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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025	L\$200.1006/US\$1.00	L\$202.3398/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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"Weah didn't speak to me for 4 years."

-Sen. Joseph has been talking





Brawl over Grigsby's burial







-Widow wants husband buried in U.S.


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Continental News

Ivory Coast: thousands protest against Ouattara's fourth term bid

Thousands of Ivoirians took to the streets in Abidjan, the capital of the West African nation, to protest against the exclusion of opposition leaders from the upcoming presidential election. Ivory Coast, the biggest economy of francophone West Africa, is due to hold a presidential vote in October. Earlier this year four main opposition figures, including former President Laurent Gbagbo and former Credit Suisse chief executive Tidjane Thiam, have been barred from running by the electoral commission. Protesters gathered Saturday morning in Yopougon, a densely populated suburb of the capital Abidjan, holding banners with messages such as: "Enough is

enough!", "No true democracy without true justice," and "We are millions saying YES to Gbagbo and Thiam." Gbagbo and Thiam joined forces earlier this year to challenge incumbent President Alassane Ouattara. Last month, 83-year old Ouattara announced that he would seek a fourth term. Ouattara's candidacy is contested after he changed the constitution in 2016 to remove presidential term limits. "We don't want a fourth term, and we want the electoral roll revised, that's what we are asking for," said Sagesse Divine, an activist who participated in Saturday's march. "We want all candidates' names included, and we want to go to the elections in peace, that's all we want." An election in the shadow of tensions

There was no immediate comments from Ivorian authorities. Thiam, president of the Democratic Party of Ivory Coast, won the party's primary in an uncontested vote. Seen as Ouattara's main rival, he has been barred from running on the grounds that he was still a French citizen at the time he declared his candidacy, even though he later renounced his French nationality. Ivorian law bans dual nationals from running for president. Elections in Ivory Coast have usually been fraught with tension and violence. When Ouattara announced his bid for a third term, several people were killed in the election violence. Ouattara is the latest among a growing number of leaders in West Africa who remain in power by changing constitutional term limits. Coup leaders in the region have used alleged corruption within democratic governments and electoral changes as pretexts to seize power, leading to a split in the regional bloc called the Economic Community of West African States, or ECOWAS. Ouattara justified his decision to run by saying that the Ivory Coast is facing unprecedented security, economic and monetary challenges that require experience to manage them effectively.



Demonstrators hold placards during a protest in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025. (AP Photo/Diomanle Ble Blonde)

Sudan: cholera outbreak hits refugee camps hard

The UN warned on Friday that a cholera outbreak is threatening the lives of refugees from Sudan's Darfur region while basic resources run short. In Iridimi camp in Chad, many refugees don't have access to sanitation and clean water, putting them at a high risk for contracting Cholera. The World Health Organization said that the water-borne disease is a fast-developing and highly contagious infection that causes diarrhea and leads to severe dehydration and possible death within hours when not treated. The disease is transmitted through the ingestion of contaminated food or water. According Dr Ilham Nour, WHO Senior Emergency Officer, over 100,000 cases have been recorded since July 2024. Another deadly crisis The outbreak is the latest crisis for Sudan, which was plunged into a war more than two years ago, when tensions between the Sudanese army and its rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces group, or RSF, exploded with street battles

in Khartoum that quickly spread across the country. Dossou Patrice Ahouansou, UNHCR Principal Situation Coordinator for Eastern Chad, said that 230,000 refugees could be at risk if "urgent action" is not taken. He added that 264 case have been recorded in the camp, along with 12 deaths. "As a consequence, the UNHCR has suspended the relocation of refugees from border points in order to prevent new cases," he

said. At least 20,000 people have been reported killed since the war broke out, though the number is likely far higher, and more than 14 million have been displaced and forced from their homes. Sudan has also been engulfed by what the United Nations says is the world's largest humanitarian crisis, and disease outbreaks, famine and atrocities have mounted as the African country entered its third year of war.



Refugees arrive at the border between Chad and Sudan before going to the Tine transit camp in Chad's Wadi Fara province Sunday, May 4, 2025. (AP Photo/Caitlin Kelly)

ECOWAS team leaves Guinea-Bissau after threat of expulsion

A mission from the West African Regional bloc, ECOWAS, has left Guinea-Bissau saying the president had threatened to expel it. The team was sent to the country last month to help it reach a "political consensus" on how to conduct elections this year. It said it had "prepared a draft agreement on a roadmap for elections" and had started presenting it to the stakeholders for their consent. But the team decided to leave early on Saturday morning after President

Supreme Court of Justice ruled that it ends on 4 September. A new round of general elections was due to take place last November, but Embalo postponed them and has since announced they will take place on the 30 November this year. The opposition has opposed the delay. Guinea-Bissau has experienced several military coups since independence in 1974, and there have been two attempts to overthrow Embalo, the latest in December 2023. This led him to dissolve the opposition-dominated parliament.



Guinea-Bissau's President Umaro Sissoco Embalo, left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin

Umaro Sissoco Embalo's threat. It says it will now present its report to the ECOWAS president, including a proposal for an agreement leading to "inclusive and peaceful elections". Embalo has not responded to the bloc's accusation. There has been heightened tension in the country over when his five-year mandate ends. The opposition say his term as president expired last week, but the

The opposition last Thursday called for a nationwide strike, on the day they said the president's term was expiring, with the government deploying security forces across the capital. Embalo travelled to Moscow the day before where he held talks with Russia President Vladimir Putin, reportedly discussing developing cooperation between the two countries.

DRC: Tshisekedi reshuffles government, appoints two opposition politicians

The changes are not radical them notably Eve Bazaiba, who at first view... but to transitioned from the environment observers, they are notable ministry to social affairs, and Aimé Boji, permuted from the budget President of the Democratic ministry to industry. Republic of Congo, Félix Judith Suminwa, meanwhile, Tshisekedi, reshuffled parts of his government on Friday in a move According to some analysts, these that has long been awaited by the changes could be a way for the population following "political Congoese president to consolidate consultations" that were launched his party and reach a political earlier in the year. The head of state notably brought The next presidential election in in two opposition politicians: the DRC is set for 2028. Adolphe Muzito, a former prime minister, was named vice prime-minister and will also be in charge of the budget. And Floribert Anzuluni, leader of a minor opposition party, was named head of regional integration. Several other officials remained in the government, but changed jobs, among

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Felix Tshisekedi of Congo's Union for Democracy and Social Progress opposition party,

EDITORIAL

We must fight drugs with sincerity

President Joseph Boakai unveiled a comprehensive multi-prong National Anti-Drug Action Plan last Thursday to address alarming surge in drug abuse and trafficking across Liberia. The launch coincided with street parade by anti-drug campaigners, predominantly women and mothers, calling government's attention to the proliferation of trafficking, sale and abuse of dangerous substances in the country.

The Executive Mansion in Monrovia said President Boakai described the proliferation of drugs as “an attack on our future” and reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to safeguard Liberia's youth, communities, and future generations from the scourge of substance abuse.

While we laud the launch of the National Anti-Drug Action Plan by the President, we sense a serious lip-service by the government to the entire drug war in Liberia that is being fought with more talking and less tangible actions. Drugs continue to come into the country thru various borders, including our international airport.

When President Boakai took office, he declared illicit drugs a National Health Emergency, and personally went for drug test. Not only that, he mandated all public officials to similarly report for test, but this instruction fell on deaf ears.

Nearly two years into the administration, the government has changed leadership at the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency almost thrice, without curbing widespread trafficking of illicit drugs that are killing the youths.

