit to any other group or civil society organization to hold a protest on the dates given to STAND. The Ministry of Justice categorically warns individuals or groups planning a similar Assembly on the same dates (July 15-17) to immediately withdraw their decision, as the Ministry has not sanctioned any group of individuals except STAND. Let this serve as a cease-and-desist notice to those planning to counter-protest. -

Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

Starts from Back page Over 265 employees' jobs at risk at MoT

National Police, and the Ministry of Justice.

Piah claims the concession was rejected outright by the Weah administration due to its economic and security implications. However, the administration of President Joseph Nyuma Boakai has moved forward with full implementation, which Piah and others see as a betrayal of public trust.

Also raising alarm bells is Momo Tarnuekollie Cyrus, Chair of the Senate Committee on Defense, Security, Intelligence, and Veteran Affairs. Speaking from the Senate, the Lofa County Senator issued a stern warning: National security is not for sale. This agreement puts sensitive national data and core public functions in the hands of a foreign-controlled entity. That's unacceptable, he added.

Under the agreement, Liberia Traffic Management Inc. is tasked with vehicle registration and licensing, traffic ticket management, Vehicle towing and impound, and City parking.

Other functions include Vehicle inspection, Driver testing and certification, Freight and trucking oversight, and Motor Vehicle office operations.

Critics argue that giving a private foreign firm control over these systems compromises national sovereignty and potentially exposes sensitive citizen data to unauthorized use or misuse.

Concerns also center around transparency and financial accountability. According to Musa Kromah, Assistant Director for Documentation and Billing at the Ministry of Transport, the new system is more expensive for ordinary citizens and less beneficial to the state.

"A taxi driver used to pay \$78 to register under the Ministry," Kromah explained. "Now they are paying \$190 to LTM. That's more than double."

A stark difference in how revenue is distributed. Under the Ministry of Transport, 70% of all revenue collected was allocated directly to the Government of Liberia through a private-public partnership. However, with the new LTM contract, only 30% reportedly goes to the state, while the company retains the remaining 70%.

Additional concerns have been raised about LTM's failure to issue official receipts from the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA). According to internal sources, the LRA has distanced itself from

the company's operations.

Further complicating the issue, Inspector General of Police Gregory Coleman has allegedly endorsed LTM-issued driver's licenses and related documents, leading to questions about coordination, legality, and transparency.

Piah and Kromah are not alone in their criticism. A growing number of Liberians, including civil servants and ordinary citizens, have joined calls for President George Weah to immediately revoke the agreement.

"Mr. President, we elected you because of your experience and wisdom," said Piah. "This is the time to prove that you are here to rescue Liberia, not to hand over national control to foreign companies."

They further vowed to take their grievances to the international community, including the U.S. and French embassies, the European Union, and other foreign partners who support Liberia's development.

"We will exert every means available to us. Suppose we must appeal to every foreign partner that values transparency and democracy. In that case, we will do so," they said, during an interview on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at the MoT headquarters in Monrovia.

The Boakai administration has defended the concession as a step toward modernization, arguing that Liberia's traffic management systems have remained outdated and inefficient for decades.

According to a government statement, the transition to LTM aims to reduce road accidents, improve compliance with traffic laws, and generate long-term revenue through streamlined digital systems. Officials insist that oversight mechanisms will be established to ensure transparency and protect national interests.

However, given the scale of opposition and the controversial nature of the agreement, public pressure continues to mount, potentially forcing the administration to revisit or revise the deal in the coming weeks.

As Liberia grapples with economic hardship and the need for institutional reform, the LTM concession has exposed deep divides over how much of the public sector should be privatized, especially when national sovereignty, jobs, and public accountability are at stake.

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-Amidst LTM controversial concession

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

officially took effect on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, transfers key traffic and transportation functions from the Ministry of Transport to a foreign-backed private firm, raising serious concerns among

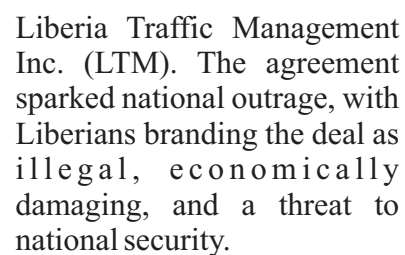
“This agreement is not just a bad policy, it's an attack on Liberian workers and families,” Piah told the New Dawn newspaper during an exclusive interview. “When one Liberian loses a job, it affects six to ten other people who depend on that income. Over 265 employees are at risk of losing their positions at the Ministry. That means over 1,300 lives will be impacted in an already struggling economy.”

Piah further accused the government of violating the 1987 Act of Legislature that established the Ministry of Transport. “To strip a government ministry of its legal mandate without repealing or amending the law is not only unlawful, but also unconstitutional,” he emphasized.

The agreement, drafted initially under former President George M. Weah's administration in 2018, was shelved due to widespread institutional resistance. It remained dormant for years because of jurisdictional disputes involving the Ministry of Transport, the Lib

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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public officials and civil society groups.

Spearheading the workforce, Patrick S. Piah, Director of the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) at the Ministry of Transport, called the agreement "evil" and a direct assault on the rights and

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PLEASE! KEEP THE DOOR CLOSE

New Dawn Sports
Dawn raises red flag
Uncertainty hangs over schools
Nephew butchered uncle

A photograph showing two large, dark-colored Heidelberg printing machines in a workshop setting. The machine on the left is a smaller, older model with a prominent control panel and a large wheel. The machine on the right is a larger, more modern model with a complex frame and multiple rollers. The text "2 Colors Heidelberg Machines" is overlaid in the center of the image.

A hand holding a pen is shown writing the word "PRESS" in bold, black capital letters on a white, curved surface. The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of colorful, splattered paint in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue, suggesting a dynamic and creative environment.

A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline "New Dawn", a calendar titled "New Dawn CALENDAR" with a colorful grid, a brochure titled "New Dawn BROCHURE" with a yellow and blue design, and a magazine titled "New Dawn" with a headline "J\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections". The publications are arranged in a layered, overlapping fashion on a blue background.