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Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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VOL. 15 NO. 131 FRIDAY, AUGUST 01, 2025 PRICE LD\$50.00



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-As Transport Ministry regains control



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Continental News

Ghana expands visa-free travel with Global South as US borders tighten

Tanzania bans foreigners from key businesses, risks regional fallout

Ghanaians can now travel visa-free to four countries in the Global South, a move aimed at strengthening passport power after the US imposed travel restrictions on several African nations. Ghana signed a visa waiver agreement with Colombia, Mozambique, as well as the island nations of Dominica and São Tomé and Príncipe, Foreign Minister Sam Ablakwa announced on X, Sunday.

In June, Accra also secured a visa waiver with Morocco, with more agreements underway, Ablakwa stated. "The Mahama administration is determined to make the Ghanaian passport one of the most valuable and respected travel documents in the world". The announcement comes after the US government revised its visa reciprocity policy for Ghana in July, limiting tourist, business and academic travellers to single-entry visas valid for three months.

US President Trump has been an outspoken critic of open border policies, and on June 5th, the US enacted new travel bans affecting 12 countries, including Chad, the Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Libya, Somalia and Sudan. A week later, an internal US State Department cable suggested that another 36 countries including Ghana could face a travel ban if issues relating to alleged terrorist, anti-Semitic and anti-American activity weren't addressed. Travel restrictions to the US pose a significant risk to Ghana. The country received \$4.6bn in remittances from the US in 2023, according to the World bank – more than any other country in Africa besides Nigeria. While the US is tightening its borders, many African countries are instead pursuing new visa agreements with fellow developing nations. In July, Kenya eliminated visa requirements for nearly all African countries, following in the footsteps of Ghana, Rwanda and Benin.

Tanzania is cracking down on foreign participation in key sectors of its economy. Under a new directive, foreigners are now prohibited from engaging in 15 business areas considered essential to grassroots economic empowerment. These include running salons, small retail shops, eateries, and mobile money kiosks — businesses traditionally dominated by Tanzanians. Violators face tough penalties, including fines of up to 10 million Tanzanian shillings, the equivalent of nearly 3,900 US dollars, or up to six months in prison. Foreigners may also lose their residence permits and visas. Tanzanian citizens who assist non-citizens in these restricted businesses could be fined up to 5 million shillings or jailed for three months. The government says the move is aimed at boosting local job creation and income. But the decision is raising concerns across the East African Community. Many view it as a non-tariff barrier to regional trade and integration. With around 40,000 Kenyans living and working in Tanzania, many in the informal sector, the impact on livelihoods could be significant. Other countries, including Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, may also be affected. Fears are growing that this could spark tit-for-tat measures from neighboring states and threaten regional unity. This directive follows another bold economic step taken in May, when Tanzania banned the use of foreign currencies in domestic transactions, requiring all payments to be made in Tanzanian Shillings.



Ghana's President John Mahama addresses the high level meeting on rule of law in the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters Monday, Sept. 24, 2012.



In this photo taken Monday, March 30, 2020, traders sit by the vegetables they are selling at a street market in Dodoma, Tanzania.

Ghana cuts interest rates by 3 per cent as inflation eases

Ghana's central bank on Wednesday lowered its key interest rate by three per cent as the country's inflation eases and it emerges from its worst economic crisis in decades. The monetary policy committee voted by a majority decision to cut rates from 28 per cent to 25 per cent, the largest drop in its history. The bank says the move reflects growing confidence in the disinflation trend, which has seen consumer prices fall faster than ever before. Consumer inflation eased in June to 13.7 per cent year-on-year, down from 18.4 per cent, the sixth consecutive monthly drop. At the same time, since

the start of the year, the local currency - the cedi -- has appreciated by more than 40 per cent against the US dollar. This improvement has been supported by stronger external buffers, rising exports, and growing investor confidence. But despite the progress, including reduced fuel and transport costs, many ordinary Ghanaians face hardship as the cost of

living continues to rise. While food inflation has eased, at 16.3 per cent it remains above the overall inflation in July. Earlier this month, the International Monetary Fund said the major cocoa and gold producer Ghana was making headway in the economic reforms and debt restructuring embarked on since President John Mahama came to office in January.



Kantamanto market in Accra, Ghana, 31 October 2024

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EDITORIAL

Liberia needs economic independence

Celebration of political independence is meaningless for Liberia unless the country and its citizens rise up to fight for economic independence, which hinges on our survival as a nation. The sooner Liberians realize this, the better it would be for this country and its unborn generation.

We agree with the orator of the 178th Independence Day celebration that Liberians can't talk about true independence without talking about economic independence. Rev. Dr. Emmett Lafayette Dunn, stressed that it is time Liberians confront a painful truth, because too much of Liberia's economy is owned and controlled by foreign interests.

This is the stark reality that faces a country of 178 years old that has sat back and allowed its economy to be piloted by foreigners all these years, giving them freedom to take away profits, leaving the country bare. This must change and only Liberians both at home and abroad can do it; no one else.

"While foreign investment is welcome", Dr. Dunn stressed, "it must not be at the expense of our dignity. The soul of our economy must be Liberian. Liberians must be actively involved in owning businesses. Liberians must be positioned to create wealth, not just consume it. To do that, we must nurture and grow a vibrant middle class, one built on entrepreneurship, skilled labor, professional excellence, and innovation."

But we like to remind that economic independence does not come on a silver platter. And no Liberia should be under any elusion. It will require toil and sweat, sincerity, sacrifice and discipline that would some time lead to self-denial, amid challenges.

Also, Liberians would have to demonstrate sincerity and trust in order to turn the economic wheel around in their favor. For too long, successive governments had preached Liberianization Policy without walking the talk: Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf set aside a special fund to empower Liberian entrepreneurs, but the scheme was mismanaged thru political patronage with official organizing bogus companies and taking the money. Former President Weah promised that under his administration, Liberians would not be spectators in their own economy, but a financial scheme initiated by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry under the leadership of former Minister Professor Wilson Tarpeh, was characterized by lack of transparency and accountability, leaving deputy Minister Jemamah Wolokollie to resign.

Besides, most Liberian-owned companies are noted for defaulting on contracts and absconding with public funds meant to deliver social services. Not just that, most Liberians are not trustworthy in paying back loans taken from commercial banks.

We need to first clean our backyards and put our houses in order to wage the battle for economic independence or else, the foreigners will continue to be far ahead of us.

Orator Dunn also emphasized that a strong middle class is the backbone of every stable society, adding that it generates jobs, drives demand, pays taxes, and anchors democracy.

However, government he says should create an enabling environment for small and medium enterprises to grow and to make access to credit easier, as well as to invest in technical and vocational training and modernize agriculture so that farming becomes profitable again.

The road ahead of us in achieving economic independence will be tough and clouded temptations, because many Liberians have gotten accustomed to during business as usual; they have been used to fronting for foreign-owned businesses for peanuts and having life the easy way, instead of laboring with their hands for a better future. In this new front being called for, we have no choice, if we as nation must be truly independent in the sense of the word.

COMMENTARY

Europe's Economic Surrender

By Alberto Alemanno

PARIS – When US President Donald Trump and European Commission President [Ursula von der Leyen](#) shook hands at Trump's Scottish golf resort on Sunday, they weren't just announcing a [new trade deal](#) – they were formalizing Europe's economic and ideological surrender. By agreeing to 15% tariffs on most exports to the United States, the European Union has capitulated to Trump's zero-sum worldview. In doing so, it has abandoned the principles of multilateralism that have long guided global trade.

The economic consequences are immediate and severe. European exporters now face tariffs nearly ten times higher than the previous trade-weighted average of 1.6%. Volkswagen alone has reported a [€1.3 billion](#) (\$1.5 billion) hit due to higher US tariffs. But the tariff rate itself is just part of the problem. The real damage lies in what the EU agreed to pay for the “privilege” of maintaining access to the US market: a commitment to purchase \$750 billion worth of American energy over three years and to invest another \$600 billion in the US economy. These staggering sums will inevitably divert resources from European development and innovation while legitimizing bilateral coercion over the multilateral, rules-based World Trade Organization system. As critics have rightly [pointed out](#), this massive outflow comes directly at the expense of domestic investment.

