



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

LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR **BUYING** DATE **SELLING** WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2025 L\$198.0052/US\$1.00 L\$196.2660/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.

# **French Version Inside**

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**VOL. 15 NO. 010** WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2025 **PRICE LD\$50.00** prosecute me ee tells |

# Nafaa Commences Access Road Constructi World Bank Fisheries Project

Photo Caption: Earth Moving Machine in action on the access road leading to Mesurodo Pier



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# Continental News

# Uganda begins Ebola vaccine South Africa's president calls trial after new outbreak Musk to calm Trump land row

ganda has launched a trial of a vaccine against the Sudan strain of the Ebola virus,

Congo.

FEBRUARY 05

Symptoms of Ebola infection listed for monitoring. include fever, fatigue, muscle pain, headache, and sore

confirmed 234 contacts as The WHO is collaborating

with Uganda's ministry of health, the Uganda Virus Research Institute, and the Makerere University Lung Institute to conduct the trial. "This marks a major milestone in public health emergency response and demonstrates the power of collaboration for global health security," said WHO director for Africa Matshidiso Moeti.

vaccine will further strengthen measures to protect communities from future outbreaks." The previous outbreak of the

"If proven effective, the

Sudan strain in Uganda was confirmed in September 2022 and resulted in more than 70 deaths. It was declared over in January 2023.

Although Uganda had access to the same candidate vaccine at the time, trials could not be conducted before the outbreak ended.

Over the weekend, the first 2,160 doses of the trial vaccine and treatments arrived in the capital, Kampala. Health authorities and research teams worked swiftly to prepare for the trial, including briefing researchers, arranging logistics and developing study protocols.BBC



following an outbreak in the country that has killed one person and infected two others.

The first patient, a 32-yearold male nurse, died last week.

On Monday, the initial participant in the trial, who is currently in isolation, received a dose of the vaccine, which was developed by the International Aids Vaccine Initiative, a global non-profit organisation.

There is currently no approved vaccine for the Sudan strain of Ebola. One does exist, however, for the Zaire strain, which has been prevalent in the past in the Democratic Republic of throat, followed by vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, and internal and external bleeding. It is transmitted through contact

with infected bodily fluids and tissues. Ebola basics: What you need to

know The Sudan Ebola virus is severe,

killing at least 40% of those infected, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Uganda is currently experiencing its sixth outbreak of the disease.

Forty contacts of the first victim of this outbreak will be vaccinated in this phase of the roll-out jointly conducted with the Ugandan authorities and the WHO, the UN agency said in a statement on Monday. Uganda's health ministry has

Cyril Ramaphosa has moved to defuse a row with the new US administration over a new land law by speaking to Elon Musk.Mr Musk is a close adviser to US President Donald Trump, who on Sunday threatened to cut all future funding to South Africa over allegations that it was confiscating land and "treating certain classes of people very badly". The South Africa-born tech billionaire joined in the criticism asking on X why Ramaphosa had "openly racist ownership laws". Ramaphosa's office said that in the call to Mr Musk the president "reiterated South Africa's constitutionally embedded values of the respect for the rule of law, justice, fairness and equality".

Last month, President Cyril Ramaphosa signed into law a bill that allows land seizures without compensation in certain circumstances.Land ownership has long been a contentious issue in South

outh Africa's President investigation right now. We'll make a determination, and until such time as we find out what South Africa is doing — they're taking away land and confiscating land, and actually they're doing things that are perhaps far worse than that."

South Africa's new law allows for expropriation without compensation only in circumstances where it is "just and equitable and in the public interest" to do so.

This includes if the property is not being used and there is no intention to either develop or make money from it, or when it poses a risk to people.

Land ownership has been a burning issue in South Africa for more than a century. In 1913, the British colonial authorities passed legislation that restricted the property rights of the country's black majority.

The Natives Land Act left the vast majority of the land under the control of the white minority and set the foundation for the forced removal of black people to poor homelands and townships in the intervening decades until the end of apartheid three decades ago.



Rebels declare ceasefire in DR Congo for 'humanitarian reasons' he alliance of rebel using aircrafts to bomb areas three years. Since the start

groups in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo have declared a humanitarian ceasefire starting on Tuesday.In a statement, the group which includes the Rwandabacked M23 rebels - cited "humanitarian reasons" for the ceasefire, after it has been capturing territory in eastern parts of the country.

The UN said at least 900 people have been killed and 2,880 injured in recent fighting in and around Goma, DR Congo's largest eastern city, after it was seized by rebels.

The G7 nations and the EU have condemned the offensive as a flagrant violation of DR Congo's sovereignty. The alliance of rebel groups - known as the Congo River Alliance - has accused the Congolese military of killing people

it holds.

It added it does not intend to seize any further territory, despite saying otherwise last week, and it will hold its positions. In a statement, the alliance said: "We reiterate who is also commander-inour commitment to chief of the Rwanda protecting and defending the civilian population and our positions."

Regional fighting has seen hundreds of thousands of people displaced over the last

of 2025, more than 400,000 people have been forced from their homes, according to the UN's refugee agency.Rwandan President Paul Kagame -Defence Force - said he did not know if his country's troops were in the DR Congo.

"There are many things I don't know.

Africa with most private farmland owned by white people, 30 years after the end of the racist system of explode

There have been continuous calls for the government to address land reform and deal with the past injustices of racial segregation. In his initial response to Trump, the South Africa's president said that his "government has not confiscated any land".

On Sunday, Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social: "I will be cutting off all future funding to South Africa until a full investigation of this situation has been completed!"

He later said, in a briefing with journalists, that South Africa's "leadership is doing

some terrible things, horrible

things". "So that's under

Anger over these forced removals intensified the fight against whiteminority rule.

In 1994, leader of the African apartheid. South Africans' National Congress (ANC) Nelson anger over land set to Mandela became the country's first democratically elected president after all South Africans were given the right to vote.

But until the recently passed law, the government was only able to buy land from its current owners under the principle of "willing seller, willing buyer", which some feel has delayed the process of land reform. In 2017, a government report said that of the farmland that was in the hands of private individuals, 72% was white-owned. According to the 2022 census white people make up 7.3% of the population. However, some critics have expressed fears that the new land law may have disastrous consequences like in Zimbabwe, where seizures wrecked the economy and scared away investors.BBC

# EDITORIAL

# We need a message of hope

iberians are desperate and yearning for hope from President Joseph Boakai's second annual message or state of the nation address to the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislature, rightly so because situations in the country in the past one year has been nothing, but chaotic.

From protest by soldiers' wives, standoff between Police and partisans of opposition CDC, bloody riot at Bea Mountain that left several persons dead, to forceful removal from office of officials holding tenure positions and leadership crisis in the House of Representatives that Speaker Fonati Koffa booted out and subsequent fire at the Capitol Building, situations have not been fine in Liberia.

Liberians are looking up to their President to give direction and hope, especially joblessness and economic hardship is visible everywhere. The people need breathing space to rejuvenate their state of mind from despair and doom to optimism.

We believe no one best suited to provide that now than President Boakai who promised to rescue Liberia from stagnation and retrogression.

The government would begin to show by responding or providing low-hanging fruits such as improved security, stabilizing the economy and creating jobs.

A government that is on a mission to rescue should act more and talk less to build public confidence and attract forest investments that this country needs so badly, for we are convenience that government along cannot do it all. We need an enabling environment for economic activities to thrive.

Substance abuse, trafficking and prevalence of hardcore drugs in l our country is decimating our future, the youth. The government should move away from mere promises and publicity stunt and j get down to real business.

How many more young people have to die before we do something tangible as a nation to halt the scourge of drugs in our nation? Our streets are littered with drug-addicted youths, who are being sent to their early grave by traffickers.

No amount of political speeches can revive hope in their people unless direct and sincere actions are taken on the ground.

Corruption is another melee that s destroying the fabric of our nation, particularly from the public sector. It seems like the nation's wealth is being distributed between the Legislative and Executive, while schools, hospitals, and other vital institutions face neglect. These trend should be reversed to give hope to our people.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc., UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission. Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 / +231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com



www.thenewdawnliberia.com

By Melissa Parke

### The Case for Abolishing Nuclear Weapons

nuclear weapons continue to shape our Turkey. lives today, 80 years on.

the 12,121 nuclear weapons held by when joining the NPT. China, France, India, Israel, North Kingdom, and the United States.

the abolition of nuclear weapons. By protect the ozone layer. drawing on their personal experiences, use in conflict.

