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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025	L\$200.0269/US\$1.00	L\$202.2692/US\$1.00

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

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Boycotts at Chief Justice Yuoh's exit ceremony

P11

Govt. launches National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy

P11



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Continental News

New negotiations between DR Congo and M23 rebels to take place in Qatar

A Qatari official said on Sunday that a draft agreement to end fighting between the Democratic Republic of Congo and the M23 has been shared with the government and the rebels.

"We recognise the challenges on the ground and hope they can be overcome promptly through dialogue and genuine commitment," the official involved in mediation efforts added.

The news comes ahead of an 18 August deadline, agreed on last month between Kinshasa and

the Rwanda-backed rebel group, to reach a peace deal.

He said that while the timeline had not been met, "both parties have responded positively to the facilitator and expressed a willingness to continue negotiations".

The roadmap in the Declaration of Principles signed on 19 July in Qatar had called for negotiations to begin by the 8 August with a final deal reached by Monday.

Since taking up arms again at the end of 2021, the M23 armed group has seized swathes of land in eastern DRC with Rwanda's backing, triggering a spiralling

humanitarian crisis.

There was a new surge in fighting in earlier this year when the M23 captured the key cities of Goma and Bukavu, setting up their own administrations.

The official added that Qatar is "currently hosting an important session of negotiations in Doha aimed at following up on the implementation of the declaration and finalising an agreement.

Neither Kinshasa nor the M23 have commented on the latest statements.

On the ground in the eastern DRC, violence continues and has intensified since 8 August around the town of Mulamba, where the frontline has been relatively stable since March.

The Congolese army on Tuesday accused the M23 of carrying out "multiple attacks" against its positions in the east of the country, threatening the fragile ceasefire.

More than two million people have fled violence since January in the provinces of North and South Kivu, where the M23 is active, according to the United Nations.



Congolese soldiers returning from the frontline of fighting against rebel forces in Kinyamahura, Congo, 17 May 2012

Two generals and more than 40 soldiers arrested over coup allegations in Mali

At least 45 Malian soldiers, including two generals, were arrested over the weekend for attempts to "destabilise the institutions" in the Sahel country.

Among those arrested was General Abass Dembele, a former governor of the central Mopti region who is popular within army ranks.

Soldiers arrested Debele early Sunday morning on the outskirts of the capital, Bamako, without explaining the reasons for his apprehension, a source close to the General said.

Nema Sagara, a brigadier General in the air force, was also arrested.

promised to deal with the problem swiftly.

Internal divisions within the new government led to a second coup in May 2021, resulting in the accession of Colonel Assimi Goïta to the presidency of Mali. A role he has occupied ever since.

Jihadist attacks and political repression fuel discontent

Following the 2020 coup, the Malian junta with Goïta at the helm promised to hold elections within 18 months. No vote has been held so far, with the government recently postponing the ballot to 2027.

Meanwhile, jihadist attacks have been on the rise. According to



FILE: Leader of Mali's ruling junta Lt. Col. Assimi Goïta, center, attends an independence day military parade in Bamako, Mali on Sept. 22, 2022.

Ivory Coast's Gbagbo rallies opposition against Ouattara's fourth-term bid

Thousands of Ivoirians rallied on Saturday against incumbent leader Alassane Ouattara's bid for a fourth term in office.

The demonstrations, the second this week, were led by former President Laurent Gbagbo and come ahead of October's presidential election.

Without specifically naming Ouattara, the 80-year-old leader of the African People's Party-Cote d'Ivoire (PPA-CI) told a large crowd of his supporters to oppose a "fourth term".

He denounced the president's bid as an unconstitutional shift and demanded the release of activists arrested in recent weeks.

In 2016, Ouattara changed the country's Constitution resetting the presidential limit to allow himself to stand for a third term in office in the 2020 polls.

In July, he announced his candidacy saying both his health and the country's Constitution allowed him to serve fourth term.

He said the country was facing "unprecedented security, economic, and monetary challenges" and that this required management by someone with experience, like himself.

While Ouattara will likely face several opposition

figures in the polls, this will not include Gbagbo.

Gbagbo together with former Prime Minister Guillaume Soro are among several leading opposition politicians barred from running in the poll following court convictions.

Although Ouattara has promised a peaceful poll, analysts believe that this is increasingly unlikely given the sidelining of opposition candidates.



Former President Laurent Gbagbo addresses delegates of his PPA-CI party in Abidjan, 17 October 2021.

She is one of the few high-ranking women in the Malian army.

"All are soldiers. Their objective was to overthrow the junta," the MP said.

The rise of Mali's military junta After eight years of relative political stability in Mali, a group of Malian soldiers stormed Bamako in August 2020 and detained then-President, Aboubakar Keita.

The coup d'etat followed weeks of protests against Keita, who was accused of failing to combat violent Islamist groups who were waging an armed rebellion in the North. The new military junta

Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED), in the first half of 2024, Islamist groups killed a record 7,620 people in the Sahel in the first half of 2024.

Recently, the armed group, Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin, or JNIM, killed more than 30 soldiers at a military base in Boulkessi in central Mali on June 1st.

In the face of the attacks, the junta has intensified crackdowns on political dissidents. In May, President Goïta dissolved all political parties and organisations in Mali, which sparked widespread protests.

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COMMENTARY

Timothy Snyder

Lack of responsible leadership in Liberia is dangerous!

Posture exhibited by the just ended leadership of the Liberian Judiciary under former Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh and the Executive, headed by President Joseph in boycotting each other does not demonstrate responsible leadership. This is not the kind of leadership Liberia deserve.