If the President's declaration of drugs as a National Health Emergency has been mere words, we wonder whether the so-called National Anti-Drug Action Plan would yield anything fruitful in our fight against drugs.

It is not enough to rally the population against drugs, but the law should be applied to serve as deterrence. However, we have observed over the last two years that culprits arrested are released subsequently without having their day in court, which is quite disappointing!

President Boakai emphasized that the fight against drugs will be “non-selective and relentless,” stressing that “no status, no title, no uniform, and no connection will protect anyone involved in drugs”, and that under his watch, Liberia will not lose another generation to drugs.

We call on the government to move from talk to stern practical actions to demonstrate its professed commitment to the fight against illicit drugs. We believe that doing so would demonstrate its pledge to rescue the country.

Two years after, it is time to address the National Health Emergency, with all resources at our disposal in saving not only the current youths, but generations to come. 'Action' must be the catch word in this fight.

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COMMENTARY

By Keith Tuffley

Brazil's Moment to Lead on Forest Conservation

OLLON, SWITZERLAND – With greenhouse-gas emissions still rising globally and nature loss continuing apace, the Amazon rainforest is approaching a tipping point. To avert climate catastrophe, the world must make rapid and significant progress on protecting forests and building a sustainable, inclusive bioeconomy. And Brazil must lead the way, starting at this November's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém.

The Amazon represents one of the planet's most powerful defenses against climate change. It is more than a carbon sink; it is a reservoir of biodiversity, a regulator of rainfall across South America, and a vital component of our planet's climate system. As the custodian of nearly 60% of the Amazon, Brazil has not only a responsibility to be a good steward, but also an opportunity to demonstrate global leadership at a pivotal moment for people and the planet.

Brazil seems to recognize this. The government's renewed commitment to forest protection, under President [Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva](#)'s administration, is reflected in a sharp decline in deforestation rates. But this is just the beginning. Brazil is also working to deliver the bold ideas, scalable finance, and robust partnerships that the global green transformation demands.

Nature-based solutions – which simultaneously advance environmental imperatives and ensure sustainable economic growth – are central to this effort. Recognizing that the preservation of existing nature produces the fastest, most cost-effective results, these solutions are typically based on three pillars: protect, restore, and manage.

To protect forests, Brazil is advancing innovative approaches, both domestically and internationally. At home, the country is helping to pioneer a jurisdictional approach, which links carbon finance to state-level action to protect forests, as part of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's framework for “reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries” ([REDD+](#)).

Brazil's jurisdictional REDD+ programs reward regions for reducing deforestation, enhancing forest carbon stocks, and ensuring that benefits reach indigenous peoples and local communities. The state of Tocantins is a worthy example: its forest-protection program, which aims to generate high-integrity carbon credits, has been shaped by inclusive public consultations and features strong governance. An initial issuance of jurisdictional REDD+ credits is expected early next year.

At the international level, Brazil has proposed a \$125 billion Tropical Forest Forever Facility, which would reward developing countries with historically low

rates of deforestation and compensate them for upholding good stewardship. Unlike carbon markets, which focus on verified reductions in emissions, the TFFF would provide predictable, long-term payments to countries based on the number of hectares conserved.

These two approaches are highly complementary. Jurisdictional programs address the imperative of reducing deforestation now through performance-based finance, while the TFFF offers the steady, long-term support that is needed to sustain those gains. Together, they correct a critical market failure: the undervaluing of standing forests.

Forest protection is not easy: it demands rigorous oversight, transparent benefit-sharing, and unwavering community engagement. But when done right, it can unlock significant climate finance, catalyze private-sector participation, and drive sustainable development. The Race to Belém initiative, of which I am CEO, aims to make the most of this potential by mobilizing a huge amount of private-sector investment for forest protection in advance of COP30.

But protection is only the first pillar. Brazil is also making strides in nature restoration and sustainable land management. It has set a number of ambitious goals, including [restoring](#) 12 million hectares of forested areas by 2030; [converting](#) 40 million hectares of degraded pastureland into productive systems for food, biofuels, and high-productivity forests over the next decade; and [promoting](#) a bioeconomy that respects nature and people.

The Brazil Restoration and Bioeconomy Finance Coalition, which seeks to [mobilize](#) \$10 billion in private investment by 2030, underscores the growing role of the business sector in this process.

Far from just another diplomatic gathering, COP30 is shaping up to be a defining moment for climate action – and, in particular, forest preservation, restoration, and management. With Belém located on the edge of the Amazon, delegates will be immersed in the landscape they seek to protect. More important, their host will present them with a menu of proven nature-based solutions – behind which political momentum and private-sector support are already building – that address the many causes of forest loss.

The foundations for transformative action are already in place. The challenge will be for Brazil to build on its success in harnessing national policy, subnational action, and private-sector engagement to accelerate progress and spearhead a new global model of climate action.

Keith Tuffley, a former head of investment banking, partner, and board member of Goldman Sachs Australia, is CEO of Race to Belém, a group campaigning to raise finance for forest protection in Brazil.



Forestry Development Authority (FDA)
Whein Town, Bernard Farm, Montserrado County
Liberia

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Whein Town, Bernard Farm, Montserrado County
Liberia

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES)

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(CONSULTING SERVICES)

Republic of Liberia

Republic of Liberia

Assignment Title: Individual Consultancy for the Position of Monitoring & Evaluation to design, establish and implement an efficient results-based monitoring & evaluation (M&E) system for the Scaling up of participation of direct beneficiaries (ie Carpenters and Furniture makers) and keep track of the indicators in the results measurement framework of Needs Assessment for Association members/beneficiaries.

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Name of Project: Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry_ Phase II
Sector : Forestry
Project ID No :P-LR-AAD-002
Grant No : 5900155018403
Issue Date : August 1, 2025
End Date : August 15, 2025

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BACKGROUND
The Government of Liberia through the Forestry Development Authority has received financing from the African Development Bank toward the cost of the “Scaling Up the Participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry Project in Liberia- Phase II, and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this *grant* to payments under the contract for **Monitoring & Evaluation Consultant**.

BACKGROUND
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- The services of the M&E consultant relating to the required duties and responsibilities are:
 - The individual M&E consultant will be expected to design, establish and implement an efficient results-based monitoring & evaluation (M&E) system for the Scaling up of participation of direct beneficiaries (ie.Carpenters and Furniture makers)
 - Keep track of the indicators in the Results Measurement Framework (RMF) of Needs Assessment (NA) for the Eleven (11) Carpenters and Furniture Makers Association members/beneficiaries.
 - Coordinate and supervise project activities including keeping track of the indicators in the results measurement framework.
 - Monitor work of Data field collectors that conduct Needs Assessment &Data collection from field) on feedback from training from phase one (1) and current needs and prepare Periodic performance tracking progress report; Mid-term Report; Final Report for submission to the Project Coordinator (PC) and Project team.
 - Undertake the responsibility for working on field data collected, collating, analysis, and reporting.
 - He/she the selected M&E Consultant will work in close collaboration with the Project Implementing Unit (PIU) and will support the PIU to develop appropriate M&E processes, protocols and reporting mechanisms for the intermediate results that lead to the achievement in line with the Project Development Objectives (PDO) and outcomes, and as well as track project activities.
 - The consultant will consider how this system could be adapted/augmented with an overall efficient and effective results-based M&E system that would cater to the need of tracking all future AfDB projects.;
 - Develop Performance Indicators (PI), Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and measure project outcomes and outputs against data collected by Data Collectors in order to assess the impact of the project on the defined intended and desirable indicators in order to compare project performance against targets set in the Annual Work Plan (AWP) and Budget;
 - Design a Result Based Logical framework that will lead to evidence-based decision making and improve accountability within the project implementation period;
 - Prepare and develop M&E System Operational Manual that guides the day-to-day operations of the project implementation.
 - Build M&E capacity of direct project beneficiaries, project team and others.
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- Qualification and Experience:**