What makes the EU's surrender especially troubling is how unnecessary it was. As America's largest economic partner, with [nearly \\$1 trillion](#) in annual trade, the EU has considerable leverage. While the US runs a [\\$235.6 billion goods deficit](#) with the EU, the bloc's [€148 billion services deficit](#) with the US offered clear avenues for retaliation, from digital taxes to restrictions on American tech giants. Weeks earlier, anticipating a stalemate, European policymakers had prepared counter-tariffs targeting [€93 billion](#) worth of American goods. But the EU had far more potent weapons at its disposal. Its Anti-Coercion Instrument, for example, could have barred US companies from government contracts, revoked intellectual-property rights, and imposed broader trade restrictions. Yet national leaders, fearing Trump's retaliation and under pressure from domestic industries eager to maintain access to the US market, refused to authorize von der Leyen to use any of these tools, forcing her to negotiate from a position of weakness.

The contrast with other US trading partners could not be starker. When the United Kingdom secured a [10% tariff rate](#) from Trump in May, European leaders [expressed concern](#) about accepting similar terms. Now, they hail 15% tariffs on EU exports as a diplomatic breakthrough. The uncomfortable truth is that Britain, acting alone, negotiated better terms than the EU as a whole.

This failure exposes the fundamental weakness of European governance. Lacking a true EU-wide governance system, the bloc remains incapable of translating competing national agendas into a unified position. With von der Leyen hamstrung by member states prioritizing narrow domestic interests over European cohesion, the result was a deal that pleases no one but Trump and locks Europe into a state of structured dependency.

The EU's failure to push back against Trump is especially troubling given its stated goal of achieving strategic autonomy. Some may argue that the deal – technically not a formal trade agreement but rather a set of statements outlining an ongoing negotiation process – buys time. By appeasing Trump, the argument goes, the Commission has maintained transatlantic ties while creating space for future carve-outs. But if this were truly a time-buying strategy, we would expect the EU to take concrete steps to advance strategic autonomy: boosting defense spending, accelerating supply-chain diversification, and investing in retaliatory capabilities. Instead, after years of pledging to reduce reliance on foreign powers, EU leaders chose to replace Russian energy imports with American supplies and commit to massive purchases of US military equipment. Europe's subordination both reflects and reinforces the continent's dependence on US power. For decades, European countries have failed to meet NATO's defense-spending targets, content to shelter under the US nuclear umbrella. Now, the same deference is playing out on the economic front, as the EU proves unable to marshal its collective weight in the face of Trump's pressure tactics. This military and economic dependency has created a structural imbalance that extends across defense, trade, and energy, leaving Europe in a state of permanent vassalization.

Trump's ability to extract sweeping economic concessions and defense-spending commitments shows how effectively the US can weaponize Europe's security anxieties to pursue broader geopolitical objectives. The \$600 billion investment pledge, much of it earmarked for military-equipment purchases, forces Europe to subsidize American defense contractors while undermining its own industrial base.

By giving in to Trump's demands, the EU missed a rare opportunity to demonstrate that large markets cannot be bullied. Instead of setting a powerful precedent for other regions confronting US economic pressure, it has validated Trump's transactional approach, emboldening not only future American administrations but also other global powers eager to turn trade into an instrument of geopolitical coercion.

While the immediate crisis may have passed, the long-term damage to EU credibility and autonomy will be long-lasting. The widespread perception that Europe surrenders without resistance will undoubtedly invite further challenges to European interests. Rather than attempting to shift the blame to von der Leyen, EU member states must ask themselves whether avoiding a trade war was worth abandoning Europe's foundational commitment to multilateralism and forfeiting any credible path toward strategic autonomy. Until European leaders find the courage to break the cycle of dependency by empowering EU institutions to act decisively against external coercion, these humiliating capitulations will only multiply, reducing the continent to a prosperous yet powerless appendage of the American empire.

Alberto Alemanno, Professor of European Union Law at HEC Paris and visiting professor at the College of Europe in Bruges and Natolin, is Founder of The Good Lobby and the author of [Lobbying for Change: Find Your Voice to Create a Better Society](#) (Icon Books, 2017).



The Original

Letter to God

with Odilata B. Gerdiah

Lord, let them leave my learned friend small na

Dear Father:

They say everybody just on my man back ooh. Can you imagine since ley man went and put him mouth on ley people at ley Palava Hut, him life has not been easy. They say da whatin him do?

Father, ley man say why ley elder them at ley Palava Hut mon say, ley thin ley chief them from ley Traditional Council doing ay wrong. Him say da bad example there so. Him say, how they will talk da kina thin, when ley Rebel them pass ley ingredients for ley Village cake, da ley elder them are eating their own-no noise.

Him say, if they say it leh da, den they mon bring their owner cake back, since ley Rebel them who fixed it na have ley right to fix it.

Hmm, my son, ley thing your friend talky small sense inside oo.

Yes, oo Father, my learned friend say da bad example ley people from ley Palava Hut na set so. Him say why they mon say all ley thing them ley rebel chief them doing at tey Traditional Council bad, den they mon bring their share of ley cake back. Da ley fire ley man put in ley hole so oo. Um, my son, you sure nathin behind this whole thin here.

Aah, Father my name ooh. Bor I hear say small money bisnay inside oo. You say whatin!

Aah, Father, da ley reason iI na wan talk for ooh. You know dis whole wahala here da so, so money bisnay inside. Ehn you remember da chief from ley borough –“You eat, I eat” and ley other one I will see what to do.” Hmm, ley people them.

Yes, oo Father, ehn da them there they just chopping our village money leh da. All ley noise on da Hill, particularly to da Traditional Council there da so, so money bisnay.

Father, ley people money bisnay too strong leh goat peppe. And all da thing den they doing so ley suffering da inside dis village here ay na easy. Da small thin!

Yes, ooh Father, ay na easy in dis village here ooh, da only God manning us here oo. Imagine, people work no money to take pay.

Hmm, den you can just imainge ley people den who na doing nathin, just sitting down home. So, da whatin ley Oldman doing na?

Father, da small fuel ley Papay putting inside ley fire. Ay na small fuel oo. All ley thing den ley Oldman used to be talking against, da ley thin dem him doin. In fact, even worse things. Bor da who dem advising him so?

Father, who know to him? Him gat so, so him children around him, no good advice. They just want for their pockets and their girlfriend dem.

Bor we inside, ehn we say, we na wan short man, we side good, good. We just pray for God to continue manning us oo-ay na easy.

OP-ED

By Emmanuel Guerin and Bernice Lee

Can Europe and China Forge a Climate Connection?

PARIS/LONDON – Earlier this year, the Chinese firm CATL, the world's largest battery-maker, [unveiled](#) an electric-vehicle (EV) battery capable of delivering a remarkable 520 kilometers (323 miles) of driving range after just five minutes of charging. The announcement came a month after BYD, China's leading EV manufacturer, [launched](#) its own ultra-fast charging system. In solar, too, the numbers are staggering: Chinese firms can now produce over [1,200 gigawatts](#) of solar panels annually.

These feats are a product of the global green-tech race, which China leads by a wide margin. Some frame this as a problem of Chinese oversupply. But another way of looking at it is that the rest of the world isn't deploying these technologies fast enough. While China's green-manufacturing engine is running at high speed, others are idling.

Given this, Europe confronts a strategic choice. It can respond with defensive industrial policy: securing supply chains, raising tariffs, and futilely attempting to catch up. Or it could forge a shared competitiveness agenda, which would allow Europe to use its strengths – rulemaking, coalition-building, and norm-setting – to shape the deployment environment, define standards, and guide green investment frameworks.

Despite the breakdown in ties between the European Union and China in recent years, the idea of collaborating on clean trade and investment is not so far-fetched. The climate transition is the defining political and economic challenge of the twenty-first century. And on this front, the EU and China have become interdependent: if Europe pumps the breaks on decarbonization, Chinese assets could be stranded, whereas China could face retaliation if it refuses to collaborate or align with global norms. The question now is whether they can constructively shape their interdependence.

Taking advantage of the narrow window for establishing a climate partnership requires a deal that promotes each government's core economic interests. For the EU, that means reducing reliance on Chinese imports while moving up the value chain. For China, it means maintaining access to a high-value export market amid a shifting global trade environment. Success requires pragmatism on both sides.

Whether the EU and China can cooperate effectively depends on several factors. First, they must reach an agreement on local-content requirements. The EU should target domestic production of at least 40% of green technologies by 2030 – not just low-paid assembly, but higher-value activities like research and development – to create jobs and build resilience.