Former Chief Justice Yuoh had boycotted President Boakai's 2nd Annual Message delivered before the 55th Legislature in January this year under the gavel of then disputed Speaker Richard Nagbe Koon, without any official explanation. Justice Yuoh and the entire Supreme Court bench were conspicuously absent during the President's address with their seats visibly empty.

Now, in what is clearly seen as a payback, President Boakai and his entire Cabinet along with the leadership of the 55th Legislature, including Speaker Richard Koon and Senate Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence boycotted Justice Youh's retirement program. What a play!

This is very irresponsible and does not send a positive image of our national leadership style. In other words, this is not sending any right example for our youthful population. It is disappointing that the Boakai Administration or the Executive and the Legislature would embark on the crab mentality by pulling one another down.

Although Justice Yuoh has exited government, but we pray that there would not be a repeat of such posture in our national leadership that will see one branch of government pulling down or disrespecting another branch, particularly in public glare.

The Supreme Court of Liberia under the Ex-chief Justice had termed actions taken by the then majority bloc led Speaker Koon during the leadership crisis in the House of Representatives over the speakership as "ultra vires", instructing both sides to return to status quo ante, meaning preexisting state of affairs in law.

We believe it was under such condition that the Supreme Court bench, under Justice Yuoh, boycotted the Legislature, sitting in joint session during the President's Annual Message, presided over by Speaker Koon from majority bloc whose leadership it had deemed illegal. Granted that the former Chief Justice was not in the country, but that should have been communicated, both to the Executive and the Legislature, rather than the manner in which the situation played out.

More regrettably, we saw the two affected branches of government repeating the same attitude at the exit ceremony of retired Justice Youh over the weekend, when they conspicuously stayed away. This does not indicate maturity of our national leadership and should stop.

Politics aside, we believe the onus on President Joseph Boakai, as father and grandfather of the nation, to work with or relate with all three branches of government irrespective of who heads a branch at a particular time. This does not mean there wouldn't disagreements from time to time, but such divergence of views should not play out negatively, as it happened at the departure of Justice Youh last week.

Trump's Alaska Folly

TORONTO – In the ancient world, people spoke of "Ultima Thule," a mythical land in the extreme north, at the end of the earth. By venturing north to Alaska to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin, US President Donald Trump reached his own Ultima Thule, the arctic endpoint of a foreign-policy dreamworld.

For Trump, foreign leaders can be dealt with like Americans, with fantastic promises and obnoxious bullying. But the fantasies do not function beyond America's borders. The empty offer of a "beautiful" future does not move dictators who commit crimes to advance their own visions, or affect people who are defending their families from a criminal invasion stealing their land and wealth, abducting their children, and torturing and murdering civilians.

Putin has no reason to prefer Trump's vision of a beautiful future to his own: a Ukraine with a puppet government, a population cowed by violence, patriots buried in mass graves, and resources in Russian hands.

Like Trump's fantasizing, his bullying also does not work abroad. To be sure, many Americans are afraid of Trump. He has purged his own political party, with [threats of violence](#) helping to keep Republican members of Congress in line. He is deploying the US military as a police force, first in California and now in Washington, DC.

But foreign enemies apprehend these intimidation tactics differently. The very moves that shock Americans delight America's foes. In Moscow, deployments of soldiers inside the United States look like weakness.

Tough talk may resonate in America, where we confuse words with action. But for Russian leaders, it covers a weak foreign policy. Trump has made extraordinary concessions to Russia in exchange for nothing at all. Russia has repaid him by continuing the war in Ukraine and [mocking him](#) on state-controlled television.

What are those concessions? Just by meeting Putin in Alaska, Trump ended more than three years of Western diplomatic isolation of the Kremlin. By shaking hands with an indicted war criminal, Trump signaled that the killings, the torture, the abductions in Ukraine do not matter.

Even the choice of Alaska was a concession, and an odd one. Russians, including major figures in state media, routinely [claim Alaska for Russia](#). Inviting people who claim your territory inside your main military base on that territory to discuss a war of aggression they started without inviting anyone representing the country they invaded – well, that is just about as far as a foreign-policy fantasy can go. It is Ultima Thule.

It was the very end because Trump had already conceded the more fundamental issues. He does not speak of justice for Russian war criminals or of the reparations Russia owes. He grants that Russia can determine Ukraine's and America's foreign policy on the crucial point of NATO membership. And he accepts that Russia's invasions should lead not only to de facto but also de jure changes in sovereign control over territory.

Accepting that invasion can legally change borders undoes the world order. Granting

Russia the right to decide the other countries' foreign policy encourages further aggression. Abandoning the obvious legal and historical responses to criminal wars of aggression – reparations and trials – encourages war in general.

Trump speaks loudly and carries a small stick. The notion that words alone can do the trick has led Trump to the position that Putin's words matter, and so he had to go to Alaska for a "listening exercise." Trump's career has been full of listening to Putin, and then [repeating](#) what Putin says.

Both men are moved by the future perception of their greatness. Putin believes that this can be achieved by war, an element of which is the manipulation of the American president. Trump believes his legacy can be secured by being associated with peace, which, so long as he is unwilling to make policy himself, puts him in the power of the warmaker.

Putin is not moved to end the war when his own propaganda is repeated by the US president. He cannot be enticed by a vague vision of a better world, since he has in mind his own very specific atrocity.

In Alaska, Trump reached his personal Ultima Thule, the limits of his own personal world of magical talk. He faced a very [simple question](#): Would Putin accept an unconditional ceasefire or not, as he had demanded?