Hidankyo, their grassroots organization, signed or ratified by half of all countries. was awarded the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize for campaigning against nuclear Instead of insisting that they must keep was an impact on their diaphragm as environment. well [...] and when I held my grandchild, these future generations."

these weapons. In fact, deterrence conflict.

ENEVA - This will be a year of doctrine increases the risk of nuclear war, anniversaries linked to the end of as demonstrated by the Cuban missile World War II in 1945, with the crisis of 1962, which Soviet leader Nikita most significant being the invention and Khrushchev triggered by placing nuclear first use of nuclear weapons. In fact, the missiles in Cuba to deter the US from development, testing, and use of using the missiles it had deployed in

To be sure, the shock of the near-miss in After all, many people are still dealing Cuba led to the first arms-control with the damage from the Trinity treaties, including the 1968 Nuclear Nonnuclear test in New Mexico in July 1945, Proliferation Treaty (NTP). But instead of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and rejecting deterrence, nuclear-armed Nagasaki a few weeks later, and the countries have doubled down on it - a step more than 2,000 nuclear test widely seen as a cynical ploy to deflect detonations carried out since then, attention from their failure to honor the Today, the world lives in the shadow of commitment to disarm that they made

Korea, Pakistan, Russia, the United The continued emphasis on deterrence, rather than abolition of nuclear weapons, reflects a lack of political imagination The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and and courage. Proponents of the doctrine Nagasaki were immoral, unnecessary, argue that such arms, no matter how and unethical. Under current terrible, cannot be uninvented. But international law, these indiscriminate decisions can be made -and have been and disproportionate attacks, which made - to control deadly technologies killed hundreds of thousands of civilians, and end their use. This includes chemical including an estimated 38,000 children, and biological weapons, as well as would surely be considered a war crime. industrial chemicals that are harmful to Many of the hibakusha (as the Japanese human health and the environment. For survivors of the bombings are known) example, the 1987 Montreal Protocol devoted their lives to campaigning for phased out chlorofluorocarbons to

they have raised global awareness of the The nine nuclear-armed states and a few devastation such weapons cause and dozen of their allies are blocking progress helped establish the taboo against their on disarmament while at the same time claiming to support a nuclear-free future. Whereas the rest of the world - around The majority of hibakusha alive today 140 countries - supports the United were young children at the time of the Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of attacks, and continue to experience the Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which came effects in their old age. After Nihon into force in 2021 and has since been

weapons, co-chair Shigemitsu Tanaka, their weapons to deter potential who was four years old when Nagasaki adversaries, members of the nuclear club was bombed, gave moving testimony should listen to the survivors of the about how his grandchild died three days Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks and their after being born. "Due to impacts on the call for abolition. They know better than internal organs," he said, "their lungs anyone the damage that nuclear weapons were not able to grow properly, there can inflict on people and the

this baby, I knew that what we went It is time for nuclear-armed states to through had been passed on, even to accept that this existential threat has hung over the world for long enough. Rather than merely congratulating the Despite the claims of nuclear-armed hibakusha for their Nobel Peace Prize, states, it was the taboo the hibakusha they should honor these survivors - while helped to establish and sustain, not the they are still alive - by joining the TPNW flawed theory of nuclear deterrence, and eliminating their nuclear arsenals that has prevented the further use of before these weapons are used again in

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REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

National Investment Commission (NIC)

M&E Professional Building/ UN Drive

Monrovia, Liberia





#### Invitation for Bids [IFB] for the Works

IFB Number:

NIC/ADB/SAPZ/OCB-I/003/2025

Employer:

National Investment Commission of Liberia (NIC)

Open Competitive Bidding (International) (OCBI)

Project:

Liberia Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ)

Contract title:

Liberia Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) - Construction Works for the 33KV Powerline and Associated LV Networks to the Buchanan

SEZ/SAPZ Site

Country:

Loan No. / Grant

Liberia 2100150042703

Loan No. / Grai

Method:

Procurement

Project No: Issued on: P-LR-AA0-009 February 03, 2025

- The Government of Liberia, GoL, has received financing from the African Development Bank (ADB) hereinafter called the Bank towards the cost of the Liberia Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Liberia Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) - physical construction for a 33KV Powerline and Associated LV Networks to the Buchanan SEZ/SAPZ Site.
- 2. The National Investment Commission of Liberia (NIC) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the physical construction of the works described above for the Buchanan SEZ/SAPZ Site in Grand Bassa County Liberia, for a construction period of 10 months.
- Bidding will be conducted through Open Competitive Bidding (International), OCBI
  procedures as specified in the Bank's <u>Procurement Framework</u>. The new procurement

Framework is effective as of the  $1^{st}$  of January 2016 and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.

- 4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the National Investment Commission of Liberia, Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Andrew Anderson, Project Coordinator, (aanderson2024@gmail.com or aanderson@investliberia.gov.lr) and inspect the Bidding document during office hours from (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) at the address given below: (National Investment Commission of Liberia, M&E Professional Building, UN Drive/ 2nd Floor Room-15, Project Implementation Unit).
- 5. The Bidding document in **English** may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **USD200.00**. The method of payment will be through **Cash**, **Cheque**, or Wire Transfer (A/C Title: National Investment Commission/ A/C No. 002USD21223005201/ Bank Name: Liberia Bank for Development & Investment LBDI). The document will be sent only by **Electronic Mail (email)**.
- 6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 pm on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below;

National Investment Commission of Liberia Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, M&E Professional Building, UN Drive, Monrovia, Liberia

on March 17th, 2025 at 2:00 pm.

- 7. All Bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Security" of [US\$ 35,000.00] Thirty-Five Thousand United States Dollars.
- 8. "Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document."
- 9. The address referred to above is:

<del>www.investliberia.gov.lr</del>

National Investment Commission of Liberia
Andrew Anderson, Project Coordinator
M&E Professional Building, UN Drive, 1000-10, Liberia, Monrovia or street address, (+231) 886 976 983 or (+231) 770 120 493, Liberia, Monrovia

anderson2024@gmail.com /aanderson@investliberia.gov.lr or
boimahgibson@gmail.com



# REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY

United Nations Drive - Old USTC Compound - 1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia
P. O. Box 9027

Office of the Director General



#### GSA-DG-GWK-339-2025/ RL

#### Invitation for Bids

1. The General Services Agency (GSA) has received funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2025 budgetary allotment and intends to apply part of this funding for the Procurement of goods under the contract packages listed in the table below.

Code	Contract Package	Quantity	Bid Closing Date	Bid Opening Date
IFB#. GSA/NCB/ 001/25	Building Materials	Assorted	February 21,2025 10:00AM	February 21,2025 10:30AM
IFB#. GSA/NCB/ 002/25	Supply of Vehicle Spare Parts	Assorted	February 21,2025 10:30AM	February 21,2025 11:00AM
IFB#. GSA/NCB/ 003/25	Supply of Cleaning Materials	Assorted	February 21,2025 11:30AM	April 22,2025 12:00PM

- 2. The GSA now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of goods stated above.
- 3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the PPCA and approved by the PPCC, and is open to all eligible bidders.
- 4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the General Services Agency and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.
- 5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of \$100.00 US for each set from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday.
- 6. All submissions must be signed, sealed in an envelope and clearly marked with the code and name of contract package that is being bided for and must be delivered to the address below at date and time stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after the deadline of bid submission. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount as required in the Bid Data Sheet, in the form of a Bank Guarantee, Manager's Check, or an Insurance Bond. Late bids will be Rejected and returned unopened. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders or their representatives and those who choose to attend at the address below.

THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT

GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY

OLD USTC COMPOUND, UN DRIVE

MONROVIA, LIBERIA

MOBILE NUMBER: 0886513353/0775373619

EMAIL ADDRESS:lweah6@yahoo.com

7. The General Services Agency (GSA) reserves the right to reject or accept any bid submitted and to annul the process at any time without incurring any liability and without assigning any reason therefore; Invitation for Bids and Award of Contract will be issued to qualified bidders in accordance with procurement procedures applicable under the Republic of Liberia Amended and restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act published and approved September 18, 2010.

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Director of

Approved

Directør Gener

Managing Liberia's Assets with Accountability, Transparency, and Integrity

# ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garbla

### **Gov't Offices to Get Prepaid LEC Meters**

ast week, the head of the interim management team at the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), Mr. Thomas Gonkerwon, disclosed plans to start the installation of prepaid meters at all government ministries, commissions, bureaus, authorities, and agencies. This initiative aims to curb the waste and abuse of energy consumption in government offices, promoting greater fiscal responsibility.