 - At least a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in Environmental Science is an added advantage, in development field, monitoring and evaluation in natural resource, social science, economics, Business Administration, Statistics or in relevant discipline.
 - Strong quantitative and qualitative skills data collection and analysis;
 - Minimum of four (4) years of progressively responsible professional experience in performance monitoring and/or evaluation role with an international development organization
 - Demonstrate ability in data analysis, monitoring and evaluation of development activities.
 - Experience developing results frameworks, logical frameworks, M&E Plan
 - proven experience in excellent research and data collection methodology skills, and 11 worked with AfDB project or other projects is an added advantage
 - Excellent computer skills, including word processing, spreadsheet programs and data base management;
 - Familiar with Statistical Packages and Social Sciences (SPSS), should have experience in using Microsoft office including MS Word, Excel, Power point.
 - Experience working with mobile Android phone to collect quantitative data using KOBO collect soft word platform as well as excellent organizational and time-management skill.
 - Ability to read and interpret field data and specifications
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- Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank’s “Procurement Policy Framework for Bank’s Group Funded Operations” dated October 2015, which is available on the Bank’s website at <http://www.afdb.org>.
 - Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours [9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Liberian Time], Mondays through Fridays (except public holidays): emmanuellewis965@gmail.com with copy to: wynnbeyant12@gmail.com.
 - Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by August 15, 2025 at 1:00 PM and mention “Monitoring & Evaluation Consultant”
 - Duration Consultancy: Maximally 6 months, with possible extension
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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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LNP to open Police College

...DIG Reeves unveils By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Liberia First National Police College will be established here soon; Deputy Inspector General of Police Training and Manpower Development (DIGP) Sadatu L.M. Reeves has disclosed. According to the commandant of the Liberia National Police Academy and Training School, DIGP Reeves, plans are well advanced for the establishment of the Liberia National Police College. Speaking at the graduation ceremony of 166 officers of the Executive Protection Service



(EPS) in Basic Executive Protection Course Class-2, Madam Reeves details that the country's first police college will offer diplomas and subsequently roll out full degree programs in law enforcement management and criminal justice. She stressed that the Police College will ensure that officers

are not only tactically ready but also academically empowered to serve the state. The Deputy Inspector General of Police, Reeves, also reiterated a plan to establish a peacekeeping school to prepare Liberian police officers for regional and international deployment adequately. She further lamented that the police are seeking support for training forensic laboratories, which Madam Reeves describes as vital tools to strengthen criminal investigation and bring science into evidence-based

policing. The commandant of the Police Training Academy and School, DIGP Reeves, reiterated all this as part of the Police Strategy Commitments to making

the Police Training Center of Excellence recognizable not only nationally but across Africa. Briefly at the same event, Senior Police Advisor of the United States Embassy near Monrovia, Steve Kissik, reaffirms the US support towards the Liberia National Police.

Kissik describes the occasion as a

significant milestone in Liberia's efforts to strengthen its security sector and build self-esteem with the protection of VIPs.

While Senate Chair on Security, Defense, and Intelligence, Lofa County Senator Momo Cyrus, reassured the Liberian Senate of support towards the Liberia National Police in strengthening capacity-building and logistics efforts.

"With the little we are given to you, we can see the significant improvements you have made, and as Chairman on Security, Defense, and Intelligence, I reaffirm the Senate's commitment to strengthening the institution and upholding national security.

"We will continue to work with the Liberia National Police to ensure that the capacity-building efforts continue," he added.

Meanwhile, the establishment of the Liberia National Police College might come as a boost to the country's security sector, as citizens have often complained about Police officers for unprofessionalism in executing their duties.

On several occasions, some police officers have been caught engaging in violence and being brutal against peaceful citizens. - Edited by Othello B. Garblah

Uphold confidentiality and remain vigilant.

...New EPS officers charged as 166 graduates in the Basic Executive Protection Course.

New graduates of the Executive Protection Service (EPS) and the Liberia National Police (LNP) have been implored to uphold confidentiality, practice restraint, and remain vigilant in the execution of their duties.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, August 11, 2025: At least 166 officers graduated from Basic Executive Protection Course Class-2 at the Liberia National Police Academy and Training School on Friday, August 8, 2025.

Addressing the ceremony, Deputy Inspector General of Police Training and Manpower Development (DIGP) Sadatu L.M. Reeves charged the officers to uphold integrity and confidentiality and remain vigilant in the execution of their duties.

"As a member of the Executive Protective Service and National Police, your duty is not just to protect dignitaries but to uphold the integrity of the state," she said. She reminded the new officers always to practice restraint and professionalism and to shield the institution that preserved national stability and peace.

"This task demands absolute professionalism, sound judgment,

and complete loyalty to the constitution of Liberia, and not to an individual," she charged. Madam Reeves maintained that their completion of the training is not just for physical endurance and tactical skills, but also for their discipline, description, and determination.

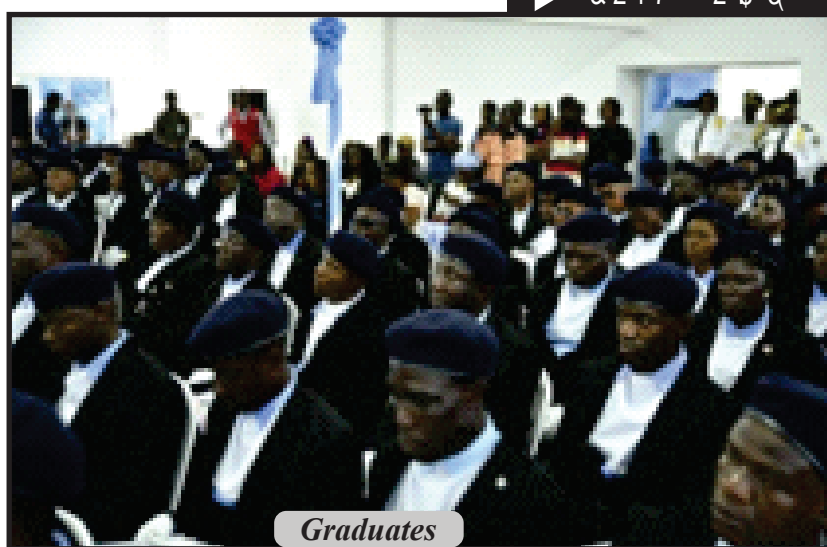
"You are now entrusted with one of the most sensitive and high-stakes duties in a law enforcement position; your task demands absolute

professionalism.

"As you step out into service, carry out the lesson learned and discipline into the service, and let action reflect the highest standard of Executive Protection Service," she added.

For his part, Deputy Director for Administration at the Executive Protection Service (EPS), Charles Johnson, describes the occasion as a significant milestone towards the reform of the EPS.

He elaborates that the occasion marks a reform that was



Graduates

Klay District residents push for regional university.

Residents of Klay District, Bomi County, Western Liberia, are urging their legislators to push for an act to establish a Western Region University (WRU).