Second, any partnership must open the door for joint ventures, which have helped China reach the technological frontier and are already emerging in the EU battery and automotive sectors. If correctly structured, such partnerships can drive mutual gains while building cooperation into long-term industrial strategies.

Third, trade measures must be carefully calibrated. While the EU has imposed tariffs as high as [45.3%](#) on Chinese EVs, import barriers alone cannot close competitiveness gaps. At best, they can complement more strategic policy efforts such as local-content rules and industrial partnerships. If poorly implemented, they could further weaken Europe's technological position, rather than buying it time to catch up with China.

Fourth, there is a need for structured mobility schemes. Some EU member states have begun restricting visas for Chinese engineers. This is short-sighted. Enabling European firms to host Chinese talent and vice versa would ensure that R&D and design, not just final assembly, occur in Europe.

Ultimately, finding a way to collaborate on decarbonization efforts would yield economic and geopolitical dividends for both sides. Collaboration with China would strengthen the EU's resilience, bolster its industrial sector, and cement the bloc as a leader in clean tech. China would be able to offload surplus green goods, secure market access, and signal to the world that, while the United States is retreating from climate action, it remains dedicated to green growth.

The EU and China are more aligned than many realize. Both are net fossil-fuel importers. Both are major producers of zero-carbon technologies, and thus have an interest in sustaining global demand for green products. And, amid growing uncertainty, both have bet on the energy transition as the most viable path to competitiveness and innovation.

This window of opportunity will not stay open forever. As scientific and political timelines converge, the coming months are critical to keep the world on track to meet the Paris climate agreement's 1.5° Celsius goal. The recent EU-China Summit [laid the groundwork](#) for closer cooperation on decarbonization. But, as pressure mounts to [submit 2035 climate targets](#) ahead of November's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, the [next meeting](#) of the Council of the EU in September, under the Danish presidency, will be pivotal.

With many European countries – most notably France – pushing for a clearer industrial and investment plan before [committing](#) to a strong 2035 emissions-reduction target, EU heads of state and government must devise a framework for transforming industry at the September meeting. An important part of that plan will be how the bloc engages with China.

By coalescing around the belief that the new must be built before the old can be phased out, Europe is starting to follow China's strategy. But to do so, it must also learn from China's coherent and systematic execution, which centers on long-term planning across the entire clean-tech value chain.

China, too, must step up with an ambitious 2035 emissions target that is aligned with its 2060 net-zero goal – meaning a roughly [30%](#) reduction from peak emissions, which are expected to be reached this decade. This would bolster its international credibility and help create space for a strong EU target.

Both Europe and China have wagered their future on green growth. To make it a winning bet, and capture the full benefits of decarbonization, they must find common cause on clean trade and investment – one of the few areas where strategic self-interest and global public goods still converge.

Emmanuel Guerin is a fellow and Special Adviser to the CEO at the European Climate Foundation. Bernice Lee is a distinguished fellow and Special Adviser at Chatham House.

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Monrovia, Liberia; August 1, 2025 - The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Government of Liberia and International partners 2025 Mid-Year Programme Review and Planning meeting on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Liberia, has shown

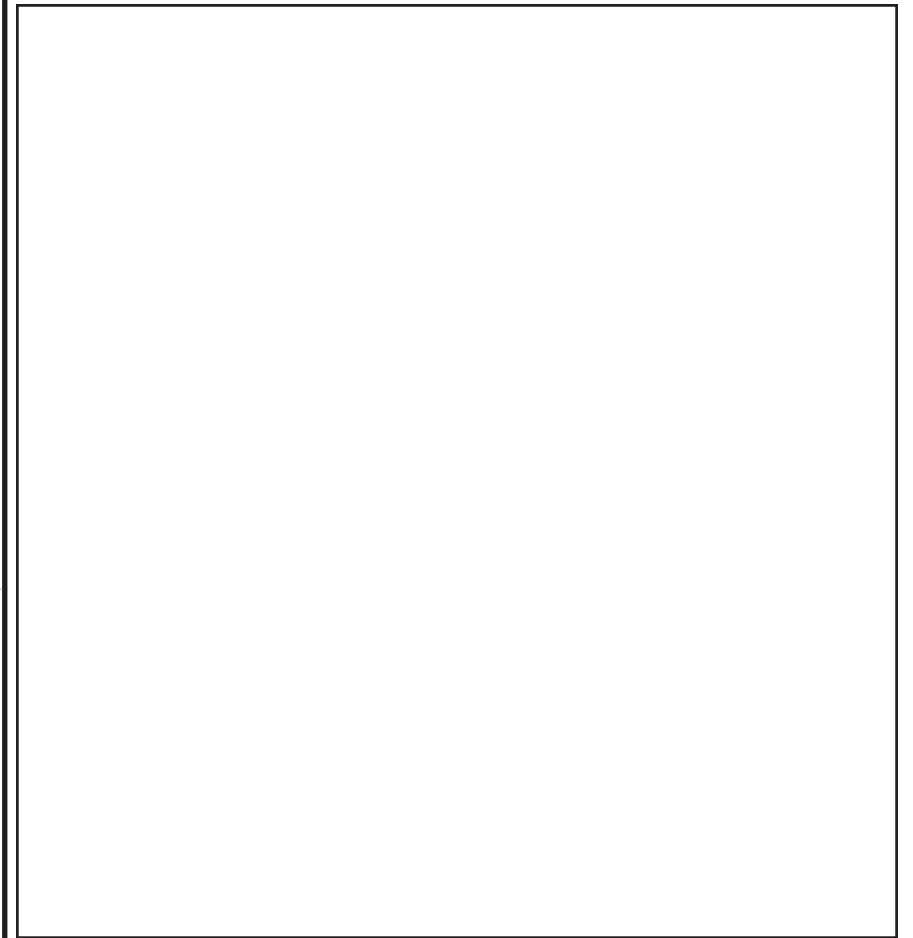


that 585,000 clients received family planning counseling, with only a small fraction less than 10% of adolescents counseled chose to initiate contraceptive use. On Thursday, July 31, 2025, the Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, LISGIS, along with civil society, and the international community, gathered to assess implementation progress, celebrate achievements, and identify challenges encountered during the first half of the year on the implementation of the SRHR Project. The session also served to realign efforts and strengthen partnerships for the remainder of the program year. However, the primary objectives of the review were to evaluate progress made under the fifth Country Programme Document (CPD), spotlight key achievements and success stories, document lessons learned and recommend corrective actions to ensure full realization of planned results before the end of 2025. The 2025 Mid-Year Programme Review and Planning meeting concluded with renewed calls for evidence-driven, equitable, and urgent actions to strengthen Liberia's sexual and reproductive health systems. Remarking during the program, Sanford Wesseh, UNFPA Programme Specialist for Data and Evidence, shared sobering statistics on family planning, antenatal care, and institutional delivery across Liberia. The figures, drawn from January

deliveries were handled by unskilled personnel, as a result of skilled staff delegating to aides. "This undermines the very purpose of institutional delivery," Wesseh warned. Liberia also recorded a 76% increase in cesarean sections from Q1 to Q2, totaling nearly 8,000 procedures in the first half of 2025. Montserrado led the counties, though equity in access across counties remains an issue. The Minister of Budget and Planning, Wellington Barchue, praised UNFPA and partners for their enduring support through multiple crises in Liberia's history, including conflict and pandemics. "This mid-year review could not have come at a more critical time," he said. "We have just launched our new national development strategy—the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development. We urge all development actors to ensure that their final year inputs into the Country Programme reflect the priorities of this new plan." Barchue also provided insights into the ongoing national budget planning process, including Liberia's efforts to transition to program-based budgeting. The Officer-in-Charge at UNFPA Liberia, Leonard Kamugisha, outlined significant achievements during the first half of 2025, including the finalization of Liberia's sixth Country Programme Document and its upcoming consideration by the UNFPA Executive Board in August. "Despite global funding cuts, notably from the U.S. government, we remain encouraged by the steadfast support from partners like Sweden and Ireland," Kamugisha said. "We also recognize new partnerships with the Embassy of Japan and ongoing collaborations under the EU-funded Spotlight Initiative." He spotlighted progress made on national guidelines for family planning, collaborative work with the First Lady's office to champion maternal health, and preparations for launching Liberia's third-generation National Population Policy. Expected outputs from the 2025 Mid-Year Review include a comprehensive implementation progress report, documentation of success stories, identified best practices, and a roadmap for the remaining months of the year. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

an explosion that rapidly engulfed the building. The dead victims have been identified as Perryline and Lucy Perry, both minors. Despite swift responses from residents and emergency personnel, the flames caused irreparable damage. Local authorities have launched an investigation to determine the exact cause of the fire. The injured victims are currently receiving medical care. The two deceased individuals were buried immediately, a decision that has sparked concern among some residents. The incident has reignited public calls for increased awareness about safe handling of flammable materials in communities. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