Putin has refused any such thing, and he did so again in Alaska. The Russians propose an obviously ridiculous and provocative [counter](#): Ukraine should now formally concede to Russia territory that Russia does not even occupy, lands on which Ukraine has built its defenses. And then Russia can of course attack again, from a far better position.

Putin knows that Trump wants the Nobel Peace Prize, so his obvious move is to suggest to Trump that the war will end someday, and Trump will get the credit, if the two of them just keep talking – "Next time in Moscow?" he [asked](#) before leaving Alaska – while Russia keeps bombing.

Now that Trump has failed to secure an unconditional Russian ceasefire, there are two paths he can take. He can continue the fantasy, though it will become ever more obvious, even to his friends and supporters, that the fantasy is Putin's. Or he can make the war harder for Putin, and thereby bring its end closer.

The US has not formalized its outlandish concessions to Russia, and Trump could rescind them in one press conference. The US has the policy instruments to change the direction of the war in Ukraine, and could employ them.

Trump has threatened "[severe consequences](#)" if Putin did not accept an unconditional ceasefire. Those are words, and thus far, the consequences of Trump's words, for Russia, have been more words. This all becomes clear now, at Ultima Thule. Trump has reached the border of his fantasy world. Where will he go next?

Timothy Snyder, the author or editor of 20 books, holds the inaugural Chair in Modern European History at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto and is a permanent fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna.



by Ana María Ibáñez,
Marta Ruiz-Arranz

Small Fiscal Reforms Can Deliver Big Results

WASHINGTON, DC – Despite decades of progress in many areas, persistent structural weaknesses that impede effective tax collection and public spending continue to hurt economic growth and development across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

Government revenues and spending have remained close to their pre-pandemic averages, leaving countries across the region with limited fiscal space. Consequently, efforts to reduce budget deficits – currently averaging 3% of GDP – have largely stalled. Between 2014 and 2024, public debt rose from 45% of GDP to 60%, according to our calculations based on IMF data, pushing interest payments to 2.7% of GDP – roughly equivalent to the annual investment needed to close the region's infrastructure gap.

While some economists argue that drastic austerity measures are required to overcome these fiscal pressures, we believe there is a gentler, smarter, more politically feasible path to reversing LAC's debt trajectory.

The key to achieving fiscal sustainability lies in reforming how public funds are raised and allocated. Governments across the region face growing pressure to invest in public services and infrastructure, yet they are constrained by outdated and ineffective fiscal tools. Their tax systems collect too little revenue and tend to distort investment decisions and labor markets. At the same time, government spending is often inefficient or poorly targeted, eroding public trust. According to a forthcoming study, wasteful spending amounts to 4.6% of the region's GDP – slightly higher than a decade ago.

These structural weaknesses don't just constrain growth. They also hinder efforts to reduce inequality, because high levels of labor informality and a heavy reliance on regressive value-added taxes (VAT) make Latin American and Caribbean economies less effective than their developed counterparts at using taxes, social spending, and transfers to narrow income gaps. In fact, in six countries, fiscal systems actually exacerbate poverty.

This reality underscores the need for fiscal reform. Yet sweeping change remains politically difficult, as deep-rooted mistrust in state institutions fuels public skepticism toward proposals aimed at boosting revenue or reallocating funds, even when such measures are clearly necessary. A survey conducted in eight countries across the region found that, although a large majority of respondents viewed their country's income distribution as unfair, only 30% supported expanding the personal-income-tax base.

Put simply, people want a progressive tax system but expect someone else to pay for it. In this environment, seeking a broad political consensus on ambitious fiscal reform could mean waiting indefinitely.

Still, governments can build public trust and make meaningful progress by focusing on practical, incremental improvements in fiscal policy and management. Such low-profile initiatives may not make headlines, but they can deliver tangible results.

One proven approach involves digitalizing tax systems, using data analytics to combat evasion, piloting better-targeted subsidies, and strengthening budget frameworks. These steps make fiscal systems more efficient, equitable, and credible, enabling more ambitious reforms to be undertaken later. For example, after El Salvador introduced real-time electronic invoicing and integrated it with third-party data on personal wealth and consumption, VAT revenue increased from 3.5% of GDP in 2017 to 8.7% in 2023, generating an additional \$1 billion in revenues.

Data analytics and digital tools for targeting and delivering payments can make VAT more progressive without sacrificing efficiency or growth. In our own work at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), we have helped governments shift from costly, poorly targeted VAT exemptions toward direct VAT refunds for low-income households.

Our experience using microsimulation calculations shows that strengthening fiscal systems requires investment in robust social and tax registries, along with well-designed delivery systems. For instance, in Uruguay, families in need use a card-based digital payment system to lower their VAT payments when they make their purchases, reducing the burden from 16% to 14.8%, and further improvements in targeting could cut it by an additional couple of percentage points, boosting their disposable income and helping them cover other essential needs.

In Honduras, the IDB financed a comprehensive tax-system modernization that increased the share of taxpayers using electronic filings from 50% to 95%. As a result, tax revenues rose by three percentage points of GDP – an outcome comparable to what would be achieved through a painful fiscal adjustment. Similarly, in Brazil, improvements to state-level tax systems led to an 11.7% increase in tax collection across 23 states between 2012 and 2019.

We have also supported efforts to reduce wasteful expenditures. In Chile, the digital modernization of public procurement through ChileCompra has enhanced transparency and curbed unnecessary spending. Meanwhile, the state government of Brazil's Rio Grande do Sul linked tax e-invoicing data to procurement price references, enabling it to rein in overpricing and ensure better value for public money.