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Klay District, Bomi County— Over the weekend, a collective effort by citizens culminated in a petition to the Bomi County Legislative Caucus. The residents are seeking the integration of the Klay Agricultural and Vocational Training Centre (KAVTC) into the Western Region University (WRU) and Bomi Community College's (BCC) educational programs.

This comes following extensive consultations among district residents, including local leaders, youth representatives, and community members.

The petition highlights the

partnering the KAVTC with WRU and BCC will bridge, thereby enhancing educational opportunities and fostering socio-economic development.

Further commenting on their push for the Western region university, Daniel Cooper, a resident of Saye Town, Klay District, explained that the initiative aims to not only provide career education and skills training but also to address pressing social issues, such as increasing employment opportunities and stimulating economic growth within the district.

The petitioners are calling on the Bomi County Legislative Caucus, along with local leaders and diaspora citizens, to lend their



pressing need for technical and career education tailored to the district's burgeoning youth population.

According to some Klay District residents, who spoke to New Dawn on Saturday, August 9, 2025, they expressed concern about the Western Region University.

They stressed deep concern about the limited access to quality education and vocational training, which hampers the potential of their youth.

The residents indicated that

support to this endeavor. By doing so, they hope to empower the BCC to extend its educational services to the KAVTC, ultimately paving the way for a brighter future for the youth of Klay District.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Western Region Legislative Caucus, Bomi County Senator Alex Tyler, is said to have received the petition from the residents, while assuring them of his support for the endeavor. - Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

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tuted some 14 months ago to rebrand and transform the Executive Protection Service.

Johnson stressed the reform is meant to reintroduce the requisite entrance procedure into the EPS, something he said was ignored, allowing the influx of incompetents that were given deficiency, DDA of the EPS, Johnson said.

"It has been 9 years since the last batch of 100 personnel were trained to be EPS officers. Today we have 152 men and women to be EPS officers, and it is that reform that we are celebrating here today," Johnson said.

The Deputy EPS Boss encouraged graduates to uphold the constitution of Liberia and strictly adhere to the standard operating procedure of the EPS.

Briefly, the Inspector General of the Liberia National Police (LNP), Gregory O.W. Coleman, reechoed the significant efforts placed into the restructuring and reform of the nation's security sector.

This, he said, is ensuring that Liberia builds state-owned agencies that are meant to uphold and

protect the constitution.

IG Coleman inspires graduates always to wear the bag of dignity as they carry on the legacy.

"As you graduate from cadet to officer, we urge you to wear the bag of dignity, uphold the disciplines and courtesy you have learned, and carry on the legacy," IG Coleman urged.

Also speaking in the Liberia Senate, Chair of the National Defense, Security, Intelligence, and Veteran Affairs Committee, Lofa County Senator Momo Cyrus, reaffirms the Senate's support for the Liberia National Police in strengthening capacity-building efforts.

"As Chairman of Security, Defense, and Intelligence, I reaffirm the Senate's commitment to strengthening the institution and upholding national security.

"We will continue to work with the Liberia National Police to ensure that the capacity-building efforts continue," he added. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

Bar calls for specialized court to fight drugs

Liberia's devastating drugs crisis is claiming attention of all sectors, including the National Bar that is calling for establishment of a specialized court to try drug cases here.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia; August 11, 2025 - The Liberian National Bar Association is recommending among others, establishment of a specialized Drug Court, and National Drug Accountability and Oversight Commission and amendment of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act of 2014, to address substance abuse across the country.

At the same time, the Liberian National Bar Association has set up a Drug Law Reform Committee to review current legal drug law framework in the country.

He made the call on Thursday, August 7, 2025, when hundreds of Liberians staged a day-long anti-drug awareness march captioned tagged "Say No to Drugs".

Commission. A multi-sectoral, independent body should be formed to coordinate national responses, monitor interventions, and report regularly to the public." He recommended.

He urged the government to strengthen the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA), by increasing its operational capacity, funding, and independence, while rooting out internal corruption.

He said the Bar commits to establishing a Drug Law Reform Committee to review current legal frameworks, and collaborating with partners, including civil society and international actors, to advocate for reforms, as well as provide pro bono legal support for vulnerable individuals wrongfully accused or in need of legal representation, saying

Ngafuan welcomes \$US156M plan for water

-Pledges Govt.'s support to water sector

The Government of Liberia says providing safe-drinking water to the public remains one of its top priorities.

By Lewis S Teh

Monrovia, Liberia; August 11, 2025 - Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, has assured the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) that government will stand firmly behind its ambitious five-year development agenda, pledging that the water sector will not be "left behind" in the country's drive for inclusive growth.

Minister Ngafuan spoke on Friday during official launch of the LWSC's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, a USD 156.6 million blueprint designed to improve water and sewage cross Liberia.

The plan unveiled by the Corporation is aligned with Policy Nine of the government's ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development.

"Today, as we unveil this strategic plan, we will ensure that the water sector will not be left behind," the Minister pledged. He made the promise, while serving as keynote speaker during the ceremony.

He said citizens will not sit idle and watch, saying "We will not be spectators in this process."

The goals of the LWSC include doubling water connections from a 2024 baseline of 15,000 to 30,000 by 2029, increasing sewer connections

from 1,560 to 3,000, and improving revenue collection efficiency from 57 percent to 95 percent.

He also welcomed the institution's target to reduce its dependency on government subsidies from 50 per cent to 20 per cent within the same period.

"These targets are ambitious, but they are achievable," Ngafuan said, adding that water is essential for "life and health" and that collective action is needed to ensure success.

"The ultimate goal is what we do to transform lives. We will do our part to move this plan from paper to action, to delivery and measurable outcomes."

In brief remarks, LWSC Managing Director, Mo Ali, noted that the strategic plan replaces an expired framework and aims to guide the corporation's development

efforts over the next four to five years, with a strong focus on urban sanitation.

"We met a system that was not broken, but one that was not doing its best," MD Ali said. "If we implement this plan, it will solve most of our problems with water and sewer services in urban areas."

He thanked the Ministry of Public Works for its long-standing partnership, which he said has played a vital role in safeguarding LWSC's infrastructure.

The USD156.6 million plan, according to Director Mo, outlines a mixed of infrastructure investments, operational reforms, and service expansion initiatives aimed at meeting growing demand, improving efficiency, and enhancing the quality of life for thousands of Liberians.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by top government officials from the MFDP and the LWSC. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



The objective of the parade was to call attention of the Government of Liberia and International partners' to the devastating impact of drug and substance abuse among Liberian youths.

A representative of the Economic Community of West African States or ECOWAS joined the street parade.

In solidarity, the LNBA National President, Cllr. Bornor M. Varmah said the Bar acknowledges the devastating impact drug abuse is having on communities, families, institutions, and future of the nation. He indicated that the LNBA recognizes that the growing prevalence of narcotic substances, especially among young people, is fueling crime, deepening poverty, weakening national security and eroding the moral fabric of the society.

Cllr. Varmah urged the government, particularly the Legislature, the Judiciary, and law enforcement institutions to address the crisis as a national emergency and act with resolve, urgency, and sincerity.

"To adopt a more pragmatic and holistic approach in addressing the menace, the Bar makes the following key recommendations: Amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act of 2014. Review and strengthen provisions to ensure tougher penalties for large-scale traffickers while focusing on rehabilitation for users. Establish Specialized Drug Courts. Fast-track the adjudication of drug-related offenses and prioritize treatment-based approaches where appropriate. Establish a National Drug Accountability and Oversight

"This is not a fight for the government alone; it is a national fight."

The Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) has listed three hundred and seventy-eight (378) lawyers said to be in good standing for 2025, in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of Court.

The LNBA in a statement dated Thursday, August 7, said that the list reflects Lawyers who possess valid licenses and are duly authorized to practice law in Liberia for the current year.

It urged the public to exercise due diligence by hiring services of only lawyers listed, as they have fulfilled all legal requirements and are in good standing with the Association.

"The LNBA strongly cautions the public against engaging the services of any lawyer, who is not listed as licensed for the year 2025. Hiring a lawyer who does not hold a valid license could jeopardize your legal matters and potentially undermine your case before the court. Only Lawyers who are licensed and in good standing with the LNBA have met the necessary qualifications to provide competent and lawful representation." The Bar warned.

However, it noted that in line with the LNBA's commitment to upholding the integrity of the legal profession and ensuring justice for all, it continues to enforce strict adherence to its licensing procedures and encourage the public to consult the official list available at the LNBA's offices and online platforms to confirm the standing of any Lawyer before making their legal representation choices. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan

Libéria : le président Boakai lance un plan national de lutte contre la drogue

Le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. a dévoilé, jeudi 7 août, un Plan national de lutte antidrogue ambitieux et multidimensionnel pour contrer l'augmentation alarmante de la consommation et du trafic de stupéfiants à travers le pays.

Le chef de l'État a qualifié la prolifération des drogues d'« attaque contre notre avenir » et a réaffirmé sa détermination à protéger la jeunesse, les communautés et les générations futures du fléau de la toxicomanie. Cette déclaration intervient au lendemain d'une manifestation organisée dans les rues de

Parlement. « Nous ne pouvons pas laisser la drogue transformer nos enfants en victimes, nos communautés en ghettos et nos quartiers en refuges pour criminels », a déclaré le président Boakai. Il a salué les efforts soutenus de l'Agence libérienne de lutte antidrogue (LDEA) ainsi que le travail coordonné du Comité interministériel, tout en remerciant les organisations de la société civile et les associations communautaires pour leur mobilisation et leur plaidoyer.

Mesures phares du Plan national Le Plan, qui entre en application immédiate, comprend notamment : Saisie des biens liés à des activités de trafic de drogue et poursuites contre les propriétaires et complices ; Objectifs de performance imposés aux commandants régionaux de la LDEA, avec obligation de résultats sous six mois ; Programme national de

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L'annonce a été faite à la suite de la remise du rapport d'étape du Comité interministériel sur les drogues et les substances addictives, selon un communiqué de l'Exécutif.

Monrovia, où des centaines de Libériens – principalement des jeunes femmes et des mères – ont défilé sous le slogan « Say No to Drugs » (Dites non à la drogue), avant de remettre une pétition au

Libéria : le président Boakai lance Patriots' Cry, un appel à la conscience nationale

Le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai a exhorté les Libériens à un sursaut de conscience patriotique lors du lancement officiel de l'ouvrage Patriots' Cry, écrit par l'ancienne ministre des Affaires étrangères Olubanke King-Akerele.

La cérémonie, organisée au ministère des Affaires étrangères par le Liberia Institute for Growing Patriotism en collaboration avec le Angie Brooks International Centre for Women's Empowerment, a réuni des responsables politiques actuels et anciens, des leaders civiques et des membres du public.

En qualité de parrain de l'événement, le président Boakai a insisté sur le fait que Patriots' Cry ne devait pas se limiter à un recueil de doléances, mais être « un appel à la conscience », un témoignage vivant des aspirations et des responsabilités de chaque Libérien.

« Que Patriots' Cry ne soit pas un simple livre de plaintes, mais un souffle vital transmis d'une génération à l'autre », a-t-il déclaré, qualifiant l'ouvrage « d'expression d'amour,

d'espérance et de prise de conscience ».

Selon lui, ce livre n'est pas seulement la voix des courageux, mais aussi un signal d'alarme, un tambour battant à travers la nation pour inviter ses citoyens à examiner leurs valeurs et leurs actes. Le chef de l'État s'est engagé à en faire un symbole de lutte contre les maux sociaux et une source d'inspiration pour un engagement renouvelé envers le bien-être du pays.

Dans un geste de soutien concret, le président Boakai a acquis un exemplaire du livre pour 500 dollars américains.

Un hommage à une voix courageuse

La ministre des Affaires étrangères, Sara Beysolow Nyanti, a salué l'événement comme une reconnaissance d'une voix «

courageuse, intègre et constante », qui a su se faire entendre lorsque la nation avait besoin de clarté, de direction et de vérité.

Elle a décrit l'auteure, son illustre prédécesseure Olubanke King-Akerele, comme « une véritable leçon vivante de patriotisme » et a souligné que le livre s'inscrit dans un dialogue national autour de thèmes essentiels : le leadership, l'amour du pays, la responsabilité civique et l'introspection nécessaire pour faire avancer le Libéria.

« Son courage à dire la vérité au pouvoir, même lorsqu'elle est inconfortable ou impopulaire, fait d'elle une véritable fille du pays », a affirmé

► & 217 · ' 2 \$ * 3



Éditorial

La domination monétaire à l'ère numérique

PARIS – Depuis plus de 80 ans, le dollar américain jouit d'une suprématie inégalée dans le commerce et la finance au niveau mondial, grâce à une combinaison d'atouts propres aux États-Unis : taille de l'économie, institutions crédibles, marchés financiers profonds et liquides, puissance géopolitique, mais également effets de réseaux absolument déterminants. Une nouvelle variable intervient néanmoins aujourd'hui, qui s'apprête à refaçonner l'ordre monétaire international : l'intégrité des données.

Les technologies numériques créant les rails sur lesquels l'argent circule de façon croissante – grâce aux stablecoins, aux actifs tokenisés et aux monnaies numériques de banque centrale – la résilience et la crédibilité des réseaux monétaires reposent maintenant non seulement sur les fondamentaux macroéconomiques, mais également sur la puissance technologique et la sécurité de l'infrastructure en question.

Les fondamentaux macroéconomiques conservent bien entendu leur importance, et les monnaies numériques soulèvent certains défis macroéconomiques classiques. En privatisant encore plus le seigneurage - revenu lié à l'émission de la monnaie-, et en facilitant l'évasion fiscale, les stablecoins risquent notamment d'impacter négativement les recettes budgétaires des États. Par ailleurs, si un stablecoin -jeton numérique sensé être échangeable à parité contre un autre actif, comme une monnaie fiduciaire- perdait son ancrage – en raison de réserves de liquidité insuffisantes par exemple – sa crédibilité pourrait s'effondrer, ce qui provoquerait des retraits massifs. Si les interconnexions de ce stablecoin avec d'autres actifs sont importantes, les conséquences seraient systémiques. Une panique autour des stablecoins ancrés au dollar américain -émis par des acteurs privés et soutenus en grande partie par les bons du Trésor américain- pourrait entraîner des perturbations particulièrement importantes. L'opacité ou la non existence de données concernant les stablecoins, ainsi que les réglementations insuffisantes dans certaines juridictions, viennent accentuer les risques.

Ces problèmes « classiques » de crédibilité ne constituent toutefois qu'un début. Le monde pourrait en effet également connaître une « cyberpanique », provoquée par les fragilités de l'infrastructure numérique qui sous-tend les actifs numériques. Il ne sera pas facile d'atténuer ce risque, le National Institute of Standards and Technology du département américain du Commerce nous [avertissant](#) en effet depuis 2016 sur le risque de voir les ordinateurs quantiques parvenir bientôt à briser bon nombre des systèmes de cryptage à clé publique actuellement utilisés. Autrement dit, une infrastructure qui semble aujourd'hui solide pourrait demain se révéler fragile.