As it stands, the cost of electricity in Liberia is around \$0.22 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), with some customer categories like "Social" potentially paying as low as \$0.15 per kWh; this represents a significant decrease from previous higher rates, with the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) implementing new tariffs to reduce costs for most consumers, according to authorities.

Thus, the primary objective of installing prepaid meters is to reduce the wastage and misuse of electricity in government premises. By making government entities accountable for their energy consumption, the initiative seeks to ensure that they pay for what they use, thereby fostering a culture of responsibility.

Over the years, many government offices have deliberately neglected to pay their outstanding electricity bills to LEC. This negligence has significantly contributed to LEC's poor management and growing indebtedness in relation to electricity consumption.

As of June 2024, Liberia's debt to the Electricity Company of Ivory Coast had ballooned to US\$19,691,647. A substantial portion of this debt stems from the unpaid electricity bills of various government ministries and agencies.

The current use of post-pay meters in government facilities has led to a continuous accumulation of unpaid electricity bills. Government officials have shown little interest in settling these debts, resulting in financial strain on LEC. This lack of accountability has perpetuated a cycle of debt and poor management at the electricity corporation.

A common issue among Liberian public officials is the belief that their public office entitles them to a life of luxury at the state's expense. They expect the government to provide for all their needs, including cars, generators, and residential accommodations. This mentality extends to their reluctance to pay for utilities, including electricity, as they perceive it to be the responsibility of the citizens to fund their extravagant lifestyles.

A cursory examination of the country's National Budget reveals that millions of United States Dollars are allocated annually for private generators, vehicles, and even homes for public officials.

Despite some officials residing in their private homes, they still collect allowances for rent from the government. This mindset leaves many public officials to live irresponsibly to the point that most cannot survive for three months outside of public offices.

However, when installed, the prepaid could reduce the outstanding debt owed by government ministries and agencies to LEC; promote responsible energy consumption in government offices, enhance LEC's financial stability by ensuring timely payments for electricity and shift the mindset of public officials towards greater fiscal responsibility.

Meanwhile, lest we forget, the move to install prepaid meters at government offices is a commendable step towards reducing waste and abuse of energy resources. It is important for the government to lead by example in promoting responsible energy consumption.

This initiative, if successfully enforced, will not only alleviate the financial burden on LEC but also instil a culture of accountability within government entities. Through this change, Liberia can move towards a more sustainable and efficient management of its energy resources.

Happy New Year to all Our Readers

# AS I SEE IT



## The Government of Liberia Needs to Fully Decentralise the National County Sports Meet

The National County Sports Meet in Liberia ended on 2 February 2025. Grand Bassa County girls won the first place beating my county, Grand Kru, girls to the second place. My wife's county, Lofa County, for its part, defeated Grand Gedeh County in the football final match. Lofa County also won the basket basketball finals. Congratulations to all the winning teams. Congratulations also to all those who did not win. In every competition there must be a winner. So, I urge all winners and losers to celebrate their statuses. Congratulations to the Ministry of Youth and Sports for organising the peaceful games and congratulations also to the entire Government of Liberia. I like to equally thank the people of Liberia for the show of support for their counties. The Unity and love displayed for our counties and the good sportsmanship exhibited during the finals is an attestation that unity can take Liberia to higher heights. Congratulations to all.

Now that the games are over, what next? I have always heard that the games are intended to scout players and to unite the people of Liberia. If this is true, I thank God and strongly think that the planners or organizers of the tournaments should do more using the various games to Unite the Liberian people. The tournaments should also be used to scout for new players that could be brought up to the national and international stage to foster their talents. I am aware that there were competitions in basketball, kickball, and football. I do not know about other sporting disciplines being a part of the competition. However, I would like to encourage the planners and organizers to incorporate other sporting disciplines that other Liberians love. This could help to promote those other disciplines. From my observation football seems to be the most popular game that Liberians love. The Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Stadium was jammed packed when the final match between Lofa County and Grand Gedeh County played. We took many sides due to several reasons. After it all, Lofa County defeated Grand Gedeh County 2 goals to 1 goal. After that game, several Honors and Awards were given to players, teams, referees, and many other partakers in the various disciplines. I personally wish to congratulate all those who won awards. I hope and pray that you will progress in your various careers. I equally urge all those that did not win any award to keep pressing on. Your time will come one day. That you did not get the award this time, you could get it tomorrow. Your time will surely come one day. Congratulations to all of you for your participation in all the

different games. Liberia is proud of you all. I support unity, peace, and reconciliation amongst Liberians because, with these, the country can make irreversible progress towards national economic growth and development. With peace and unity, progress is assured. I also support the ambition that the games should be used to scout new players and support them to advance their careers in the areas they like. Imagine if the enthusiasm for the finals were present and shown for the Liberia Nation Lonestar Teams! I think the games should be used to expose the talents of new players in all the sporting disciplines. Let us support them at the national levels and elevate to international levels. I am not certain about the rules governing participation in the games, but I think those guidelines are done in the best interest of our young players and competitors, and the National Interest of Liberia. AS I SEE IT, the County Sports Competition should really be genuine and focused on exposing the different talents from the County. As such, there should be competitions at the town, clan, and district levels within the counties. Players should be drawn from those internal county competitions to form the county teams. That means that all county players will be the actual residents from those counties. With that, each county will have fresh and brand-new talents given the opportunity and chance to compete and emerge from within the counties. It is not a good practice to have players from Lofa featuring for Grand Kru or players from Montserrado playing for Nimba and vice versa for instance. It is good that the hidden talents within the counties are brought out. We need to fully decentralise the competition and expose the hidden talents in our counties. We should not recycle players from first, second and third divisions to take the place of those young talents that cannot easily find exposure opportunities in the counties. The Government should allocate monetary support to this process so that we can get the best out of it. As I See It, if this actual localisation process is taken into consideration, I think the Government of Liberia will realise its intent of genuine unity and reconciliation in the counties, scout new talents and Take the National County Sports Meet to Another Level. About the Author: Prof. Tom Kaydor, Jr. is an Assistant Professor at the IBB Graduate School of International Studies. He holds a PhD from the Department of Government and European Studies, the New University, Slovenia where he specialized in International Development and Diplomacy (with Security Aspects). His dissertation topic was 'Reconceptualizing Africa's Regional Integration for Peace and Sustainable Development.' This dissertation was supervised by Prof. Dr. Gorazd Justinek who was also then Dean of the Faculty of Government and European Studies. Dr. Kaydor earned his second master's in public policy (MPP) specialized in Development Policy or Development Economics with Distinction from the Crawford School of Economics and Government (now the Crawford School of Public Policy), Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. He obtained his first master's degree as a Master of Arts (MA) in International Relations (Highest Distinction), and Bachelor of Arts (BA) Magna Cum Laude in Political Science with emphasis in Comparative Government and Politics from the University of Liberia where his Minor was History with Mass Communication his Elective. Tom holds a Diploma in Leading Economic Growth from the Kennedy Graduate School, Harvard University, USA; a Diploma in Contemporary Diplomacy and Negotiations from the Islamabad Foreign Service Academy in Pakistan and he holds other professional diplomas and certificates from Italy, UK, China, and Israel. Prof. Kaydor is also an Adjunct Professor of International Development Studies at the AME University Graduate School. He is an evidence-based researcher, a blogger, a columnist, and a published author. He is a Reviewer for 6 peerreviewed International Journals. Prof Kaydor has published 6 books in English; French; Portuguese; Spanish; Italian; German; Italian; with several peer-reviewed articles indicated in his CV @ https://tomkaydor.blogspot.com/2024/09/prof-dr-tom-kaydor-cv.html. Dr. Kaydor served as Deputy Foreign Minister for International Cooperation and Economic Integration in Liberia; Assistant Foreign Minister for Afro Asian Affairs in Liberia; UN Coordination Advisor in Ethiopia; UN Coordination Analyst in Liberia; UNICEF-Liberia National Consultant on the Formulation of the Roadmap for Children Living in Street Situations; UNICEF-Liberia Volunteer Engagement Specialist; Chief of Staff-Office of the Chairperson on

Executive, House of Representatives; Field Supervisor for LCIP/USAID/DAI Social and Economic Reintegration-Liberia; Psychosocial Officer, World Vision International-Liberia

Program. He can be reached via (Email: <a href="mailto:kaydorth@ul.edu.lr">kaydorth@gmail.com</a>).