Even politically sensitive reforms, such as subsidy reductions, can be implemented without triggering social unrest. In Argentina, we helped the government replace electricity subsidies that disproportionately benefited wealthier households with more targeted assistance. This shift saved the country more than \$6 billion, nearly 1% of GDP, while protecting low-income households.

Stronger fiscal institutions are critical to creating the fiscal space needed to pursue bold economic policies. In El Salvador, the IDB provided technical support to design and implement a new budgetary rule – now part of the country's standby program with the International Monetary Fund – which is expected to reduce public debt by nine percentage points of GDP by 2030. And IDB-financed projects helped Brazilian states bolster their fiscal frameworks, doubling tax collection from accounts receivable between 2023 and 2024.

Perhaps most importantly, these nuts-and-bolts measures can help build confidence in economic governance. When citizens see that taxes are collected fairly and spent wisely, they are more likely to support more ambitious reforms down the road. The faster LAC governments take meaningful steps to improve governance, modernize underperforming tax systems, and eliminate waste, the faster they can lay the groundwork for sustained and equitable growth.

This commentary is published in collaboration with the International Economic Association's Women in Leadership in Economics Initiative, which aims to enhance the role of women in economics through research, building partnerships, and amplifying voices.



By Saliem Fakir

A New Trade Agenda for Climate-Resilient Development

CAPE TOWN – Mitigating the worst effects of climate change requires reconciling ambition and justice. But achieving both a just energy transition and ambitious global climate action depends on trade rules that foster equitable development. To facilitate the shift to low-carbon economies, developing countries must have reliable access to green technologies, investments, and international markets.

Regrettably, many of today's trade policies constrain developing countries' green ambitions. In particular, the securitization of international trade – driven by the geopolitical interests of major powers and emerging blocs – threatens to disrupt global supply chains, limit access to emerging technologies, and [reinforce](#) existing power imbalances. If left unchecked, this trend risks undermining multilateral cooperation and regional integration efforts across the Global South.

The European Union's [Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism](#) is a prime example. While the CBAM is intended to position the EU as a global leader on climate action, many developing countries – particularly in Africa – view it as a protectionist measure and question its alignment with the principles of the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

These concerns are well-founded. Research suggests that African countries could lose [up to \\$25 billion annually](#) as a direct result of the CBAM, and that the [proposed amendments](#) may not always stand to benefit African exporters. Moreover, despite the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the EU continues to pursue [fragmented bilateral deals](#) that undermine Africa's integration agenda and weaken the coherence of regional trade strategies.

Another example is the International Maritime Organization's controversial plan to introduce a [carbon emissions tax on shipping](#). Set to take effect in 2028, the tax falls far short of the more ambitious carbon levy developing economies had advocated, which could have supported low-carbon transitions, climate adaptation, and capacity-building in the world's most climate-vulnerable countries.

Investor-state dispute settlement mechanisms also [present](#) significant challenges to effective climate action. These provisions, embedded in international investment treaties, often limit African governments' ability to legislate in the public interest or implement trade and investment policies that support green industrialization and sustainable development.

In recent years, international development practitioners have increasingly focused on the link between trade and climate policy. This signals a shift from a purely normative view of climate change to a more pragmatic approach that recognizes climate policy as a driver of economic growth and investment. At the same time, [global trade](#) is undergoing a profound transformation as major trading powers prioritize geopolitical and economic self-interest over longstanding commitments to non-discrimination and multilateral cooperation, thereby weakening the World Trade Organization.

Against this backdrop, developed and developing economies alike are deploying fiscal stimulus packages, subsidies, and protectionist trade measures to align their climate goals with domestic green industrial strategies, aiming to reshape the global economic order in their favor. The race to gain a competitive edge in green industries is partly driven by the dominant position China has established over the past decade through a combination of fiscal expansion, strategic subsidies, and control over critical minerals and key supply chains.

Adding to these tensions is US President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, as he did during his first term. This move has further eroded global trust and undermined multilateral climate cooperation, casting doubt on the reliability of developed countries' commitments to the broader sustainable-development agenda.

Yet periods of geopolitical realignment can also create new opportunities. Even amid rising tensions and economic fragmentation, there are opportunities for African countries to advance fairer, climate-aligned trade rules. One of the most promising is increased regional integration. Despite deep divisions within the G20, South Africa's presidency of the group this year could [help advance](#) trade policies that are better suited to managing climate risks and accelerating clean-energy transitions in the Global South. The upcoming Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg provides a platform to champion a more inclusive agenda that integrates risk management, economic diversification, and industrial development into a long-term vision of environmental justice.

Some low-income economies are particularly vulnerable to measures like the CBAM, which, in its current form, departs from the [“common but differentiated responsibilities”](#) principle that underpins the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Without careful design and implementation, it could exacerbate inequalities within Africa and jeopardize the continent's energy transition.

To prevent such an outcome, the CBAM must be implemented through a transparent, multilateral framework that acknowledges differences in countries' historical responsibility and capacity to respond. [Redirecting](#) CBAM revenues toward supporting green transitions in low-income economies, for example, would be a step in the right direction.

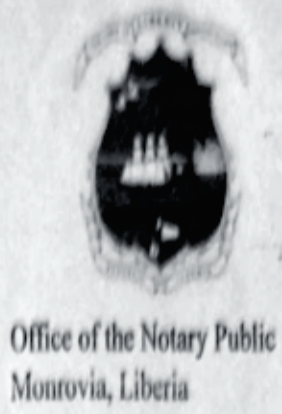
It is equally important to help countries that rely heavily on fossil fuels diversify their economies. This raises a fundamental question: How can trade policy be leveraged to foster climate-resilient development? The answer lies in recognizing that diversification is not only central to long-term growth but also crucial to building resilience to both climate disasters and external shocks.