Les conséquences pour l'ordre monétaire mondial pourraient être considérables. En tant qu'émetteur de la monnaie internationale dominante, les États-Unis [jouissent](#) depuis des décennies d'un « privilège exorbitant », notamment de la possibilité d'emprunter à des taux d'intérêt bas même en périodes de stress économique, et d'enregistrer des déficits commerciaux systématiquement élevés. L'administration du président Donald Trump semble parier sur la capacité des États-Unis à conserver ce privilège, l'actuel statut mondial du billet vert se traduisant par une demande de stablecoins ancrés à celui-ci, et par conséquent potentiellement une demande accrue de bons du Trésor américain -cela dépend de la substitution de la demande avec d'autres actifs en dollars-, ce qui conduirait à la baisse des coûts de financement du Trésor des États-Unis.

Le privilège exorbitant de l'Amérique repose en fin de compte sur la confiance dans ses institutions, sur ses cadres juridiques et sur sa capacité budgétaire. Or, dans un monde au sein duquel l'argent circule sur des plateformes programmables, la crédibilité et l'intégrité du code, la qualité des normes cryptographiques et la résistance des systèmes face au piratage revêtent autant d'importance que n'importe lequel de ces facteurs. Cette évolution transforme fondamentalement la logique de la compétition monétaire : si son avance technologique est suffisamment significative, c'est la monnaie la mieux protégée contre les cybermenaces – pas nécessairement celle qui est soutenue par l'économie la plus puissante ou la banque centrale la plus crédible – qui devient la plus attrayante.

Les stablecoins sont utilisés dans un nombre croissant de paiements transfrontaliers, et en tant que porte d'entrée et de sortie pour les investissements spéculatifs en cryptoactifs, mais nous connaissons très mal leur degré de sécurité et leur gouvernance. Il incombe par conséquent aux régulateurs et aux citoyens de soulever ces questions. Qui est responsable de la gouvernance des registres numériques ? Dans quelle mesure le système est-il protégé contre les acteurs malveillants ? Que se passe-t-il si l'épine dorsale cryptographique d'une monnaie est compromise par les avancées de l'informatique quantique ?

Il est important pour la stabilité monétaire nationale et internationale que des réponses satisfaisantes soient apportées à ces questions. Si les dirigeants politiques n'agissent pas, nous risquons de nous retrouver confrontés à un système monétaire volatil et fragmenté, comparable à celui du XIX^e siècle, lorsque l'émission incontrôlée d'argent privé provoquait paniques, retraits massifs, manipulations et effondrements.

Hélène Rey est professeur d'économie à la London Business School et vice-présidente du CEPR (Paris).

Libéria : le président Boakai lance un

d'alerte offrant récompenses financières et protection aux informateurs ;
Procédures judiciaires accélérées pour les affaires de drogue avec peines obligatoires ;
Extension des centres de réhabilitation et des programmes de réinsertion pour les anciens consommateurs ;
Renforcement de la surveillance aux frontières, avec scanners, unités cynophiles et équipements de sécurité ;
Introduction d'un programme éducatif antidrogue dans les écoles et tests aléatoires dans les zones à haut risque ;
Gel des avoirs des trafiquants présumés en coopération avec les institutions financières ;
Augmentation substantielle du budget alloué à la répression, à la prévention et aux réformes juridiques ;
Pouvoirs d'urgence pour permettre descentes et confinements ciblés lorsque nécessaire.
Un engagement ferme et sans exception
Le président Boakai a insisté sur le caractère « non

sélectif et implacable » de cette lutte, affirmant qu'aucun statut, titre, uniforme ou réseau d'influence ne protégera les personnes impliquées dans le trafic ou la consommation de drogue.
Malgré les contraintes budgétaires, il a instruit les autorités financières de prioriser les fonds destinés à l'éducation préventive, au renforcement de la LDEA, à l'équipement des forces de l'ordre et à la consolidation du système judiciaire.
Ø « Le Libéria financera d'abord sa propre lutte », a-t-il assuré, tout en appelant les partenaires et bailleurs internationaux à soutenir cette mobilisation nationale.
Enfin, le chef de l'État a lancé un appel à tous les Libériens – parents, enseignants, leaders communautaires et politiques – à s'unir dans ce combat.
Ø « Ensemble, nous ne ferons pas que lutter, nous vaincrons », a-t-il promis, jurant que « le Libéria ne perdra pas une autre génération à cause de la drogue – pas sous ma responsabilité ».

Libéria : le président Boakai lance Patriots'

mé la ministre Nyanti.
Un mouvement au-delà d'un livre
Pour sa part, l'ancienne cheffe de la diplomatie libérienne a appelé ses compatriotes, et particulièrement la jeune génération, à pratiquer une citoyenneté courageuse, à poser les questions difficiles et à dire les vérités qui dérangent.
Mme King-Akerele souhaite que Patriots' Cry soit vu non seulement comme un livre, mais comme un

mouvement, animé par un profond désir de voir le Libéria s'élever.
Ø « Le patriotisme n'est pas une soumission silencieuse, mais une action concrète pour aimer et servir son pays », a-t-elle affirmé.
Elle a encouragé les Libériens à réfléchir sur leur engagement patriotique et à trouver des moyens tangibles de contribuer au progrès et au développement national.

Libéria : l'éducation antidrogue bientôt intégrée au programme scolaire national

Le gouvernement libérien, par l'intermédiaire du ministère de l'Éducation, a annoncé l'intégration prochaine de cours de sensibilisation antidrogue dans le programme scolaire national, en réponse à la montée inquiétante de la consommation de stupéfiants dans le pays.

Cette mesure fait suite à une vaste campagne nationale de sensibilisation, menée conjointement par des citoyens et des responsables gouvernementaux le 7 août dernier.

Lors d'un point de presse au ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme (MICAT), le vice-ministre chargé de la presse et des affaires publiques, Daniel Sanoe, a réaffirmé la position ferme du président Joseph Boakai contre la drogue.

Selon lui, le chef de l'État a instruit le ministère de l'Éducation d'ajouter les leçons antidrogue comme dixième matière obligatoire dans toutes les écoles du pays.

Tolérance zéro contre les trafiquants et leurs complices
M. Sanoe a précisé que le président Boakai entend poursuivre non seulement les trafiquants, mais également les propriétaires qui permettent que leurs biens soient utilisés pour la vente ou la distribution de drogues illicites.



Libéria : la Banque centrale forme des journalistes à la communication sur la politique monétaire

Plus de trente journalistes libériens ont participé, vendredi, à une formation d'une journée consacrée à la communication sur la politique monétaire, organisée par la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) dans sa salle de conférence, rue Ashmun à Monrovia.
Le vice-gouverneur chargé de la politique économique, Dr Musa Dukuly, a souligné, en ouverture, le rôle essentiel des journalistes dans la couverture des questions économiques, notamment celles qui influencent directement la vie des citoyens.
« Les journalistes expérimentés contribuent à informer et à éduquer le public sur les politiques financières et monétaires », a-t-il déclaré,



ajoutant que cette initiative ne sera pas ponctuelle mais s'inscrit dans la volonté de bâtir un partenariat durable avec les médias.
Il a également insisté sur la nécessité d'un journalisme professionnel et crédible :

« Quand vous êtes crédible, le public viendra toujours vers vous pour la qualité de votre reportage. »

Comprendre la politique monétaire

Le directeur du département Recherche, Politique et Planification, Jefferson Kambo, a expliqué que la politique monétaire vise à maintenir l'inflation à un chiffre afin de préserver la stabilité économique. Il a rappelé que l'une des missions principales de la CBL est de garantir la stabilité financière tout en soutenant les programmes économiques du gouvernement.