#### **Invitation for Bids [IFB]**

#### Forestry Development Authority/TSF Project

**IFB Number:** LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/001/2024 **Purchaser:** Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

**Project:** Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in Secondary

Wood Processing Industry Phase II

Contract title: "Provision of Additional Machines/Tools and the Installation to

Three (3) Share Facilities"

Country: Liberia 5900155018403

**Procurement Method:** Open Competitive Bidding National (OCBN) **OCBN No:** LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/001/2024

**Issued on:** January 28, 2025

- 1. The Government of Liberia through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has received financing from the African Development Bank Group hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of the Scaling up the Participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry\_ Phase II, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Provision of additional Machine/Tools to three Shared Facility. "For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank's Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing.
- 2. The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply of **Machines/Tools**

Lot No. 1	Description	Quantity
i	Machines/Tools	Various

- 3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding National, (OCB-N) method as specified in the Bank's <u>Procurement Policy Framework for Bank's Group Funded operations</u> dated October, 2015, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
- 4. The bidding document in English may be collected by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below
- 5. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **1:00 PM**, **February 25 2025**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below
- 6. All Bids must be accompanied by a "Bid-Securing Declaration".
- 7. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
- 8. For any further clarification, please contact:

Attn. Project Coordinator
Project Implementation Unit
Forestry Development Authority
Whein Town, Bernard Farm
Montserrado County
Liberia

Email Address: emmanuellewis965@gmail.com

0775-841-431/0886-570-320

Link for Clarification:

Email Address: wynnbryant12@gmail.com

0776-063-643/0886-551-249

#### **Invitation for Bids [IFB]**

#### Forestry Development Authority/TSF Project

IFB Number:LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/005/2024Purchaser:Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

**Project:** Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in Secondary

Wood Processing Industry Phase II

Contract title: "Provision of Electric Planing, and Sandpapering Machines Kits to

1,108 Registered Members "

Country: Liberia
Grant No.: 5900155018403

Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding National (OCBN)
OCBN No: LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/005/2024

**Issued on:** January 28, 2025

- 1. The Government of Liberia through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has received financing from the African Development Bank Group hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of the Scaling up the Participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry\_ Phase II, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the **Provision of Electric Planing, and Sandpapering Machines Kits to 1,108 Registered Members.** "For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank's Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing.
- 2. The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply of **Electric Planing, and Sandpapering Machines Kits**

Lot No. 1	Description	Quantity
i	Electric Planing, and Sandpapering Machines Kits	Various

- 3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding National, (OCB-N) method as specified in the Bank's <u>Procurement Policy Framework for Bank's Group Funded operations</u> dated October, 2015, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
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- 8. For any further clarification, please contact:
  Attn. Project Coordinator
  Project Implementation Unit
  Forestry Development Authority

Whein Town, Bernard Farm Montserrado County

Liberia

Email Address: <a href="mailto:emmanuellewis965@gmail.com">emmanuellewis965@gmail.com</a> 0775-841-431/0886-570-320

Link for Clarification:

Email Address: <u>wynnbryant12@gmail.com</u>

0776-063-643/0886-551-249

### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

FEBRUARY 05

### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# House summons top officials to either attract a new investor. Senators warn of key sectors collapse to either attract a new investor.

The officials were summoned after they failed to appear for a previous hearing regarding the Putu Iron Ore Mining deal.

By Bridgett Milton

onrovia, February 5, to provide answers on the Putu Iron Ore Mining deal after they failed to appear for a previous hearing.

government accountability on the issue.

2025

2025: The House of According to Rep. Sokan, the Representatives has Putu Iron Ore Mining Company, summoned several top officials owned by a Russian steel giant, signed a Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) on September

However, in 2016, the company



They are the Minister of Mines shut down its operations, leaving Justice, Cllr. N. Oswald Tweh.

has been leading efforts to process alone."

In August 2024, he wrote to the at the time. Plenary requesting the same However, he admitted that the to turn up. Now, he is pressing away. harder for answers, calling for Since then, little has been done comply.

and Energy, Wilmot Paye, the Grand Gedeh County in Blibo, and the Minister of employment, infrastructure survival. development, and human He believes that the lack of Representatives decided on a Energy Patrick Sendolo told the account. communication from Grand Senate that Putu had pulled out

revive economic activities in his From all practical purposes,

or officially terminate the deal, leaving uncertainty over the future of the mining concession.

The House of Representatives is now demanding that the summoned officials provide clarity on whether the Putu mining agreement is still valid. The House also wants to know what steps have been taken to find a new investor, and what impact the company's departure has had on the economy of Grand Gedeh.

Lawmakers are also seeking explanations on what plans are in place to support former employees who lost their jobs and whether the government has engaged with international mining firms to replace Putu.

Rep. Sokan said for the people of Grand Gedeh, the situation has been dire.

According to him, the county had once seen significant improvements in infrastructure and employment due to the mining project. But with Putu's departure, he lamented that local businesses have struggled, Chairman of the National economic turmoil. The company and many have been forced to Investment Commission, Jeff B. had played a key role in seek alternative means of

The top government officials capacity building, and its sudden action has left his constituents in have been ordered to appear departure left hundreds without prolonged economic hardship, before lawmakers on Thursday, jobs. "In January 2016, former and he insists that those February 13, 2025. The House of Minister of Lands, Mines, and responsible must be held to

"This citation aims to ensure Gedeh County Representative due to financial struggles and an transparency and Jeremiah Garwo Sokan, Sr., who inability to manage the mining accountability; we must seek immediate and sustainable solutions for economic recovery Sendolo noted that Putu was out in Grand Gedeh County," he pleaded.

He continued that the failure of officials to provide updates on MDA remained technically valid these officials to appear in the mining deal, but they failed despite the company walking August 2024, was unacceptable and that this time, they must

-In the wake of U.S. aids suspension

Several senators foresee a potential collapse of key sectors here in the wake of the United States suspension of international aid globally.

By Lincoln G. Peters

through USAID.

a communication.

the Trump Administration.

Tuesday, February 4, 2025, of its people", he notes. Senator Konneh said that the Education:

He indicates that the agreement onrovia, Liberia, entails an additional investment February 5, 2025 - Four of One Hundred and Fourteen senators here alarm of a Million, Four Hundred and Eightypotential collapse of key Eight Thousand, One Hundred sectors and shortfall of the and Twenty-Five United States 2025 National budget, because Dollars (US\$114,488,125.00), of programs supported by the which accounts for United States Government approximately 14 percent of Liberia's national budget, is Senators Amara M. Konneh of significant. He says as articulated Gbarpolu County, Edwin M. by USAID, the primary aim of this Snowe of Bomi County, off-budget funding is to enhance Gbezhongar M. Findley of development initiatives in Grand Bassa County and Liberia, particularly in health, Augustine Chea of Sinoe education, and economic growth. County, raised their concern in "This strategic support is designed to foster essential They name Education, Health, reforms and cultivate a healthy and Agriculture, as major and educated workforce, thereby sectors in the country that risk paving the way for sustainable major collapse and setback due development in the nation. to aid suspension or aid halt by Before the implementation of the freeze, USAID was actively Expanding on the engaged in several vital programs communication on behalf of his in Liberia that assisted the colleagues in session on government in meeting the needs

situation requires a thoughtful USAID significantly enhanced reassessment of government's educational access by funding



### Sen. Varpilah raises concer

A member of the Liberian Senate raises red flag over mysterious distressing accounts of multiple deaths and drugs trafficking across the country.

By Lincoln G. Peters on Health, Dabah M. Varpilah, of the Country", she urges. raises red flag over wave of According to her, as everyone mysterious deaths and trafficking of illicit drugs across

Liberia. Senator Varpilah, in two separate communications to the senate plenary read in open session on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 with time allotment to further deliberate, says she anticipates that her colleagues will see issues about mysterious death and illicit drug trafficking as national emergency.