River Gee County, Liberia; August 1, 2025 – At least two persons are reportedly dead, and three others severely burnt after a fire outbreak in Tienpo Statutory District, River Gee County. The incident occurred on July 26, 2025, on Independence Day, around noon X. The blaze, reportedly sparked by a gas line explosion, claimed the lives of two individuals and left three others severely injured. The fire broke out at the home of 33-year-old Perry Daniels in Narka Village. According to eyewitnesses, Mr. Daniels was smoking and allegedly threw a lit cigarette near a gasoline stored inside the house, which triggered



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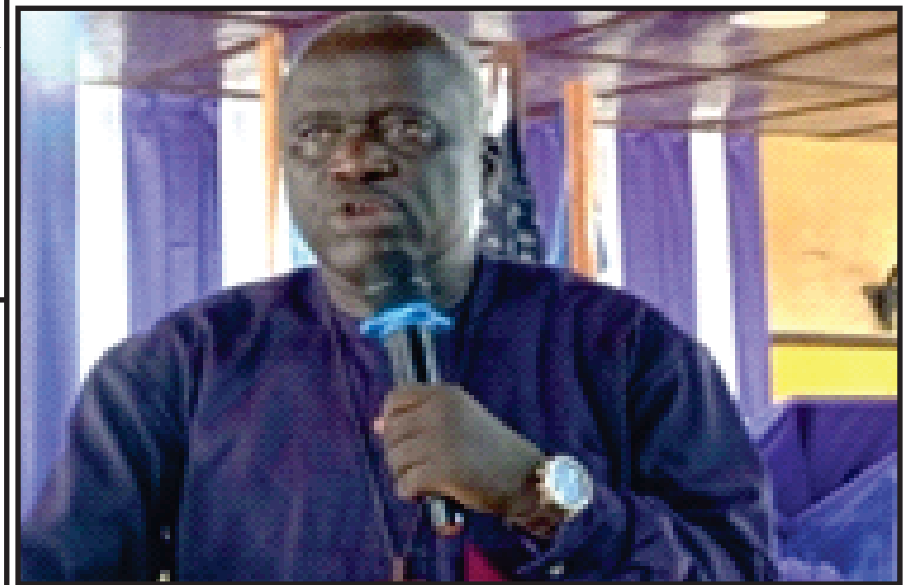
PUBLISHED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS INC.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266
Opposite the National Investment Commission
Monrovia - Liberia.
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Save the jobs

Bishop Kortu Brown of the New Water in the Desert Apostolic Church is appealing to President Joseph Nyuma Boakai to reconsider the decision to award the transport management contract to a non-Liberian company that is set to take jobs from employees of the Ministry of Transport.

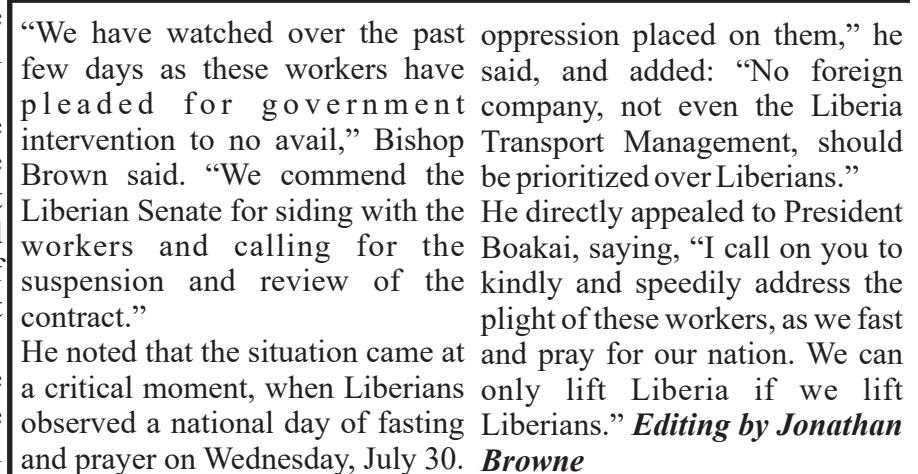
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“These are also God's children.
Let us remove the chains of



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PUBLISHED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS INC.,
 UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266
 Opposite the National Investment Commission
 Monrovia - Liberia.

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PRESS







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LLA lifts moratorium on sale and lease of public land

Land Rights Regulation." And finally, the land authority will verify every survey document before reaching the court to avoid the wrongful sale of land. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Kpakio noted that land ownership in Liberia has long posed a serious national security concern and warned that if left unaddressed, land-related disputes could escalate into conflict. "Since taking office, my administration has been focused on ensuring transparent adjudication of land disputes, improving revenue tracking, and

enhancing service delivery across the fifteen counties," Kpakio stated. "We remain committed to implementing transformative policies and ensuring that women's land rights, as well as the rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), are fully respected and protected." He assured the public that the LLA will conduct robust public awareness campaigns to help citizens understand their rights, roles, and responsibilities under the new framework. **-Edited by Othello B. Garblah.**

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Liberia validates strategic framework for phase 8

outcomes include reaching agreement on the roles and responsibilities of partners and stakeholders, integrating gender equality and environmental safeguards, and identifying co-financing opportunities and synergies with national and donor-supported programmes. Participants represented a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including civil society and community-based organizations, government ministries and agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Forestry Development Authority (FDA), and the Ministry of Mines & Energy; academic institutions including the University of Liberia, Stella Maris Polytechnic, and AME University; the private sector, notably Ecobank; and international development partners such as the European Union, UN Women, Conservation International, the World Bank, FAO, and the Embassy of Sweden. The event reaffirmed Liberia's commitment to environmental sustainability, inclusive development, and locally led climate and biodiversity action. Once finalized, the CPS will be submitted to the UNOPS Country Team for formal approval, setting the stage for community-level projects aligned with Liberia's national development priorities and the global Sustainable Development Goals.