While global consensus on climate policies remains out of reach, regional trade agreements and coalitions offer a [viable path forward](#). The AfCFTA, for example, could help us reimagine trade as a catalyst for inclusive development. By strengthening intra-African trade and economic resilience, it could help unlock new pathways to food sovereignty, climate adaptation, and long-term stability across the continent.

The world needs fresh thinking and more equitable relationships between the Global North and South. Although today's geopolitical landscape, marked by self-interest and weak leadership, is fraught with uncertainty, it also creates space to promote green, climate-conscious solutions that are largely absent from existing trade frameworks.

When the current turbulent period gives way to renewed cooperation, we must be ready to introduce a new climate-trade framework. Such an arrangement should support decarbonization across industries while upholding the principles of justice and solidarity, ensuring that developing countries are actively supported on their path to a more sustainable future.

Saliem Fakir is Founder and Executive Director of the African Climate Foundation.



NOTARY CERTIFICATE

Personally appeared before me in my office within the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, this 16th day of August A.D. 20 25 qualified and commissioned Notary Public for and in the County of Montserrado and in the Republic aforesaid, the parties to the attached documents.

SWORN STATEMENT OF ASSERTS, LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH REPORT FOR MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE CHANGE.

And did in my presence and in the presence of each other execute and sign their genuine signatures as on the instrument(s) to be the person(s) they represent and that the same was made in my presence and declared by each of them to be their voluntary acts and in their own hand writing.

Therefore, I Edwin C. Walker, Jr. Notary Public aforesaid, have attached my official signature Notary Seal to avail when and where necessary.

I have affixed my genuine Signature attesting to this Transaction by the power vested in me this

16th day of August A.D. 20 25

EDWIN C. WALKER, JR.
 NOTARY PUBLIC, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, R. L.

Republic of Liberia
 NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION
 TUBMAN BOULEVARD, 57 & 58th STREETS, MONROVIA - P. O. BOX 2144
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 Email: info@nec.gov.lr

ALR 001:
SWORN STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH REPORT
 Name of Political Party / Alliance/Coalition: Movement For Progressive change
 As of: August 16, 2025 - Aug 17, 2025
 Name of Declarant: Oruel Paasehe Position: National Chairman

Bank Details:
 Name of Bank: Liberian Bank for Dev. and Investment
 Bank Address: Ashun/Randall street Monrovia
 Contact Person name & Number: Oruel Paasehe - 0886102307
 Account Number(s): 002,48021920500501

ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NETWORTH

1. ASSETS

a. Real Properties*

DESCRIPTION <small>(e.g. lot, house and acre, 100, condominium and improvement)</small>	KIND <small>(e.g. residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, hotel, hotel, and related use)</small>	EXACT LOCATION	ASSESSED VALUE	CURRENT FAIR MARKET VALUE	ACQUISITION		ACQUISITION COST
					YEAR	MODE	
Building	HP	Airfield sinker	NO	\$85,000	2020	lease	\$90,000
Building	Buchanan Branch	Buchanan City	NO	\$20,000	2024	lease	\$25,000
Building	Gbarnga	Gbarnga	NA	\$15,000	2023	lease	\$17,000
Furniture		Monrovia, Buchanan, Gbarnga	NO	\$15,000	2024		\$15,000
Trip ends 2024		Monrovia, Buchanan, Gbarnga	NO	\$15,000	2024		\$20,000
Subtotal:							\$170,000

Examples of Real Properties: Buildings, Land, Machinery, crops, etc.
 Examples of Personal Properties: Vehicles, Furniture, stocks, bonds, money, livestock

b. Personal Properties*

DESCRIPTION	YEAR ACQUIRED	Exact Location	ACQUISITION COST/AMOUNT	Assessed Value	Current Market Value
Jeep	2023	HP	\$4,000	\$500	\$350
Pick up	2024	Duch	\$4,500	\$100	\$2,500
Cash/Bank	2024	US \$10,100	\$10,100		\$10,100
Loan/number	2024	Monrovia	\$15,700		\$15,000
Medical out	2025	Monrovia			\$10,000
Office operating	2025	Monrovia	\$24,000		\$20,000
New Ceilings	2025	HP	\$5,000		\$5,000
Driveway/painter	2025	HP	\$10,200		\$10,000
Total:					\$87,100

SWORN BEFORE ME
 ON THIS 15 DAY OF AUG
 A.D. 2025
 SIGNED IN THE COUNTY OF MONTSERRADO



Total Assets (a+b) \$170,000
\$87,100
 Total Liabilities \$257,000

2. LIABILITIES*

NATURE	NAME OF CREDITORS	ORIGINAL DEBT	OUTSTANDING BALANCE
Na	Na	Na	Na
TOTAL LIABILITIES:			

NET WORTH: Total Assets less Total Liabilities =

BUSINESS INTERESTS AND FINANCIAL CONNECTIONS

I/We do not have any business interest or financial connection.

NAME OF ENTITY/BUSINESS ENTERPRISE	BUSINESS ADDRESS	NATURE OF BUSINESS INTEREST &/OR FINANCIAL CONNECTION	DATE OF ACQUISITION OF INTEREST OR CONNECTION
Na	Na	Na	Na

I/We hereby certify that these are true and correct statements of our Party/candidate's assets, liabilities, net worth, business interests and financial connections, and that to the best of our knowledge, the above-enumerated are names of partisans that are currently in the government.