" I write to formally crave the indulgence of the Liberian Senate to cite the Minister of Justice and the Inspector

Cape Mount County arising from the alarming killings people. Senator and Senate Chairperson occurring across various regions The Senator details that the

**-Over mysterious deaths. Illicit drugs** may be aware, there have been unexplained loss of lives in General of the Liberia National Margibi, and Nimba counties, and Montserrado, Bong, Lofa, onrovia, Liberia, Police to appear before the other parts of Liberia, mostly February 5, 2025 - Grand Plenary to respond on issues involving women and young

frequency and nature of these

CONT'D ON PAGE 10 Sen.Dabah M. Varpilah

years.

reflects that in 2024, the Nimba. Democratic Change (CDC) - led children under the age of five. administration.

budgeting and development school lunches in fifty-two financing strategies and schools across Bong and priorities for the coming four Montserrado counties, providing over 19,000 students with a "Considering United States nourishing meal each school day. President Donald Trump's Furthermore, the agency actively recent policy to temporarily supported girls' education suspend a significant portion of initiatives. Through the foreign assistance as part of his Transforming the Education "America First" initiative, System for Teachers and Students resulting in the pause of billions in Liberia (TESTS) program, USAID of dollars in global funding, collaborated with the pending a 90-day review by the government to improve the State Department - it is crucial quality of early Childhood and to acknowledge that the primary education instruction. Government of Liberia faces a The education initiatives were significant underlying strategically focused on the six challenge that necessitates our central counties with the highest immediate attention", he populations: Bong, Grand Bassa, cautions. Senator Konneh Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, and United States and Liberia Health: USAID contributed to

formalized Amendments 14 and strengthening health systems and 15 to the Development facilitating access to essential Objective (DAOG) and the antiretroviral medications, agreement, initially particularly benefiting established in May 2020 with vulnerable groups, including the former Coalition for women, girls, newborns, and

CONT'D ON PAGE 10

### ranc

Le gouvernement prévoit de mobiliser 2,1 milliards de dollars pour renforcer l'accès à l'électricité

n projet ambitieux atteindre 75 %. croissance et l'emploi

Le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du Développement du Libéria, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan,

pour stimuler la Ces fonds seront également destinés à la modernisation des infrastructures routières, un levier essentiel pour attirer les investissements et créer des opportunités d'emploi.

Une vision stratégique pour le



gouvernement prévoit de mobiliser 2,1 milliards de partenaires internationaux afin d'élargir l'accès à limité à 33 %, pour d'emplois. Il a reconnu que

annoncé que le développement S'exprimant lors de la cérémonie de remise des diplômes de l'Institut dollars auprès de ses Bancaire du Libéria, le ministre Ngafuan a assuré que les efforts du gouvernement permettront l'électricité, actuellement de stimuler la création

certains diplômés sont déjà en poste tandis que d'autres sont encore en recherche, mais s'est voulu optimiste:

« Lorsqu'on parle de plan de développement et de stratégie énergétique, il s'agit de bâtir une fondation solide pour une croissance durable », a-t-il affirmé.

Soulignant l'urgence d'agir, il a insisté sur l'engagement du gouvernement à accélérer la mise en œuvre de ces réformes : «

Lorsque nous annonçons un plan, chacun doit se demander comment il peut en bénéficier. L'une des priorités reste la création d'emplois. »

L'électricité, un facteur clé pour la croissance économique

Le ministre a identifié le coût élevé de l'énergie comme l'un des principaux freins au développement et aux investissements au Libéria. Il a insisté sur la nécessité de lever cet obstacle pour stimuler

➤ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

### Le changement transformationnel au Libéria : un objectif encore hors de portée, selon la Banque mondiale

mondiale plaide pour une révision des stratégies de développement

Georgia Wallen, directrice de la Banque mondiale pour le Libéria, a souligné un défi majeur pour le pays dans l'atteinte de progrès significatifs, affirmant que "le changement transformationnel au Libéria demeure illusoire".

et quotidiennes pour atteindre un développement substantiel et durable. L'expression "business as usual" désigne ici la continuation des pratiques actuelles, souvent insuffisantes pour engendrer les transformations radicales nécessaires à la m é t a m o r p h o s e économique, sociale et politique du pays.

Un appel à rompre avec les pratiques habituelles

Dans ce contexte, son appel à "un changement de cap" suggère qu'il est

La directrice de la Banque indispensable de revoir en transformation profondeur les politiques et Wallen a également stratégies adoptées. Cela inclut la refonte des structures de gouvernance, l'amélioration des infrastructures, ainsi que la révision des systèmes éducatifs et de santé. De plus, il est essentiel de créer un environnement favorable à la croissance du secteur privé et à l'investissement. Il ne s'agi' plus seulement de réformes Elle a exprimé la difficulté superficielles, mais d'adopter de dépasser les des solutions audacieuses et investissements dans améliorations progressives novatrices pouvant l'éducation, la formation transformer durablement le parcours du pays.

Investir dans le capital humain: un levier clé pour la

souligné l'importance d'investir dans le capital humain, une priorité centrale pour le changement transformationnel. Selon elle, le Libéria pourrait créer une main-d'œuvre plus qualifiée, capable de stimuler la croissance économique et le progrès social. Ce processus nécessiterait des professionnelle, les soins de santé et l'autonomisation

CONT'D ON PAGE 9



# Éditorial

### **Les préoccupations du Barreau** méritent une attention sérieuse

Par Daron Acemoglu

L'Association du Barreau National du Libéria (LNBA) exprime son inquiétude face à des événements récents qui, selon elle, compromettent la démocratie constitutionnelle du pays. Elle dénonce des violations présumées des droits fondamentaux, des décisions exécutives discutables, le non-respect des jugements judiciaires et une ingérence excessive du pouvoir législatif. Autant de dérives qui, selon le Barreau, menacent les principes fondamentaux de l'État de droit.

Face à cette situation, la LNBA réaffirme son engagement à collaborer avec les décideurs politiques pour garantir le respect de la Constitution et promouvoir des réformes juridiques conformes aux aspirations du peuple libérien.

Le président récemment élu de l'Association, Me Bornor M. Varmah, souligne que la LNBA opère sous un cadre statutaire qui expose ses fonctions réglementaires, disciplinaires et administratives à des influences extérieures. Il plaide pour une autonomie renforcée afin de garantir au Barreau une plus grande indépendance dans l'exercice de ses missions.

« La LNBA doit disposer du pouvoir de fixer et d'appliquer des normes éthiques rigoureuses, d'améliorer les exigences en matière d'agrément des avocats et de mener des actions disciplinaires sans ingérence indue. En tant qu'institution dédiée à la justice, elle doit bénéficier d'une indépendance institutionnelle lui permettant de contester les actes inconstitutionnels, de plaider pour des réformes judiciaires et d'engager des actions d'intérêt public sans crainte d'influence politique », affirme Me Varmah.

Cette déclaration intervient alors que des divergences d'interprétation juridique entourent la destitution du président de la Chambre des représentants, J. Fonati Koffa. Cette controverse a suscité des interrogations quant à la gestion de l'affaire par la Cour suprême, qui s'est abstenue de rendre un avis clair sur la procédure à suivre.

Ce silence a laissé un vide juridique don't l'Exécutif a profité pour imposer sa propre interprétation et justifier la destitution du président de la Chambre en dehors des règles établies. Une situation qui, selon la LNBA, affaiblit la confiance du public dans le système judiciaire et nuit à l'équilibre des pouvoirs.

Il est impératif que la Cour suprême exerce pleinement son rôle en apportant des clarifications définitives sur les affaires qui lui sont soumises. En tant que seule instance habilitée à garantir la stabilité du système démocratique par le contrôle judiciaire et l'interprétation des lois, elle doit éviter toute ambiguïté qui pourrait semer le doute.

Dans cette optique, Me Varmah appelle à une collaboration étroite entre la LNBA et la Cour suprême afin d'améliorer la qualité des décisions judiciaires. Il insiste sur l'urgence d'une telle réforme, rappelant que la Constitution de 1986 confère à la Cour suprême un pouvoir fondamental de contrôle judiciaire. Ce rôle essentiel doit être exercé avec rigueur et indépendance pour garantir la clarté, l'impartialité et la stabilité du droit au Libéria.

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# **Year to all**

## F'rança

Starts from page 8

#### Le gouvernement prévoit de mobiliser 2,1 milliards

2025

l'activité économique :

ont accès à l'électricité », a- », a-t-il observé. t-il rappelé.

une condition essentielle les régions et renforcer la pour a méliorer la connectivité nationale. compétitivité des entreprises économique du pays.

d'adopter une vision positive Maryland, sur une route » de notre pays. J'ai visité entièrement asphaltée. Et Avec cette mobilisation de

« Aujourd'hui, nous, mais qui croient Un appel à l'intégrité et à la seulement 33 % des Libériens davantage en leur potentiel résilience

FEBRUARY 05

l'électricité à au moins 75 %, stratégique pour désenclaver :

pas forcément mieux que avenir proche », a-t-il assuré.