Liberia to introduce new metering system

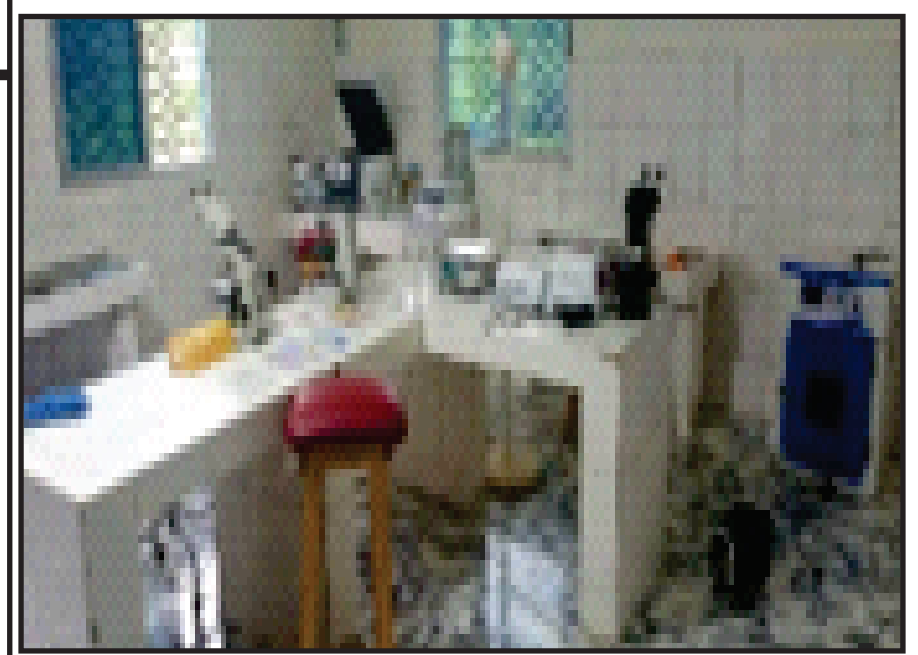
By: Kruah Thompson

The Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is planning to introduce a new net metering system that will help to reduce pressure on the national power grid, which is often unreliable in the country. According to Oxford Dictionaries, Net Metering is a System that allows people who have solar panels (or other renewable energy sources) on their homes or businesses to send extra electricity they generate back to the national power grid and receive credit for it on their electricity bills. If the plan is successfully executed, you will need to connect your house to the power grid through Liberia Electricity Corporation - LEC, and the net metering system will be set up to allow you to use either solar panels or LEC current to both power your home and send extra electricity back to the grid. A special meter will be given to you to track how much power you take from the grid and how much you send back. If you send more electricity than you use, you'll get credit on your LEC electricity bill. Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ministry of Mines and Energy hosted a foreign technical experts from The Gambia including Bafoday Sanyang from the Gambia's Ministry of Petroleum, Energy, and Mines and Burama Jammeh of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) for a two-day workshop aimed at deepening Liberia's understanding of net metering and its strategic empowers communities, and importance in achieving the "directly contributes to country's climate goals under achieving Liberia's NDCs." the Paris Agreement. To translate policy into action, Dr. Yarkpawolo proposed the enactment of a National Net Metering Regulation, presentations, policy integration of net metering data discussions, and knowledge into NDC reporting systems, sharing sessions focused on provision of incentives for frameworks that promote adopters, and broad public awareness campaigns. He further called for coordinated efforts among Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo, critical institutions, including Executive Director of the EPA, the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission pressure on the national grid, (LERC), Liberia Electricity and opens up new economic Corporation (LEC), and the opportunities for Liberians and EPA, to ensure a smooth and strengthens the country ability effective rollout. Delivering a special statement on behalf of the Government and people of Liberia, Mines and Energy Minister Wilmot Paye In his opening remarks, he said underscored the significance of "Net metering is not just a regional collaboration in technical mechanism, but rather advancing a just energy supports energy democracy, "This exchange will ensure that

Courage Medical & Rehab Center launches advanced laboratory training

-To Strengthen Rural Healthcare in Bong. **By Edwin N. Khakie**

In a significant stride toward improving rural healthcare delivery in Liberia, Courage Medical & Rehabilitation Center in Gbarnga has announced the commencement of a two-day intensive laboratory training aimed at enhancing the technical capacity of its diagnostic staff. Scheduled for August 1st and 2nd, the training will focus on hands-on and procedural instruction, equipping laboratory technicians with the skills needed to operate newly acquired diagnostic equipment effectively. A certified medical laboratory specialist will facilitate the program and will cover 30 core laboratory tests essential for quality healthcare delivery. Mr. Dennis Garsinii, the founder and vision bearer of the facility, emphasized that the initiative is highlighted is the integration of the Butterfly iQ3 Imaging portable ultrasound tool provides real-time, high-resolution imaging at the point of care. When paired with the Center's advanced lab technology, the Butterfly iQ3 positions the facility as a leading rural diagnostic center in Liberia. Mr. Garsinii also assured the public that all other clinical services will remain fully operational throughout the training period. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to God and partners for the progress made, especially in securing high-end medical equipment critical to diagnostics and treatment. At a time when many rural health facilities are constrained by outdated equipment and a lack of



part of a broader strategy to modernize rural medical services. Medical & Rehab Center's investment in both human resources and cutting-edge technology offers renewed hope for healthcare advancement in Bong County and beyond. One of the key innovations

our net metering framework is not only technically sound but socially inclusive and economically viable," said Minister Paye. "It reflects Liberia's commitment to cleaner energy and stronger regional integration." The Gambia's delegation offered valuable insights into their net metering experience. Bafoday Sanyang from the Ministry of Petroleum, Energy, and Mines presented on Gambia's energy policy goals. At the same time, Burama Jammeh of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) shared details of the country's legal and regulatory frameworks for net metering. Both experts highlighted how net metering has helped The Gambia expand access to renewable energy, increase public-private participation, and improve energy resilience. "As Liberia aims to implement its NDC 3.0 and scale up renewable energy adoption, the technical exchange marked a timely and strategic engagement. Net metering is not just a futuristic concept but a present-day opportunity for Liberia to accelerate its green transition, decentralize power generation, and attract climate-smart investments.

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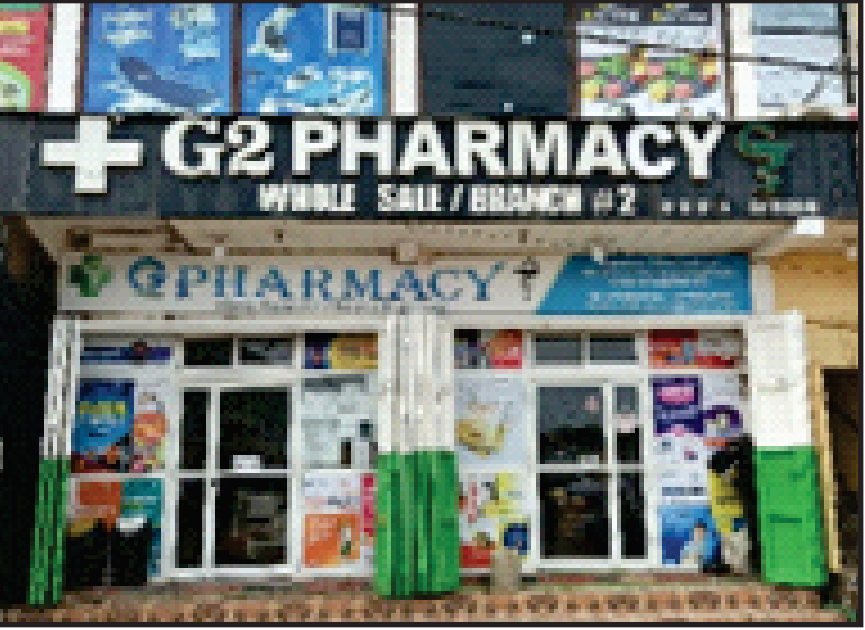


La Pharmacie G2 dans la tourmente

La Pharmacie G2 est sous le feu des projecteurs après avoir été accusée d'avoir importé et distribué en Libéria un anesthésique interdit, le Bupivacaïne à 0,5 %, impliqué dans la mort tragique d'un adolescent de 16 ans en début d'année. L'Incident, survenu à l'hôpital

pharmaceutique au Libéria. Le jeune garçon est décédé peu de temps après l'administration du médicament anesthésique, don't l'origine remonterait à G2 Pharmacy. Une enquête menée récemment par le journal The New Dawn a confirmé un lien entre le produit suspect et le décès du patient, selon des sources proches du dossier. Un

profondément ce qui s'est passé, mais nous ne pouvons pas ramener l'enfant. Il se pourrait qu'il y ait des motivations politiques derrière cette résurgence. » Le 22 janvier 2025, la Commission indépendante de recours de l'Autorité de régulation des médicaments et des produits de santé du Libéria (LMHRA) a reçu une plainte formelle de la part des départements d'inspection et de pharmacovigilance. Celle-ci dénonçait l'importation et la distribution, par G2 Pharmacy, de Bupivacaïne (0,5 %) sans étiquetage en anglais — en violation flagrante des normes d'emballage de la LMHRA. À l'issue de son enquête, la Commission a reconnu la pharmacie coupable de manquement à l'Article IV, Section 1, Point I du Règlement sur l'étiquetage. G2 Pharmacy s'est initialement vue infliger une amende de 3 500 USD par boîte, pour un total de 236 boîtes mal étiquetées — soit une sanction de 118 000 USD. Ce montant a cependant été considérablement réduit à seule ment



catholique Saint Joseph le 3 janvier 2025, a profondément choqué l'opinion publique et ravivé les inquiétudes concernant le contrôle réglementaire du secteur responsable ayant requis l'anonymat a déclaré : Ø « Cette affaire a été réglée depuis un moment. Je ne comprends pas pourquoi elle revient à la une. Nous regrettons