I/We hereby authorize the National Elections Commissions duly authorized representative to obtain and secure from all appropriate government agencies, including Liberia Revenue Agency (L.R.A. such documents that may show our assets, liabilities, net worth, business interests and financial connections, herein listed.

Date: August 16, 2025
Oruel Paasehe (Signature of Party Chairman / Candidate)
Ruth Thompson (Signature of Party/Candidate Treasurer)

Three (3) Witnesses & Signatures:

Name: John D. Barone
James Freeman
Victoria Johnson

* Additional sheet/s may be used, if necessary.



PRU KHDGOLQM

PRU KHDGOLQM

Liberia's aviation sector gets boost

-As Easy Continental Travel Agency launches RwandaAir here

By Lincoln G. Peters

Services of RwandaAir have been extended to Liberia, thanks to Easy Continental Travel Agency, a Liberian-owned company.

Monrovia, Liberia; August 18, 2025 - A Liberia-owned aviation agency, Easy Continental Travel Agency, launches RwandaAir in Liberia, to boost the Liberian aviation sector and showcase the country's rich tourism and cultural heritage capacity to the world.

With the opening of offices and official launch here, Liberian travelers will get direct access to RwandaAir ticketing, reservations, personalized customer service and exclusive

launching ceremony at the Monrovia City Hall, bringing together government officials, development partners, business leaders, travel industry stakeholders and Liberian students, who recently returned from Rwanda after studies.

RwandaAir, Rwanda's national airline, operates a modern fleet, serving over 25 destinations across Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. Known for its safety, reliability, and outstanding service, the airline continues to grow through strategic partnerships with Qatar Airways and Turkish Airlines.

On the other hand, Easy Continental Travel Agency is a leading Liberian travel solutions provider that specializes in airline ticketing, visa assistance, corporate travel management, and tourism services. The Agency is committed to making travel straightforward and affordable, recognized for its professionalism and customer-focused approach.

Providing an overview of the partnership during the official launch, Chief Executive Officer, and President, Gbomai L. Bestman, expressed appreciation and gratitude for the partnership.

"We're thrilled to introduce



travel promotions and significant step for Liberia's aviation and travel scene.

It will enhanced global connectivity for Liberia as RwandaAir's growing codeshare agreements with Qatar Airways

Following the recognition, Easy Continental Travel Agency and its partners on Saturday, August 16, 2025 held a soft opening and



Lottery Authority underscores compliance in gaming sector

The National Lottery Authority here recommits to fighting Anti-Money Laundering and terrorism financing in the gaming sector in Liberia.

transactions exceeding designated thresholds to the FIA to ensure greater scrutiny of large cash flows.

The discussions centered on strategic priorities under the AML/CFT framework, with emphasis on strengthening compliance and enhancing intelligence-sharing between the two regulatory bodies.

Nasser welcomed the strengthened partnership, noting: "The NLA and FIA play pivotal roles in protecting the

controls by the NLA is essential. He lauded President Joseph N. Boakai, and the Cabinet, for approving the national workplan for the implementation of a Beneficial Ownership Registry in line with international standards.

Nasser also highlighted the need for gaming institutions to adopt risk-based compliance programs tailored to their operations, customer profiles, and exposure to money laundering risks.

He urged operators to report all



By: Naneka Hoffman
Monrovia, Liberia; August 18, 2025 - The newly appointed leadership of the National Lottery Authority (NLA) has reaffirmed its commitment to enforcing Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) compliance across Liberia's gaming sector.

Speaking during an acquaintance meeting at the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA) Headquarters in Congo Town, Officer-in-Charge, Mohammed A. Nasser, emphasized that all gaming operators must establish formal boards of directors.

He noted that such boards will be tasked with appointing independent compliance managers, who will operate with full oversight responsibilities.

"All gaming entities must disclose their ultimate beneficial owners to prevent anonymity in financial dealings," Nasser said, stressing that proper documentation of market entry and licensing

controls by the NLA is essential. He lauded President Joseph N. Boakai, and the Cabinet, for approving the national workplan for the implementation of a Beneficial Ownership Registry in line with international standards.

Nasser also highlighted the need for gaming institutions to adopt risk-based compliance programs tailored to their operations, customer profiles, and exposure to money laundering risks.

He urged operators to report all



New leadership of the National Lottery Authority (NLA)

UL reviews Student's Handbook

The University of Liberia is reviewing Student's Handbook to conform to present day reality, both national and internationally.