Encourageant les jeunes Des infrastructures routières diplômés à faire preuve Dans le cadre du programme au service du développement d'éthique et de de développement ARREST, le Le ministre Ngafuan a responsabilité dans leur gouvernement ambitionne de également insisté sur parcours professionnel, le mobiliser 2,1 milliards de l'engagement du ministre a conclu sur dollars sur cinq ans afin gouvernement à améliorer le l'importance de l'intégrité d'augmenter l'accès à réseau routier, un axe comme valeur fondamentale

« L'intégrité est une qualité essentielle. Il faut du « Notre vision est de courage pour résister à la et favoriser l'essor permettre aux Libériens de tentation lorsqu'on est voyager de Monrovia à Cape confronté à des millions alors « Il est essentiel Palmas, dans le comté de qu'on peine à payer son loyer.

d'autres nations qui ne font cela se concrétisera dans un fonds et ces projets

### Journée mondiale des zones humides 2025

'Agence de Protection de l'Environnement (EPA) du Libéria a célébré la Journée mondiale des zones humides 2025 à ■Marshall City, dans le comté de Margibi, sous le thème : "Protéger les zones humides pour notre avenir commun." L'événement, qui s'est déroulé le 4 février 2025, a mis en lumière l'importance vit'le des zones humides, tant pour l'environnement que pour les communautés qui en dépendent, en particulier dans des secteurs tels que la pêche, l'agriculture et le tourisme.

En tant que signataire de la Convention de Ramsar, adoptée en 1971 en Iran, le Libéria s'est engagé à préserver ses zones humides et à en favoriser une gestion durable. Depuis sa ratification du traité en 2003, le Libéria a désigné plusieurs sites Ramsar, don't la zone humide de Marshall dans le comté de Margibi, ainsi que celles de Mesurado, du lac Piso, de Kpatawee et de Gbendi.

Le Président Joseph Nyuma Boakai a marqué l'occasion en proclamant le 3 février 2025 Journée mondiale des zones humides au Libéria. Dans sa déclaration, il a souligné le rôle crucial des zones humides dans la protection des côtes, la réduction des inondations, le stockage du carbone et la régulation du climat, tout en insistant sur leur contribution essentielle à la préservation de la biodiversité. Cet événement a réuni des personnalités gouvernementales, des diplomates étrangers, des représentants d'organisations non gouvernementales et des membres des communautés locales. M. Levi Z. Piah, point focal de la Convention de Ramsar au Libéria, a fourni un aperçu historique de la convention et a rappelé l'engagement du pays envers la préservation des zones humides. Il a souligné les menaces croissantes pesant sur ces écosystèmes, notamment en raison de l'urbanisation non régulée, de la pollution



et de la déforestation, et a plaidé pour une action urgente afin de prévenir leur dégradation.

L'Ambassadeur de la République Populaire de Chine, S.E. Yin Chengwu, invité d'honneur, a réaffirmé l'engagement de son pays en matière de conservation de l'environnement. Il a souligné que les zones humides sont essentielles à l'équilibre écologique et à la réduction des impacts du changement climatique. L'Ambassadeur a également évoqué le partenariat entre la Chine et le Libéria dans divers secteurs, don't la protection de l'environnement, et a mis en avant le rôle du Centre international des mangroves (IMC), fondé en 2022, pour promouvoir la conservation des mangroves à l'échelle mondiale.

Dans son allocution, le Dr Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo, directeur exécutif de l'EPA, a souligné l'importance des zones humides dans la régulation du climat et la conservation de la biodiversité, tout en mettant en évidence les dangers auxquels elles sont confrontées. Il a rappelé que les mangroves, bien que représentant seulement 0,1 % de la surface terrestre, jouent un rôle clé dans le stockage du carbone et la protection des côtes, avec une valeur estimée à 95 millions de dollars US par an en termes de protection contre les risques climatiques. Cependant, les données récentes montrent une perte inquiétante de 26 % des mangroves du Libéria entre 2000 et 2021.

"Si ces zones humides apportent de tels bénéfices pour nos générations présentes et futures, pourquoi continuons-nous à les détruire ?" a-t-il interpellé, dénonçant la construction illégale et la pollution qui menacent ces écosystèmes précieux. Face à cette situation, l'EPA travaille activement à renforcer les mécanismes d'application des lois environnementales. M. Yarkpawolo a révélé que l'agence négocie un protocole d'accord avec la Police nationale pour permettre l'arrestation des personnes enfreignant les lois environnementales.

#### Starts from page 8

### Le changement transformationnel au Libéria :

des Libériens pour qu'ils sur le fait que le Libéria adoptaient une approche puissent contribuer détient le plus bas niveau globale pour répondre à ces a c t i v e m e n t a u d'apprentissage mondial en enjeux interconnectés. De développement durable du un an, une situation qui l'éducation à la santé, en pays.

résultats concrets

pour accompagner la développement durable croissance du Libéria. Les déclarations de Wallen Un forum de développement Toutefois, Mme Wallen a ont mis en lumière certains partenarial Georgia Wallen précisé que "ces partenaires des défis les plus pressants s'exprimait lors d'un exigent des résultats auxquels le Libéria fait face. colloque organisé par concrets". Cela implique non La réponse de la Banque l'Ambassade de la seulement la fourniture mondiale à ces défis sera République française au d'aide, mais aussi déterminante pour l'avenir Libéria. Ce forum, qui a réuni l'assurance que les du pays. Parmi ces défis des partenaires au investissements entraînent figurent l'accès aux soins de développement à Monrovia, des améliorations tangibles santé, le développement des visait à définir les priorités et sur le terrain, qu'il s'agisse infrastructures, le secteurs à soutenir dans le de la création d'emplois, du renforcement des cadre du plan quinquennal développement des institutions et de la du gouvernement libérien infrastructures ou de gouvernance, ainsi que la ARREST pour l'amélioration des conditions création d'emplois et la développement inclusif de vie des Libériens.

L'éducation : un défi majeur judiciaire. Elle a expliqué Agendas de développement à releverMme Wallen a que les 19 projets en cours, des comtés (CDA) pour leur également attiré l'attention répartis sur 14 secteurs, mise en œuvre.

reflète une lacune passant par l'énergie, la Les partenaires importante dans le système gouvernance et la création internationaux exigent des éducatif. "L'éducation est la d'emplois, la Banque pierre angulaire du mondiale s'efforce de poser La directrice de la Banque développement économique les bases d'une croissance à mondiale a évoqué le cadre et social", a-t-elle insisté, long terme.Cependant, la de partenariat renouvelé et soulignant qu'un pays sans priorité reste la création de l'agenda ARREST pour un une main-d'œuvre qualifiée changements visibles dans la développement inclusif peinera à répondre aux vie quotidienne des (AAID), qui s'étendra sur les exigences d'une économie Libériens. La demande est cinq prochaines années. Ces moderne et à résoudre des forte pour des améliorations initiatives témoignent d'un problèmes cruciaux comme tangibles qui se reflètent engagement soutenu des la pauvreté, les inégalités et dans le quotidien des acteurs internationaux, y le chômage. Une approche citoyens. C'est là que compris la Banque mondiale, i n t é g r é e p o u r u n l'impact de la croissance doit être le plus perceptible.

réforme du système (AAID), ainsi que dans les

| FEBRUARY 05

### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Starts from page 7

smallholder farmers in Nimba the agriculture sector. agricultural sector.