De son côté, le directeur adjoint chargé de la politique monétaire, de la recherche et de la planification, Rajie R. Adnan, a défini l'inflation comme « une hausse générale des prix dans l'économie sur une période d'un an », précisant qu'elle influence toutes les autres politiques économiques. Il a aussi tenu à clarifier une idée reçue : la CBL ne fixe pas le taux de change, lequel est déterminé quotidiennement par les taux pratiqués par les bureaux de change agréés, les banques commerciales et les entreprises.

Enfin, le directeur adjoint chargé des prévisions macroéconomiques, Michael D. Titoe, Jr., a souligné que l'économie libérienne, fortement dépendante des importations et vulnérable aux exportations, est sensible aux chocs extérieurs. Il a insisté sur le fait que la politique monétaire est plus efficace lorsque la population en comprend les objectifs et la logique.

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FEATURE ARTICLE

The Toothless Democracy: A Democracy That Bites: The Imperative of Accountability in Liberia:

BY: Austin S Fallah-
A True Son of the Planet Earth Soil:

The principle of accountability is at the heart of every functioning democracy.

It is a foundational pillar that ensures justice and fosters respect for law and order.

As humans of conscious minds, when we pronounce "democracy," we often envision a society characterized by freedom, rights, and an unwavering commitment to the rule of law.

However, a democracy afraid to take decisive, punitive actions against lawbreakers is nothing short of a farce.

It is, as some might call it, a "Toothless Democracy." Close to being called a "Toothless Demon-Cracy."

Nowhere is this concept more profoundly illustrated than in the struggles faced by Liberia, a nation grappling with governance issues, impunity, and the dire need for a system that embodies its values.

Liberia's historical context paints a picture of a nation emerging from years of conflict, corruption, and instability.

For many, the promise of democracy remains elusive, overshadowed by a prevailing environment of lawlessness and disregard for the constitution and other laws promulgated by the legislature.

The phrase "A democracy that does not bite is characterized as a toothless democracy" encapsulates the truth that Liberia must understand and internalize: a true democracy enforces the laws of the land consistently and without fear.

Citizens must recognize that the law is not just a set of rules to be ignored at will, but a framework that, when respected, provides a space for peace, growth, and equality.

At the core of Liberia's struggle with lawlessness is the pervasive culture of impunity that has infected every sector of society.

It is alarming that government officials, law enforcement officers, and even ordinary citizens disregard the rule of law.

When those in power, either through political position or social stature, act above the law, they undermine the very principles that democracy stands for.

Failing to hold these individuals accountable only entrenches disrespect for the legal system and demoralizes those enforcing it.

This is painfully evident in the daily interactions between the police and the public they serve; a system where law enforcement is often met with ridicule rather than reverence indicates a severe breakdown of democratic values.

The police, as the frontline enforcers of law and order, are particularly affected by this culture of impunity.

When citizens feel they can break the law without

consequence, they transmit a message of disrespect towards those sworn to uphold the law.

This relationship creates a vicious cycle in which a lack of respect for the law fosters greater lawlessness, making law enforcement increasingly complex and dangerous.

If the rule of law is to be Liberia's hallmark, then it is imperative that the security apparatus functions without undue interference.

The police must be empowered to act decisively against lawbreakers without fear of reprisal or judgment from society.

Moreover, the legitimacy of any democratic government hinges on its ability to dispense justice fairly and consistently.

Failing to do so can range from societal unrest to the erosion of trust in public institutions, like we hear and read on social media and Liberia's dailies, of governmental establishments.

When citizens witness unchecked corruption and a lack of accountability for those in power, they become disillusioned and disengaged.

This disengagement is dangerous; it sows the seeds of cynicism and apathy, leading to a generation that views democracy not as a privilege but as a punchline, a "Toothless Democracy" where justice becomes a distant concept.

To foster a culture of accountability, Liberia must revisit its constitutional framework and embrace the idea that the law applies to everyone, regardless of their status or influence.

This endeavor requires a multifaceted approach. First, robust legal and institutional reforms must address systemic corruption and ensure transparency in all government dealings.

These reforms must be accompanied by a strong commitment to enforcing ethical standards within the political class (those in the corridors of state decision-making).

Elected officials and public servants must be held to the highest ethical standards, and those who violate them must face clear consequences.

Second, the judiciary must be strengthened to ensure its independence and impartiality.

An independent judiciary is the backbone of a functioning democracy; it checks the powers of the legislative and executive branches and guards the constitution.

For Liberia, investing in judicial integrity and efficiency is crucial; courts must be able to hear cases impartially and enforce the law without pressure from external forces, including so-called political gurus.

The rule of law will regain its dignity only when citizens are confident that they will receive fair treatment in court.

Public awareness campaigns can also play a pivotal

role in shaping societal attitudes towards the law.

Education about civic rights and responsibilities can empower citizens to hold their leaders accountable.

When citizens understand that democracy is not a spectator sport but requires active participation, they are more likely to demand accountability and transparency from those elected to serve the common good.

Many years ago, in one of my graduate master of public administration-public policy civil engagement classes, taught by Professor Jim Scheibel, the former city mayor of Minnesota Capital Saint Paul, I learned that "encouraging civic engagement and creating spaces for dialogue can also strengthen the social contract between the people and their government."

Moreover, Liberia's democracy must embrace the notion that criticism is not an enemy but an essential component of a healthy political discourse.

This ideological concept was propounded during the celebration of Liberia's 178th Bornday (Birthday)by the orator of the day, Dr.Emmett Layfette Dunn.

Those in positions of power must cultivate the courage to engage with dissenting voices, understanding that criticism can lead to positive change.

A democracy that fears criticism stifles growth; it becomes a shadow of what it could and should be.

Holding government officials accountable for their actions is fundamental, and citizens must voice their concerns when the law is not upheld.

Liberia's pursuit of genuine democracy is contingent upon its willingness to create a system that enforces the rule of law without fear or favor.

A democracy without bite is without weight, leaving its citizens vulnerable to the forces it seeks to protect them from.

By instilling a culture of accountability and respect for the law, Liberia can pave the way for a brighter future where government officials, law enforcement, and the citizenry work collectively towards a just society.

The journey toward this goal may be daunting, but the cost of inaction is far too steep.

A robust democracy is born not from the mere ability to participate in elections, but from the unyielding commitment to uphold the principles of justice and accountability, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their status, are subject to the same laws and standards.

Liberia must rise to the occasion and reclaim the true essence of democracy, where the law is respected and revered.

It is time for Liberia to take that bold step to ensure that no one is above the law in a democracy that truly bites, not a toothless democracy, that maybe call soon as a "Toothless Demon-Cracy."



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"Weah didn't speak to me for 4 years."