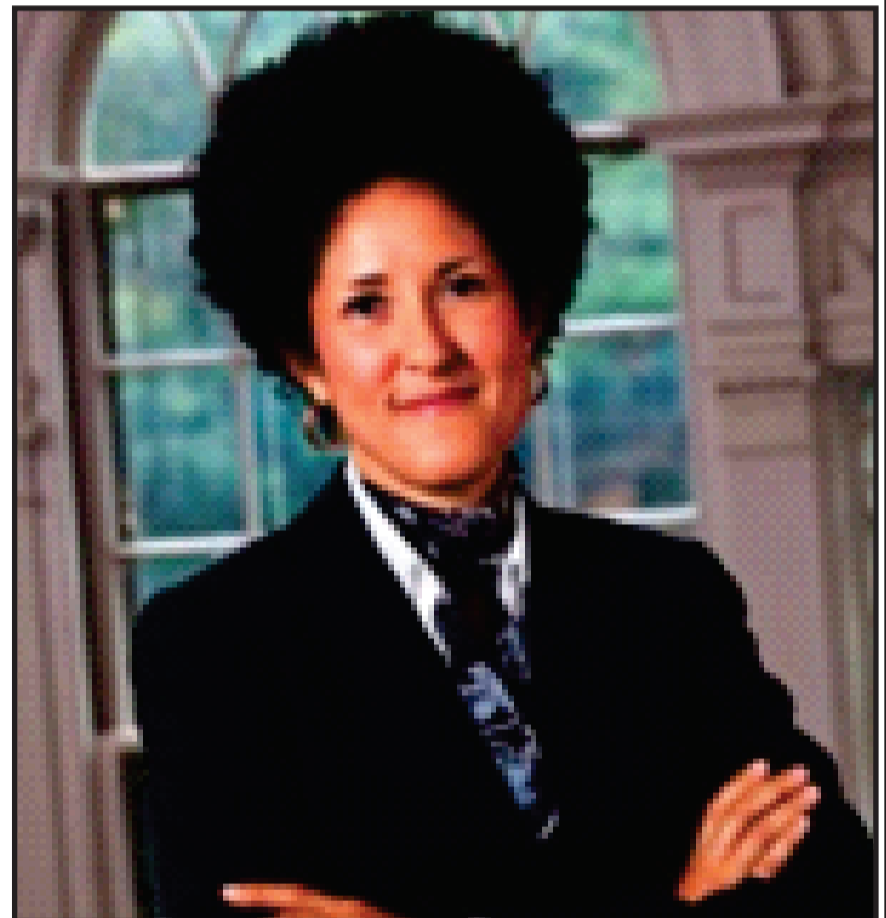
By: Naneka Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia; August 18, 2025 - The University of Liberia (UL) has begun reviewing its Student's Handbook, to make sure it reflects the diversity of student populations on its campuses and addresses changes that have occurred both globally and on campus since the last edition was produced.

The first Handbook Review Meeting was held in the conference room of the Nathaniel Cassell Building on the Capitol Hill campus,

her successor, Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson, with a new welcome letter. Under her administration, however, Dr. Maparyan emphasized that her goal is to significantly revise, update, and even reimagine the Handbook.

"A lot has changed in the world and on campus since the last version was written," she noted. She urged the review committee to approach the process with "fresh eyes" and to ask deeper questions about the higher purpose of the document. "How does it help us and our University become the highest and best version of itself or



bringing together UL President, Prof. Dr. Layli Maparyan, the Office of Student Affairs, students, professors, and administrative staff.

Additional review sessions are scheduled for next week to ensure the revised Handbook fully embodies diversity, functions effectively as a rulebook for student life, adapts to the digital age, and promotes justice.

UL President Prof. Dr. Maparyan underscored the importance of the initiative, describing the Handbook as a critical resource for students.

"The Student Handbook serves as an orientation guide for new students, an advisor-on-paper for continuing students, a rulebook governing student activities, and a regulatory manual for disciplinary matters," Dr. Maparyan said. She explained that the current version was first developed under former President Ophelia Inez Weeks and later updated by

ourselves?" She asked.

Dr. Maparyan further encouraged participants to offer suggestions with candor, listen respectfully, and ensure inclusive dialogue throughout the process.

Also speaking, UL Vice President for Student Affairs, Prof. Sekou Konneh, highlighted the significance of the review, noting that it has been more than five years since the Handbook was last updated. "For a document of this nature, you have to look at it and re-look at it over time," Prof. Konneh said. "That's why we decided it was necessary to revisit the Handbook. Some of the people in this room were part of that previous review."

He added that UL's goal is to bring in all stakeholders to inject "new dynamism and new energy" into the Handbook while allowing different perspectives to shape the final product. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

PRU KHDGOLQM

PRU KHDGOLQM

6 WDUWV IUR **Liberia's aviation sector gets boost**

RwandaAir's high-quality services to Liberia. This partnership, coupled with our alliances with Qatar Airways and Turkish Airlines, will make international travel more accessible, affordable, and convenient for every Liberian."

Ms. Bestman disclosed that recently, she wrote RwandaAir, expressing interest in extending the institution's service in Liberia, and following numerous email exchanges, she was extended an invitation for a formal presentation.

"I took my computer and sent an email to the company. After several conversations, they invited me for a presentation with the Board Members. When I got in the Board room, I did my presentation and I was told that they will get back to me. After two to three months, they replied me and agreed, for which we are here today. We need to now buy tickets. Just last year, six hundred and forty-three million alone in tourism, we need to tap

on that. We have a lot to partner with between the two countries. Also, we have Liberian students studying in Rwanda. Currently, we have over four thousand Liberian students studying in Rwanda. This will help us with straight ticket instead of transit", Ms. Bestman explained.

Speaking on behalf of the Government of Liberia, Kadiatu D. Konteh-Brohiri said the more airlines that come to the country, the more money government will generate from the tourism sector, while expressing appreciation and gratitude to Easy Continental Travel Agency for the partnership.

"I want to thank my colleagues from the Liberian Airport Authority for coming because this is a boost not just for the country, but for our ministries and agencies. We are open and willing to work with you all on any new ideas", she concluded. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

6 WDUWV IUR **Lottery Authority underscores**

gaming sector, and this renewed cooperation will lead to more effective enforcement, intelligence gathering, and compliance oversight."

The two institutions agreed on a roadmap for joint training, coordinated inspections of gaming operators, and streamlined information-sharing protocols aimed at identifying and addressing suspicious activities.