Senator Konneh further noted a matter of concern. sectors. He says these initiatives development agenda. addressing serious food the Committee on Ways, Means, Editing by Jonathan Browne

Agriculture: USAID supported insecurity and jobs for people in and Finance, along with the

Committee on Foreign Affairs, County and assisted thirty The Chairman on Public Account consider inviting the Ministries agribusiness startups, fostering at the Liberian Senate warns of of Foreign Affairs, Finance and growth and sustainability in the possibility of disruptions in Development Planning, Health hospital supplies, interruptions and Social Welfare, Education, Speaking on Tuesday, February 4, to school feeding programs, and and Agriculture to provide a 2025 following the reading of his insufficient support for essential briefing this week", Konneh, communication in plenary, services in the coming 90 days, is himself, a former minister finance adds. He believes that that the recent announcement He laments that it is crucial for such a discussion would be regarding the United States' the Liberian Senate to ensure invaluable in assessing the sociosuspension of foreign aid prioritization of stable funding economic challenges this policy presents considerable allocations to safeguard may pose for Liberia and challenges to Liberia's continuity of these vital identifying strategic avenues important initiatives focused on programs and mitigate any through which we can support enhancing its public health, potential negative impacts on the Executive Branch in education, and agriculture the Government of Liberia's mitigating any adverse effects."We look forward to your are crucial for providing "To enhance the Liberian and our colleagues' favorable essential medications to Senate's understanding of the consideration of this proposal. children and individuals facing potential implications stemming Please accept, Madam Proserious health conditions, from the suspension of US Tempore, the assurances of our sustaining the educational foreign assistance, we highest esteem", the senators' programs for students, and respectfully recommend that communication conclude.

#### **Sen. Varpilah raises concern** Starts from page 7 incidents have raised substantial situation, but will also help to "As you may be aware, the

are seeking clarity, justice, and security of the people. reassurances regarding their Meanwhile, her second with addressing the drug crisis in taken to address these "Request to cite the Inter- has not been shifted to address occurrences by authorities.

"It is important, Madam Pro- Drugs & Substance Abuse" to consequences of this situation, I Tempore and distinguished appear before plenary, hereby seek Plenary's colleagues, for the Minister of expresses deep concern about indulgence to cite the Inter-General of Police to provide an ghettos in communities across by the Minister of Health to give update to the people's the country. representatives on what actions The senator says she believes outlining findings, proposed underscores.

She believes that testimonies by attention and a coordinated related crimes", she these authorities would not only response to mitigate its impact underscores. Editing by shed light on the current on the society.

concerns among citizens, who restore public confidence in the President established an Inter-

have been taken by their offices that these ghettos jeopardized measures, and progress made to to investigate these deaths in a the safety and wellbeing of date. Their appearance is crucial timely manner, and measures residents, and are breeding as it will give us full insight on put in place to prevent further grounds for associated criminal the status of this situation and to incidents", Senator Varpilah activities, warning that the foster community support to situation requires urgent eradicate substance abuses and

ministerial Committee tasked safety and the measures being communication, captioned our nation. Yet, the paradigm ministerial Committee on Illicit the matter. Considering the Justice and the Inspector the continued presence of ministerial Committee headed us a comprehensive report, Jonathan Browne

#### Starts from page 11

name dragged through the mud to flourish. preside over Liberia's rapid situation in Liberia is dire, declared. descent into chaos."

accusers screamed for justice country into the ground. when it suited their political He claimed that the "If Boakai's government refuses power, they conveniently institutions to target to the international community Liberians.

He noted that this violators. manipulate the system to "We deserve a government Garblah settle political scores while that prioritizes accountability

### **Investigate and prosecute me**

adding that the Boakai He argued that Liberia cannot

relentless propaganda, his enabling crime and lawlessness and the rule of law, not one that silences dissent and by the very people who now Koijee indicated that the protects the guilty," Koijee

The release stated that Koijee's administration is running the afford to continue down this treacnerous patn.

agenda, but now that they hold administration is using state to uphold justice, then it is up ignore the suffering of ordinary opponents while shielding to intervene before Liberia criminals and human rights collapses into total anarchy. The time for action is now."

administration has proven to "The world must not turn a Meanwhile, the government is be nothing more than a cabal of blind eye to the hypocrisy and yet to react to Koijee's corrupt officials who brutality unfolding in Liberia." allegations. - Othello B.

## Senators warn of key sectors collapse Political dynamics in Nimba shifting

-As PYJ's widow endorses Rep. Samuel Kogar for senate

Nimba County Representative Samuel Kogar gets the blessing of the widow of fallen Senator Prince Y. Johnson to replace her husband in

By Stephen G Fellajuah

the senate. Keen observers say Tuesday, February 4. this signals a significant move in The upcoming senatorial bythe local political landscape. political legacy.It was also time." widow to replace her husband. navigating this situation. While fragmented or divisive, it could

her husband's death at the imba, Liberia, February Senate, but Mrs. Johnson has 5, 2025 - The dynamics of distanced herself from the politics in Nimba County report. Base on the tradition of are shifting with news of the Nimba County and consultation widow of late Senator Prince Y. with family members, she Johnson's endorsing endorsed Rep. Samuel Kogar to Representative Samuel Kogar, fill the position". State to replace her fallen husband in Broadcaster -ELBC said here

election is certainly a pivotal Mrs. Amira Boyidee Johnson, moment for Nimba County. It's widow of the late PYJ, was not just about filling a vacancy recently hinted to contest in left by the late Senator, but also the pending Senatorial by- about how the county, as a whole, election in Nimba to complete will navigate this transition and her husband's remaining years maintain political stability. The in office and continue his by-election seems to be a "test of

disclosed by two times This is especially crucial, given defeated Presidential the legacy left by Senator candidate and political leader Johnson, who was a significant of Vision for Liberia force in the county's politics. If Transformation Party (VOLTP), the county can come together to Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe, who make a decision that respects urged the people of Nimba to both the past and their future, it rally behind the late senator's could set a precedent for future leadership transitions. However, Mrs. Johnson is carefully if the process becomes



report of directly running for local political unity. approach to decision-making. the seat herself, could signal a consensus.

support.

to fill the vacancy created by

she distances herself from have lasting consequences for

the Senate seat, her Mrs. Johnson's endorsement of endorsement of Representative Representative Samuel Kogar Samuel Kogar suggests she still aligns closely with the recent wants to play a key role in decision made by Elders of Nimba determining her husband's County, which adds a layer of political legacy. Her statement traditional legitimacy to Kogar's on the tradition of Nimba candidacy. By supporting the County and family elders' decision to pass the consultations underscores a "traditional gavel" (a key symbol sense of respect for local of leadership and authority in the customs and a collaborative county) to Kogar, Mrs. Johnson is signaling respect for local Additionally, her decision to customs and acknowledging the back Kogar rather than seeking importance of community

desire to maintain unity and This move could foster a sense of avoid dividing the electorate in unity among the people of Nimba, what could already be a especially if they see this as a contentious race. It also decision made through tradition positions Kogar as a candidate and collective wisdom, rather with strong ties to the Johnson than political maneuvering. It family and potentially Nimba's also positions Kogar as the political establishment, which candidate chosen by both the could give him a significant family and the influential advantage in garnering traditional leaders, which might resonate with voters who value "Report [came] that the wife of both continuity and respect for the late Senator was contesting cultural practices.

2025

Former Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Tamba Koijee has violations," been talking, expressing his ill feelings about being repeatedly smeared and linked to atrocities. He wants to does justice only apply when have his days in court.

onrovia, February 5, 2025/ Koijee has claimed that he was repeatedly smeared with baseless accusations during the George Weah

which allegedly recruited former combatants and released prisoners.

However, Koijee has repeatedly insisted that he is innocent of the crimes or



administration. He now calls on the Boakai administration to investigate and prosecute

Koijee, once vilified as the mastermind behind mysterious killings, disappearances, and paramilitary operations, was sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) based on what he described as unverified claims peddled by individuals who now sit comfortably in Boakai's administration.

He said despite his repeated demands for an impartial investigation to clear his name, President Boakai and his cronies remain silent, unable to produce credible evidence.

Koijee explained that despite years of relentless propaganda, no legitimate case has been brought against him, while the real criminals walk free under Boakai's protection.

He further alleged that the very individuals who accused him of crimes are now at the helm of power, presiding over an alarming surge in human rights violations while shielding their own from scrutiny.

In early December 2023, the U.S. Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) designated Koijee, citing his reputation for stoking violence and having a powerful grip on Monrovia's

youth. The OFAC noted that Koijee controlled paramilitarystyle organizations associated with the thenruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC),

charges brought against him and would want to clear his name in court.

He wants the Boakai administration to do this because, according to him, current officials of the Boakai administration were the ones who cooked out most of the allegations against him.

He said rather than investigating and prosecuting him, they have allegedly plunged the country into a cesspool of lawlessness.

Koijee recalled the highly publicized murder case of Charloe Musu as a case in which he was accused and denied a role in the brutal murder of the deceased.