Cllr. Gongloe critique la transition économique du Liberia

L'ancien candidat à la présidence du Liberia, Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe, a partagé une analyse critique de la trajectoire économique du pays, appelant à une rupture radicale avec l'économie fondée sur l'exportation de matières premières. Il a présenté une stratégie pour engager le Liberia sur la voie d'un développement réel et durable. S'exprimant lors d'un échange virtuel avec des membres de la diaspora libérienne basés en Australie, Me Gongloe a vivement critiqué l'état de sous-développement persistant du pays, malgré ses 178 ans d'indépendance. Ø « Compte tenu du niveau de pauvreté et de retard économique que connaît le Liberia depuis 1847, je me sens obligé de poser une question fondamentale : quel genre de pays sommes-nous ? » Il a rappelé que dès avant son indépendance, le Liberia exportait déjà de l'huile de palme, du piment, du bois et du manioc. En 2025, le pays continue d'exporter des matières premières non transformées telles que le

caoutchouc, le minerai de fer, l'or, les diamants et le bois brut. Ø « Nous abattons nos arbres pour ensuite acheter des bancs et des pupitres fabriqués à l'étranger », a-t-il déclaré. Dans son discours intitulé « Des matières premières au véritable développement : l'heure d'un leadership transformationnel », Cllr. Gongloe a souligné l'urgence de repenser le modèle économique libérien. Il a notamment critiqué la récente inauguration d'une usine de concentration de minerai de fer par ArcelorMittal comme un symbole du retard du pays : Ø « Après 178 ans d'indépendance, célébrer l'inauguration d'une usine de concentration au lieu d'une

aciérie est une régression. Le Liberia disposait déjà d'une usine de concentration et de granulation avant la guerre civile. La véritable annonce aurait dû être la création d'une aciérie », a-t-il martelé. Le juriste a également déploré l'importation de produits dérivés de matières premières que le pays possède en abondance : Ø « Pourquoi importons-nous des gants médicaux alors que nous produisons du caoutchouc naturel ? Pourquoi ne pas valoriser notre or et nos diamants localement ? Tant que le Liberia se contentera d'exporter des ressources brute



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).



6WDUWV IUR
1 000 USD.

Le dossier n'a été porté à l'attention du Conseil d'administration de la LMHRA qu'en juin 2025. Lors de sa réunion du 11 juillet 2025, le Conseil a examiné les résultats de l'enquête et adopté une résolution officielle. Parmi les principales décisions prises : Le rappel immédiat de tous les lots mal étiquetés de Bupivacaïne sur le marché, aux frais de G2 Pharmacy ; La suspension pour une durée indéterminée de la licence d'importation de médicaments de G2 Pharmacy, conformément à l'Article VIII, Section 3 de la loi sur la LMHRA.

La Pharmacie G2 dans la tourmente

Dans un document certifié, la LMHRA indique : « Il est par la présente certifié que ce document constitue une copie conforme de la résolution adoptée par le Conseil d'administration de l'Autorité de régulation des médicaments et des produits de santé du Libéria (LMHRA), autorisant le Directeur général à mettre pleinement en œuvre les mesures et responsabilités découlant des mandats de l'Autorité. » Malgré plusieurs tentatives, les responsables de G2 Pharmacy n'ont pu être joints. Selon des sources internes, la seule personne habilitée à s'exprimer sur cette affaire serait actuellement hors du pays.

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Elk. Gongloe critique la transition économique du Liberia

s, il restera pauvre et sous-développé. Nous exportons des emplois bien rémunérés en envoyant nos matières premières à l'étranger. » Enfin, il a établi un lien direct entre pauvreté généralisée et instabilité sociale, soulignant que l'absence de transformation économique compromet également la paix et la

réconciliation nationale : « La pauvreté de masse entraîne la faim de masse. Et un peuple affamé est un peuple en colère. Or, la colère est la principale cause de la violence. Tant que cette réalité perdurera, la paix et la sécurité internes seront toujours menacées », a-t-il conclu.

Comté de Nimba : ArcelorMittal célèbre la fête de l'indépendance aux côtés des communautés locales

ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML), l'un des plus grands investisseurs et employeurs du pays, a célébré la 178e fête de l'indépendance du Liberia aux côtés des communautés locales du comté de Nimba, le 28 juillet 2025. Les festivités se sont déroulées dans plusieurs villes et villages situés dans les zones d'opération de l'entreprise, notamment à Nimba, Gbedin, Zolowee et d'autres localités affectées par la concession dans le district électoral n°2. À Zolowee, l'ambiance était particulièrement festive. Plus de 700 enfants se sont rassemblés pour participer à une journée de joie, de partage et de réflexion. À cette occasion, AML a distribué des cadeaux, notamment des collations, des jouets et des paires de sandales. Pour de nombreux enfants, il s'agissait d'une expérience inédite et mémorable, leur

permettant de célébrer l'indépendance nationale dans une atmosphère conviviale et inclusive. La communauté de Zolowee, voisine directe des opérations minières de l'entreprise, a exprimé sa gratitude envers AML pour cette initiative centrée sur les plus jeunes. « Merci infiniment à AML pour tout ce que vous faites », a déclaré M. Wesley Gbato, président de la jeunesse locale. « Cette célébration a une grande signification pour notre communauté, surtout pour les enfants qui se sentent valorisés et pris en compte. » Les parents présents n'ont pas caché leur émotion. L'un d'entre eux, interviewé par des journalistes, a salué l'effort de l'entreprise : « Je tiens à remercier AML. Mon fils a reçu des sandales, du pop-corn et des bonbons. Ce genre d'initiatives n'existait pas auparavant, alors je dis un grand merci pour tout ce qu'ils font aujourd'hui. Qu'ils continuent ainsi », a-t-il déclaré avec émotion. Cette célébration du 26 juillet

s'inscrit dans l'engagement constant d'ArcelorMittal Liberia en faveur du développement communautaire et de l'inclusion sociale. Au-delà des investissements en infrastructures et en économie, l'entreprise renforce ses liens avec les communautés riveraines par des actions sociales qui promeuvent l'unité, la culture et le bien-être. Alors que le Liberia fêtait son indépendance, la célébration à Nimba a rappelé que le développement national ne repose pas uniquement sur les grands projets, mais aussi sur les gestes simples de solidarité qui rapprochent les populations. Pour les habitants de Zolowee et des environs, la présence d'ArcelorMittal à ces festivités dépassait la simple symbolique : elle représentait un geste de proximité, de respect et d'attention envers les communautés directement touchées par ses activités.

Les États-Unis relancent l'espoir du Liberia dans le programme MCC

Le gouvernement libérien a annoncé une avancée majeure dans la relance de son partenariat avec la Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) des États-Unis, marquant une étape significative dans l'agenda national de développement. Après des mois d'incertitude et l'interruption du programme au début du mandat de l'actuelle administration américaine, le Liberia figure désormais parmi les pays proposés pour une réaffirmation au sein du programme Compact du MCC.



Alors que la MCC annonçait récemment l'annulation de plusieurs engagements avec d'autres pays, le Liberia, en revanche, a reçu une communication officielle de Mme Alicia Robinson-Morgan, Directrice régionale pour l'Afrique à la MCC, confirmant que le dossier libérien est activement examiné par le Conseil d'administration de l'agence en vue d'une réintégration. Le Conseil devrait se réunir la semaine prochaine pour délibérer sur l'éligibilité du Liberia et sur la possibilité de relancer formellement le processus d'élaboration du Compact. S'exprimant le 28 juillet devant un groupe de journalistes, le ministre libérien des Finances et de la Planification du développement, M. Augustine K. Ngafuan, a salué cette avancée comme une étape historique pour le pays : « Nous avons reçu un signal fort de Washington. La lettre de Mme Robinson-Morgan nous informe que le Liberia a été proposé pour une réaffirmation, et le Conseil du MCC se réunira bientôt pour en discuter. Tous les indicateurs sont au vert », a-t-il déclaré. Le ministre a attribué ce progrès à la diplomatie stratégique menée par le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai et son équipe : « Le président n'était pas simplement en train de parler un bon anglais à Washington lors du Sommet des dirigeants États-Unis-Afrique. Il posait des actes concrets, à plusieurs niveaux. Sa récente visite aux États-Unis a clairement contribué à raviver ce processus. » En cas de réaffirmation, le Liberia réintégrerait officiellement le processus de formulation du Compact, ouvrant la voie à un second accord potentiellement transformateur. D'après le ministre Ngafuan, le nouveau Compact pourrait mobiliser un financement supérieur à 500 millions de dollars américains — ou légèrement en deçà, selon l'issue des négociations finales. Ce second Compact viendrait appuyer les priorités nationales clés, notamment les infrastructures, la croissance économique, les réformes en matière de gouvernance et l'éducation. Il s'inscrirait dans la continuité du premier Compact, qui avait notamment permis d'améliorer l'accès à l'électricité et de renforcer les systèmes d'entretien routier. « Voilà où nous en sommes aujourd'hui », a conclu le ministre. « Nous sommes passés du mode pause au mode action. La proposition de réaffirmation du Conseil de la MCC constitue un vote de confiance fort dans l'orientation actuelle du Liberia. Même si la décision finale est encore à venir, nous restons confiants, sur la bonne voie, et prêts à agir dans l'intérêt du peuple libérien. »



FEATURE

ARTICLE

Beyond Political Office: Beyond the Plenty Talking/Empty Noisemaking:
The Role of Citizenship in Social and Economic Emancipation in 21st Century Liberia:

BY: Austin S Fallah-

A True Son of the Planet Earth Soil:

In a world increasingly characterized by innovation, collaboration, and justice, the definition of citizenship extends far beyond mere participation in government.