Politics in Liberia has been characterized by shifting loyalty and allegiance, disputes, and moments of both private and public confrontations among once perceived allies when power changes. This unmasked the story of Montserrado County Senator Saah Joseph, who has been talking.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Monrovia, August 11, 2025: Senator Saah Joseph, a prominent figure in Montserrado County and once a staunch supporter of the former ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), has been making series of allegations



against ex-President George M. Weah and other CDC officials lately. Among his claims is that former President Weah cut off communication and “kept speech” from him for four years, despite his (Joseph's) significant role as Chair of the Executive in the Liberian Senate during Weah's six-year presidency. This deliberate silence, Sen. Joseph claims, left him vulnerable but determined to continue serving his constituents directly. Sen. Joseph further alleges that CDC officials, including high-ranking party executives, masterminded an attempt on his life by setting his home ablaze in the middle of the night while he and his family were inside. According to Sen. Joseph, the motivation for this alleged arson was the fact that he received more votes than President Weah in Montserrado County—a feat that, in his own words, was not a deliberate attempt to overshadow the President but a result of his extensive campaigning and the

will of the Liberian people. “(A)Lot of things have happened, and I will speak to that when I return. However, I just want you to note that everything that you and others have said in the past, I have not said a word. To the point, my house was set on fire because I got more votes than Weah. It

involves my life. Today, I kept that within me. I never said it to anyone. It was never my position to have gotten more votes than President Weah or to stop him from winning elections,” Sen. Joseph continued. Sen. Joseph's statements suggest a climate of internal rivalry within the CDC, with electoral performance seen as a threat to established hierarchies rather than a testament to grassroots support. His outburst follows accusations by former Montserrado County District #8 Representative, Moses A. Gray. On the “Spoon Mild-Night” conversation, Gray described Sen. Joseph as a traitor, spy, and political opportunist, further asserting that it was President Weah who brought Joseph to prominence. But responding to Gray's accusation via telephone from the United States, where he is on a working visit to the Jefferson Baptist Mission and other partners, Sen. Joseph refuted Gray's claims and provided his

version of events. He recounted that Gray had, on multiple occasions, accused him of being a spy for the opposition Unity Party and had orchestrated his removal from C D C ' s i n t e r n a l c o m m u n i c a t i o n s (“the chartroom”). He recalled being excluded and reinstated from these circles repeatedly, demonstrating the precarious nature of party loyalty. “So, let me say this to Gray: today is the fifth time you have made a decision to accuse me. If you remember, the first time, you instructed that I be removed from the CDC and the chartroom because he is a spy for the Unity Party. And immediately, they took me out of the chartroom. After two months, they put me back in the Chartroom. Another time, you said that if Saah Joseph is in the chartroom or within CDC, you will leave. And on that note, they removed me, and since then, I have not said a word.” Sen. Joseph also denied claims that it was President Weah who brought him to political prominence, saying that he worked with the Jefferson Baptist Mission as Director of Mission for Africa before ex-President Weah asked him to join the CDC to tap into what he had built. According to him, he established four different schools in Liberia, where former president Weah visited. Senator Saah Joseph indicated that upon his return from the United States, he intends to address the press and provide further clarification regarding both the allegations and his experiences within the CDC and the Liberian Senate. Meanwhile, former Rep. Gray quickly responded, denying the allegations and labeling Sen. Joseph as a “traitor” and “ungrateful individual.” This exchange has further fueled public interest and speculation regarding the internal workings of the CDC and its leadership. **-Edited by Othello B. Garblah.**

Brawl over Grigsby's burial

A seeming uncertainty looms here on the pending burial place of fallen Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Sylvester M. Grigsby, as the Government of Liberia, family members and friends mourn his passing.

Monrovia, Liberia; who died, the Government of August 11, 2025 - A Liberia is preparing to have a s i m m e r i n g state funeral in Monrovia for the disagreement or tussle is late State Minister Grigsby, who emerging between the Liberian government and family members of deceased Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Mr. Sylvester M. Grigsby, over where he should be buried, The NEWDAWN has gathered. As it's customary for officials

to Liberia. According to sources, Madam Grigsby is contending that her late husband spent more than half of his life in public service in Liberia, even up to his demise last weekend in the U.S., so she prefers his final resting place to be close to her. Death news of the experienced Liberian diplomat and public servant was greeted here with unprecedented shocks, amid condolences pouring on social media, following the pronouncement of his sudden

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death. Initially, when the news broke on Facebook, Liberians many expressed dismay because there was no public pronouncement about his health. However, sources say the late Minister had been experiencing unstable health condition, which he had battled for more than a year since he was appointed by President Joseph N. Boakai at the onset of his Presidency. The late Grigsby was one of the first cabinet ministers appointed in the Boakai Administration. In a press statement dated August 9, 2025, the Executive Mansion in Monrovia said, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., has expressed profound shock and deep sorrow upon receiving tragic news of the sudden passing of Hon. Sylvester M. Grigsby, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs. The release continued that President Boakai has extended condolences to the grieving family of the late Minister, staff of the Ministry of

be arguably the most experienced in the Boakai-Cabinet, having served multiple roles in succeeding governments, dating back in 80s. He served in various positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including as Deputy Minister of International Cooperation, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and would later climb to the top post of Minister of Foreign Affairs under the Administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Grigsby honored all his positions in public service with hard work, dedication, determination, humility, and patriotism. This mentality and posture catapulted him through the ranks and file of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during his tenure of service there. He would later move to the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs as Minister proper following his appointment by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, to fill the vacancy left behind by the sad and shocking demise of former Minister of State Johnny McClain.



State for Presidential Affairs, and all Liberians, who had a privilege in working with or knowing him. According to the Executive Mansion, President Boakai described Minister Grigsby's death as an immeasurable loss to his administration and to the nation, reflecting on his decades of dedicated public service, exceptional leadership, and unwavering commitment to the advancement of Liberia. “Minister Grigsby was a trusted friend, an astute statesman, and a pillar of integrity in public service. His counsel, experience, and steadfast dedication to the duties of his office will be sorely missed by me personally, and by the entire Government,” the President is quoted as saying. On his public service life and duty, the deceased Minister is perceived to

Grigsby outstanding service to national duty over the years coupled with his long-standing record of integrity in both public and private service spanning several decades, won the admiration and confidence of President Sirleaf, who would not only consider him for the Post of Minister of State, but entrusted him with important international responsibilities which he executed effectively and efficiently. He had earlier served in the Interim Government of National Unity (IGNU) under late Interim President, Dr. Amos C. Sawyer, as senior Minister in the foreign ministry and prior to then, he was Liberia's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the entire Benelux, a post he served with distinction. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Fahngon suspends ELBC coverage at MICAT

-As Piah Turns to Boakai

MONROVIA: Information Minister Jerolinmek Matthew Piah has instructed Deputy Minister Daniel Sanoe to notify President Joseph Boakai about the decision by Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS)



Jerolinmek Matthew Piah

Director General Eugene Fahngon to suspend LBS's live coverage of the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs, and Tourism's (MICAT) regular press

briefings. On Wednesday, August 6, Fahngon announced that, due to financial constraints and lack of funding, LBS would halt coverage of major government functions, including MICAT's weekly press briefings. He, however, noted that there was

briefing, Deputy Minister Sanoe criticized the decision, describing it as unilateral and not reflective of the views of the LBS Board or the Government of Liberia.

He expressed surprise that LBS, as part of the government's communication structure and with the information minister serving as chair of its board, would take such an action without consultation.

According to Sanoe, Minister Piah has directed him to formally inform the president about the matter.

"We are not in a war of words with Mr. Fago because he is a member of the government's communication team, and maybe there's some correction that needs to be made somewhere. But ELBC is a government entity, and communicating with the Liberian people begins from MICAT," Sanoe emphasized.

He assured the public that the matter would be resolved with the president's intervention. He added that when the chairperson of the LBS Board returns to the country over the weekend, the issue would be addressed.

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