According to him, the only person ever arrested and charged-former Chief Justice Gloria Musu Scott—was miraculously freed and rewarded with a government position. At the same time, Charloe's murder remains unsolved, and the alleged 'real killer' roams free under Boakai's watch.

"What happened to justice? Or does justice only apply when the target is a political enemy?" the former Monrovia City Mayor quipped.

Koijee, in pushing for his investigation and prosecution, descended further into Boakai's administration closet, throwing jabs.

Koijee: "The so-called "new dawn" of Joseph Boakai's administration has quickly revealed itself to be nothing more than a charade," he said, adding "a government that thrives on hypocrisy, shields criminals, and weaponizes justice to target political opponents while indulging in corruption and CONT'D ON PAGE 10

gross human rights

"What happened to justice? Or the target is a political enemy?"

"Under President Boakai's leadership," Koijee went on, "the Liberia National Police (LNP) has transformed into nothing more than a statesponsored gang."

He claimed that the LNP is responsible for a wave of brutality, alleged extrajudicial killings, and the suppression of dissent.

"The list of atrocities committed under Boakai's administration in just one year is staggering," the release alleged. The release pointed to an

incident allegedly in Lofa County, Voinjama City, where a 45-year-old woman known as "Yarmah" was found dead. The release detailed that her her body was mutilated and sensitive parts extracted-a chilling act reminiscent of ritualistic killings.

"Voinjama Police Cell: A 19year-old murder suspect was found dead inside his cell. The LNP's response? Silence. No accountability. No justice,' the release stated.

In Redlight, Montserrado County, the release said a

local Fulani businessman, Hassan Jalloh, was brutally murdered, reportedly at the hands of the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA).

"Instead of justice, there was a cover-up. These are just a handful of the 22 documented human rights violations under Boakai's first year i n power-yet there has been no international outcry, sanctions, or demands for accountability. Why?" Koijee pondered. He alleged that

the perpetrators were Boakai's allies and labeled h administration as a government of lies a n d

hypocrisy. "Koijee rightly points out the appalling double standards at play. For six years, he was hounded by

### NaFAA Commences Access Road **Construction via World Bank Fisheries Project**

(NaFAA), with funding from the national economy, and enhance World Bank through the Liberia food security. Sustainable Management of The joint press release Fisheries Project (LSMFP), has emphasizes that the access road commenced construction of a 1.2 construction is a crucial step km asphalt access road leading to under the LSMFP aimed at the Mesurado Industrial Fishing sustainably developing Liberia's Pier.

This initiative is part of the By improving infrastructure, the preparatory activities for the project seeks to stimulate construction of the Mesurado economic growth, strengthen Industrial Fishing Port. According to resilience against climate a press release from NaFAA and change, and provide long-term LSMFP, the road construction, benefits for stakeholders. which falls under Component 2 of The Government of Liberia, the World Bank-funded project, through the National Fisheries aims to ensure uninterrupted and Aquaculture Authority, has access to essential fisheries assured its commitment to infrastructure while reinforcing enhancing fisheries governance, Liberia's commitment to improving livelihoods, and sustainable economic growth.

host Liberia's first industrial fishing port, located at the Coast Guard Base near the Bong Mines Bridge Freeport, Bushrod Island. This initiative

aligns with the

reeport Bushrod Island - The government's vision to improve National Fisheries and fisheries productivity, bolster the Aquaculture Authority sector's contribution to the

fisheries sector.

increasing revenue generation for The project, estimated to cost over both the government and 1 million United States Dollars, will targeted beneficiaries through enhance connectivity to the the Liberia Sustainable Mesurado Pier Facility which will Management of Fisheries Project.





The Procurement Unit

#### Invitation for Bid (IFB)

FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS & NON-CONSULTING SERVICES

- 1. The National Transit Authority (NTA) has received budgetary appropriation from FY 2025 National Budget, as well as internally generated revenue, and intends to apply portion of it towards the Procurement of goods and non-consulting services to enhance its service delivery, optimize productivity in its day-to-day operations and ensuring value for money.
- The National Transit Authority (NTA) now invites sealed bids from eligible registered Businesses for the supply of the below listed contract packages to the entity for FY 2025.
- 3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) process as enshrined in the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission Act (PPCA).

Specification and Quantity of Contract Packages:

No.	Contract Packages	Qty.	IFB. NO:	Bid Security
1	Lubricants	98 Drums	NTA/NCB/001/2025	\$1,900.00
2	Insurance (Medical)	1 Firm	NTA/SBA/NCB/005/2025	\$2,349.00
3	Insurance (Vehicles)	1 Firm	NTA/SBA/NCB/006/2025	\$843.00
3	Scratch Cards	5,208Pcs	NTA/NCB/002/2025	\$780.00
5	Local Spare Parts (Readily-Available)	Assorted	NTA/NCB/007/2025	\$3,625.00
6	Tickets (Revenue)	1 Firm	NTA/SBA/NCB/001/2025	\$912.00
7	Security Guard Service	1 Firm	NTA/SBA/NCB/002/2025	\$1,404.00
0	Construction (Adm. Building)	1 Firm	NTA/SBA/NCB/004/2025	\$16,412.00

\*Please obtain bidding document of each package for more detailed instructions for bid submission

- 5. Qualification requirements: (Please reference bidding documents of your preferred contract package)
- 6. All interested eligible Businesses may obtain copy of the bidding document(s) of their preferred contract package(s) from the Procurement Department of the NTA, Japan Drive, Gardnersville, Montserrado County, Liberia, for a non-refundable fee of US\$40.00 beginning Thursday, February 6, 2025 from 9:30am to 4:00pm daily.
- 7. All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Security" (as in matrix) from a reputable bank and must have a validity period of 30 days after bid submission deadline
- Sealed bids must be delivered to the Procurement Unit of the NTA no later than the times, dates and places indicated in the bidding documents or on the Bid Data Sheet (BDS). Late bids will be marked, rejected and returned to bidders unopened. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders who choose to attend or their representatives at the times, dates and places indicated in the bidding documents or the Bid Data Sheet (BDS). NO ELECTRONIC BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED. CONTRACTS WILL BE AWARDED TO THE MOST RESPONSIVE FIRM THAT HAS FULLY COMPLETED THE PPCC VENDORS' REGISTRATION
- 9. All bids must be addressed to:

Samuel G. Hne Procurement Manager

TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PEOPLE

National Transit Authority (NTA) Japan Drive, Gardnersville, Mont, Co., Liberia Tel #: 077/1607776 / 08881 10881 / 07.70790194 Hon. Edmund Fort Fach Director-General/ Chairman PC

The Procurement Department

Japanese Drive, Gardnersville P.O. Box 183, Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +231777707776 / +231888110881

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2025 VOL. 15 NO. 010

# House leadership takes siege of Koffa's eviction issue

A debate unfolded at the House of Representatives on Tuesday after a reading of Koffa's letter addressed to the Chief Clerk, stating that he would not turn over the

By Bridgett Milton

he Leadership of the House Representatives has taken control of the eviction issue involving former Speaker Fonati Koffa after a heated debate during the as Speaker of the House.

In Koffa's communication, he said he received a letter transmitted to him via his Whatsapp account of Rep. James Kolleh.He explained that Kolleh had informed him of the decision by the plenary of



House's regular session.

The debate unfolded after Koffa wrote to the Chief Clerk, stating that he would not turn over the Speaker's office. To obtain the office, he argued that the House should follow the same illegal process it used to remove him

the House of Representatives regarding the statute of the office he's currently occupying. Last week, the House of Representatives voted to decide the eviction of embattled Speaker Koffa.

The House of Representatives' decision was prompted by a report from its Committee on

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Rules, Order, and Administration. The committee formally communicated to the Plenary regarding its ongoing efforts to facilitate the transition of the Speaker's office.The committee noted that it had written embattled Speaker Koffa, requesting him to vacate the office and turn it over to the newly elected Speaker, but he had reportedly refused to comply.

The committee explained that since the impeachment of Rep. Koffa as Speaker of the House of Representatives and the subsequent election of Rep. Richard Nagbe Koon, as Speaker, Rep. Koffa has deliberately usurped the offices of the Speaker.The committee complained that Koffa had refused to vacate the premises and concomitantly walked away with the keys thereto.During the Tuesday, February 4, 2025, session, some lawmakers suggested that the House, along with journalists, should forcefully break into the office.But others warned that such an act would be taking the law into their own hands. Following the intense exchanges, the House's Leadership assumed control of the matter, though its next course of action remains unclear.









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