This assertion is especially poignant in the Liberian context, where numerous citizens grapple with the dichotomy of political participation and active social engagement.

It is essential to understand that although not every Liberian can occupy a government position, each individual holds the power and responsibility to contribute to social and economic emancipation.

I assert that faithful citizenship in the 21st century is defined not by one's political office but by civic engagement, empowerment, and collective innovation.

By recognizing and harnessing the potential of all individuals, Liberia can strive towards a brighter, more equitable future for all its citizens.

In Liberia, a select recycled often dominate the political arena, leading to disillusionment among the citizenry.

A culture of elitism and nepotism is prevalent, relegating many to the peripheries of political discourse.

The belief that power resides solely within governmental structures compounds the notion that the average citizen's voice is insignificant.

However, citizenship should be redefined to encompass broader responsibilities and opportunities.

By embracing a perspective that highlights individual contributions to social and economic improvement, everything from local communities to the national landscape can benefit immensely.

The significance of social and economic emancipation can not be overblown, especially in a context like Liberia's, where considerable barriers to progress still exist.

This beacon of hope in the Mano River Basin has been shackled by a history of conflict, economic instability, and widespread poverty for too long.

However, each citizen, empowered by a shared vision, can catalyze change from now on and hopefully after the nation's 178th independence.

Achieving social and economic emancipation necessitates a departure from a passive and resigned attitude towards governance to one that embraces active participation in the country's rejuvenation.

Moreover, in the 21st century, many of us continue to observe that the tools for empowerment are more accessible than ever.

The proliferation of technology, including the Internet and mobile communication, provides Liberians with previously unimaginable resources.

Digital platforms enable individuals to collaborate, innovate, and mobilize around shared goals.

The action potential is vast, whether through social media campaigns that raise awareness about issues affecting people's communities or entrepreneurial ventures that create economic opportunities.

However, this potential demands a shift in mindset.

Liberians must begin to envision themselves as part of a collective force for positive change, transcending the belief that contribution is solely tied to a government's action.

Participation in community-driven initiatives is an excellent example of how Liberians can actively engage in their social and economic environments.

In one of my graduate/Master of Software Systems Engineering classes (Entrepreneurship) at the "Prestigious Catholic University of St.Thomas in the state of 10,000 Lakes, Twin Cities, Midwest of these United States of America", I learned that citizens can establish cooperatives or local non-profits to create economic opportunities that transcend traditional job structures.

For instance, farmers' cooperatives can empower local farmers to share resources and learn innovative agricultural techniques, improving crop yields and sustainability.

Such initiatives provide financial benefits and foster community solidarity, a critical component for long-term resilience.

Likewise, education plays a pivotal role in achieving social and economic emancipation.

A well-educated populace is vital in fostering innovation and entrepreneurial spirit.

Citizens should advocate for educational reforms that prepare students for the demands of the modern economy.

Moreover, lifelong learning opportunities for adults are essential, equipping individuals with new skills necessary for a rapidly changing job market.

Local leaders and community members can collaborate with educational institutions to develop programs that address specific regional needs and challenges.

Creating synergies between education, community engagement, and economic development will pave the way for substantial progress.

In addition to local actions, citizens must leverage the power of collaboration to amplify their voice and effect change nationally.

Grassroots movements, advocacy groups, and social enterprises exemplify how individuals can band together to confront shared challenges.

For example, citizens can advocate for policy changes that promote environmental sustainability, social justice, and economic reforms through collaborative efforts.

When citizens unite around these causes, they amplify their voices and hold their government accountable to the needs and rights of the population.

The first half of the 21st century provides unprecedented avenues to engage in public discourse and advocate for justice, including social media platforms that can easily mobilize supporters and disseminate information.

Acknowledging the role of justice is paramount in the discourse surrounding citizenship and emancipation.

In Liberia, where historical grievances and systemic inequality have left deep scars, the pursuit of justice must be integrated into the broader fabric of social and economic emancipation.

Faithful citizenship requires a commitment to address

injustices and ensure that all citizens, regardless of their background, are afforded equitable opportunities.

This includes advocating for gender equality, the rights to competitive education and social services, such as safe drinking water, good/better/best hospitals, and the rights of marginalized communities, particularly the hinterland/interior/towns/villages/slums.

Ensuring every citizen is heard and represented is a moral imperative and a catalyst for holistic social progress.

The power of innovation should also be at the forefront as we approach the end of the first half and soon begin adopting the 21st-century citizen mindset.

Liberia has an abundant wealth of untapped resources, from its rich natural endowments to the creative potential of its young people.

Encouraging entrepreneurship fosters a culture of innovation that fuels economic growth and creates sustainable livelihoods.

Programs that support startups, provide microfinancing, and nurture young entrepreneurs can transform the economic landscape.

For example, technological innovations in agriculture, control over supply chains, and manufacturing can elevate local industry and position Liberia as a competitive player in the global marketplace.

Critically, fostering an environment where collaboration, justice, and innovation reign requires a concerted effort from all sectors of society, including the government, private sector, and civil society.

While citizens can drive change at the grassroots level, the institutional framework must simultaneously support these initiatives.

Policy reforms that incentivize social entrepreneurship, create equitable access to resources, and strengthen legal frameworks for protecting human and economic rights are essential.

Government entities should aspire to be facilitators rather than gatekeepers of citizen empowerment.

While it is indisputable that not every Liberian can hold a government position, every citizen has the potential to contribute to their nation's social and economic emancipation.

Liberians can forge a new path toward prosperity by thinking beyond political office and embracing a (close to the end and soon to begin the second half of the remaining 50 years of the 100 years) 21st-century citizenship characterized by civic engagement, empowerment, and innovative collaboration.

Each individual can act as a change agent, addressing local challenges, advocating for justice, fostering innovation, and collaborating towards shared goals.

In this collective journey towards social and economic emancipation, the spirit of resilience and determination that has long defined the Liberian people can emerge again.

Let every Liberian celebrate the promise of a brighter future and recognize their potential as citizens committed to transforming Liberia for future generations.

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PUBLISHED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS INC.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266
Opposite the National Investment Commission
Monrovia - Liberia.

Tel: 0886484201 / 077/007529
0886978282 / 0775407211

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Gongloe criticizes Boakai's prayer holiday

Former Presidential candidate, Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe says nations are not built by prayer and fasting; rather, it is political will that brings transformational changes.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia; August 1, 2025 - The political leader of the Liberian People's Party (LPP), Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe has sharply reacted to President Joseph N. Boakai's National Day of Prayer, observed here as a public holiday on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, arguing that nations are not built by prayer and fasting, but rather by political will that brings transformational changes. According to him, Liberia at this critical time needs political will and transformative action-



oriented leadership, instead of a national fast and prayer declaration from President Boakai. Cllr. Gongloe speaking Thursday, July 31, 2025, in an interview, he argued that from 1847 to 2025, Liberia has remained heavily dependent on the export of raw materials, namely wood, rubber, iron ore, gold, and diamonds. He said that after 178 years of independence, this pattern has not changed, and that despite being blessed with rich natural resources, Liberia is still one of the poorest countries in the world. "We have been a praying and fasting nation, even before our independence in 1847. Churches and mosques can be found in nearly every town and village across Liberia. And while prayer and fasting are good, they alone are not enough. What Liberia urgently needs is political will and transformative action-oriented leadership! It is often said. "Heaven helps those who help themselves. So, nations are

not built by prayer and fasting, but political will and transformational leadership action." He stated. Meanwhile, the LPP political leader noted that other African countries are making progress and showing the way for Liberia to follow that are not using prayer and fasting for national development transformation. He named Botswana, Mauritius, Cape Verde, and Seychelles as among Africa's least corrupt nations, while Rwanda and Burkina Faso are investing in local processing, tourism, and public service accountability. Cllr. Gongloe further named

Ghana and Morocco as countries adding value addition to cocoa, cashews, phosphates, and textiles, while building industrial parks and reducing unemployment. He indicated that most of these countries are creating jobs, reducing poverty, adding value to their resources, and respecting the rule of law and human rights, but sadly, Liberia lacks political will, transformational leadership, and declaring a national fast and prayer day. Accordingly, he said that these countries have proven that strong leadership, good governance, and national vision can transform even small or landlocked countries. "True development also requires upholding human rights, strengthening institutions, ensuring equal protection under the law, and adopting effective anti-corruption strategies — not just praying and fasting. Corruption must be fought with transparency, enforcement, and zero tolerance at every level."

Cllr. Gongloe stressed. He recommended that Liberia needs a government that will lead it to shift from prayer to planning, from fasting to factories, and from sermons to strategy. The former president of the Liberia National Bar Association believes that Liberia can become a hub for eco-marine tourism, climate finance through carbon credits, and value-added exports like furniture, plywood, bottled water, steel, polished diamonds, refined gold, other processed minerals, and agro-products. He lamented that Liberia remains stuck in poverty because the country keeps exporting raw materials and importing finished goods, something he believes has kept the nation poor and dependent. "We need a government that acts, not just kneels; a government that builds, transforms, and empowers, not just fasts. Yes, Liberia needs a government that works and does more for its people than one that only prays. We want our government to lead us to transformative actions, not just to the churches and mosques, because heaven helps those who help themselves! The time for action is now." He pointed out. Cllr. Gongloe, also a former Solicitor General of Liberia, argued that Liberia is not poor by nature; instead, it is poorly managed, adding that this country is richly endowed with fertile soil for agriculture, as it has over 40% of the rainforest of the Gulf of Guinea. "Vast deposits of gold, iron ore, and other minerals; freshwater sources capable of supporting bottled water exports. Pristine beaches from Cape Mount to Cape Palmas. Mangrove swamps are important for marine life and fish reproduction. Mountains for hiking, climbing, and eco-tourism; and good nature and resilient citizens looking for direction from their leaders", he concluded. But Information Minister Jerolinmek Piah said those who criticized the President's call for a one-day nationwide prayer for the state, "do not know God." **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

LTM suffers another setback

The Joint Committee on Investment and Concessions and Transport of the House of Representatives has ordered the suspension of all Liberia Traffic Management (LTM) operations, effectively returning full operational control to the Ministry of Transport.

By Kruah Thompson

Capitol Hill, August 1, 2025: This move comes after LTM failed to appear before lawmakers for an investigative hearing on Thursday, July 31, 2025. The hearing was triggered by a petition from aggrieved employees of the Ministry of Transport and from commercial drivers, raising concerns over the concession granted to LTM. Recently, more than 200 employees of the Ministry of Transport marched to the Capitol on July 16, 2025, to submit a petition to Speaker Koon, urging legislative scrutiny of the 25-year LTM concession. The petition highlighted concerns over legality, job losses (affecting at least 265 ministry employees), and potential revenue losses exceeding US \$275 million over the concession period. Speaker Richard Nagbe Koon officially received and tabled the petition on the floor, under the oversight of the House's Joint Committees on Concessions, which are empowered to review and probe compliance with government concession agreements.



On Thursday, July 24, 2025, the Plenary of the Liberian Senate formally mandated its leadership to request that President Joseph Nyuma Boakai immediately halt the implementation of the Liberia Traffic Management Incorporated (LTM-I) concession agreement. Four days after the Senate hearing, on Monday, July 28, 2025, commercial drivers also staged a mass protest against what they described as inhumane treatment under the new agreement. The protesters decried excessive ticketing and alleged extortion by LTM officers, claiming the company is exploiting drivers under the guise of traffic enforcement. Upon receiving the petition, the Joint Committee on Investment and Concessions and Transport of the House of Representatives summoned the Liberia Traffic Management Inc. (LTM) and others. But while all other summoned

parties honored the Committee's invitation, LTM failed to attend without providing any written explanation, delaying the progress of the investigation. Consequently, the Joint Committee issued a "still order" suspending all LTM operations pending a full legislative review of the concession agreement. In the meantime, the Ministry of Transport has been mandated to resume its full statutory duties, including motor vehicle registration, issuance of driver's licenses, and enforcement of all transportation-related regulations in collaboration with the Liberia National Police. The Chief Clerk of the House has been instructed to formally communicate the Committee's decisions to the relevant authorities. Additionally, the Inspector General of Police has been tasked with assisting the Ministry of Transport in enforcing Liberia's motor vehicle and traffic laws in the absence of LTM. In addition, LTM and its legal counsel have been summoned to appear before the Joint Committee on Monday to respond to charges of

contempt for repeated failure to comply with legislative summons. Meanwhile, the Liberia Traffic Management Inc. (LTM) concession agreement was officially signed on September 11, 2018, between the Government of Liberia and LTM to modernize, digitize, and manage the country's transportation and traffic systems with a focus on generating revenue, improving road safety, and reducing corruption in traffic enforcement. It was ratified by the Legislature on December 21, 2018, and later publicly published in a handbill on January 7, 2019. Although the deal was dormant for a time, on January 24, 2025, President Boakai officially endorsed and reaffirmed the agreement, and it was fully activated following a Supreme Court ruling on May 28, 2025, clearing the way for operations to proceed on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, under the Boakai administration.

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In the Capitol Building arson case

By Lincoln G. Peters

The defense team, representing defendants Thomas Etheridge, Christian Nyanti, and Christian Koffa, has made significant efforts to secure their clients' release by

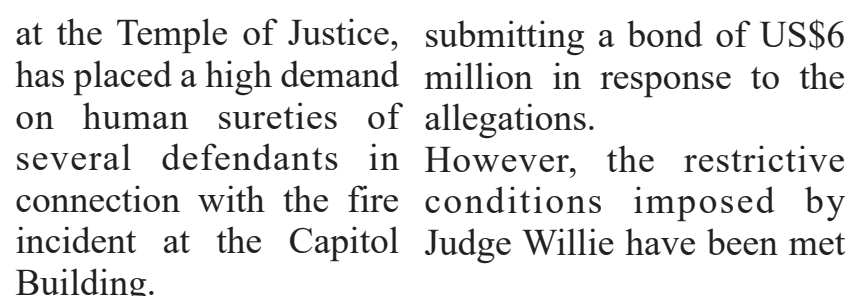
with dismay from legal representatives, who contend that the new requirements imposed on defendants' sureties are high.

Judge Willie has mandated four sureties for each defendant, along with proof of property ownership, among other things.

This unexpected escalation from the previously established two sureties has led many in the community and the legal profession to wonder.

Since their arrest, the defendants have consistently maintained their innocence, asserting that they are not involved in the alleged Capitol Building fire incidents.

The case is expected to be placed on the docket for the August Term of Courts. All eyes are now set on the Judiciary to see the outcome.- *Edited by Othello B. Garblah.*




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Opposite the National Investment Commission
Monrovia - Liberia.

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New Dawn Sports
GWAS raises red-flag
 Head coach of G. Soccer dug

New Dawn
Uncertainty hangs over schools
 As authorities weigh options over Ebola-19

Nephew butchered uncle

A hand holding a pen, about to press a button labeled 'PRESS' on a colorful, abstract background. The background features vibrant, splashing colors like yellow, orange, red, and purple, suggesting a dynamic or creative environment.

A collage of New Dawn publications and a paper shredder. The top half features several items: a white envelope with the New Dawn logo, a white calendar with a colorful grid, a yellow and white brochure titled "New Dawn \$52.5m for Mont. by-elections", and a colorful "New Dawn Sports" magazine. The bottom half shows a white paper shredder on a desk, with a colorful rainbow graphic in the background.