The meeting, which marked the beginning of a stronger operational partnership, was attended by NLA Director General, Peter L. Solo; Deputy Director General for Lotto Games and Chair of the NLA AML/CFT Compliance Unit, Richlue O. Burphy, and FIA Officer-in-Charge, Mohammed A. Nasser. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Over 20 zogos died in Paynesville **-In less than a week**

In less than a week, the death toll of drug-addicted youths in the commercial district of Paynesville, outside Monrovia has hit more than 20.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Paynesville, Liberia; August 18, 2025 - At least over twenty (20) Zogos, or disadvantaged youths have died in Paynesville reportedly from consuming a new phenomenon drug known as "Sparking Android," a substance related to the popular KUSH cannabis.

The deaths of the disadvantaged youths cut across Kemah Town, Soul Clinic, Parker Paint, Red Light, LBS (Lover Street), ELWA, and Police Academy communities, respectively.

Investigators gathered six (6) corpses from Kemah Town, eight (8) from Parker Paints, five (5) from Red Light Market, three (3) from Police Academy-Boulevard route, and one from LBS-Lover Street communities.

Reports attribute the rising number of deaths to consumption of Sparking Android and solar plate – drugs that kill instantly.

The deaths of the disadvantaged youths have raised concerns in the government's fight against drugs, illicit substances, and the proliferation of narcotics here.

The death toll has underscored the need for government to intensify efforts to address prevalence of illicit drugs across the country.

The dead include "Crenshaw," not his real name, "Cradle," his

street name, Jereh Doe, Archie Korpue, Alex, Philemon Tarpeh, and "Slow-G." Dozens others, some names withheld, were discovered dead and immediately buried, while some corpses were retrieved home by family members.

The Chairman of the Parker Paint Community, Augustine Joemah, preferably called Kapagee, lamented the rising and fearsome number of Zogo deaths in the community.

"Every day these people are dying, and I can tell you for the last month, more than 30 have died. Even this week, we have over seven," he recounted.

Chairman Joemah indicated there have been at least eight deaths since August 7, 2025, the day of the Anti-Drugs Campaign, and 19 in the last two weeks, while over 30 deaths

occurred in the last month, with bodies being retrieved and buried after 72 hours.

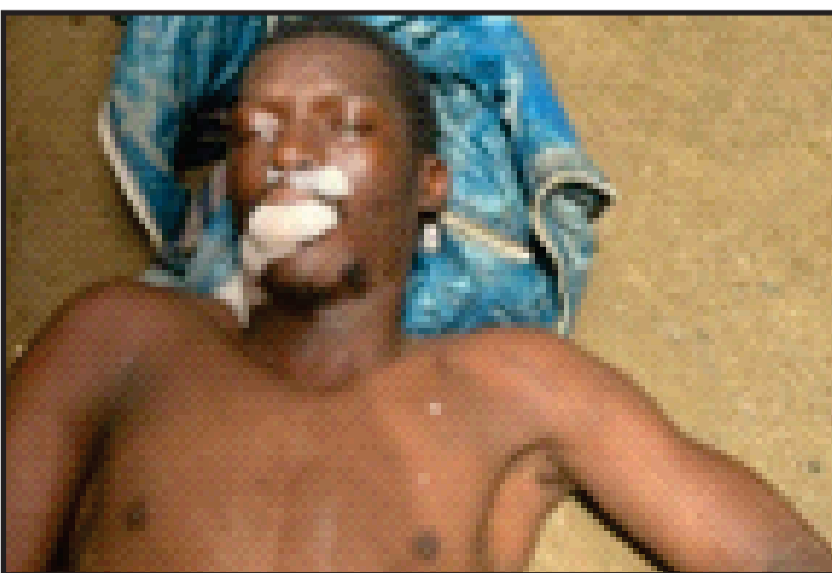
He expressed fear about the increase number of At-risk Youth in Parker Paint Community, while calling on government to intervene.

"We are living in fear in this community, because every day the Zogos are increasing, and we fear for our children," he said.

The community chairman, who frowned on the proliferation of illicit drugs, appealed to the Liberia National Police (LNP) to establish a sub-police station in the community to curtail spread of dangerous drugs and hijacking of peaceful citizens.

Parker Paint community is reportedly the largest hub of Zogos in Paynesville. According to reports, the Zogos hubs are divided into three - Galway, Mozambique, and Boca-teah, with a population of over 500 disadvantaged youths.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Community leaders crack down on Drugs.

By: Kruah Thompson

In Liberia, the fight against drug abuse has taken a U-turn as the government throws its support behind community-led efforts to dismantle ghettos and remove makeshift homes belonging to suspected drug distributors.

Frustrated by the slow response to the rising drug menace, community leaders are now taking matters into their own hands, organizing raids to tear down ghettos and confront suspected drug dealers directly.

This wave of vigilantism follows a major anti-drug march on August 11, 2025, when residents from Montserrado County rallied at the Capitol Building, demanding immediate government action.

Prior to the march, President Boakai released a statement urging residents to help identify drug distributors in

the police. At least it might help them take a bath." She pointed to a local entertainment center, saying it would be the first to go.

She reveals that since the government's announcement encouraging communities to identify suspected drug distributors, many of them (drug abusers) have taken steps to reform themselves. At-risk youth in some neighborhoods in Sinkor are cutting their hair and wearing clean clothes to avoid being targeted.

On January 29, 2024, during his first State of the Nation Address, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai declared drug abuse a national public health emergency.

He described the proliferation of drugs, particularly the synthetic drug known as "KUSH," as a national security risk and an existential threat to the nation's youth and future.

To address the crisis, President



their communities.

Since the president's statement, many residents have reportedly been organizing themselves to target ghettos and suspected drug distributors.

The latest citizen-led raid, assisted by police, took place on Friday, August 15, 2025, in Nimba County. Video footage from the raid shows residents confronting suspected drug traffickers and demolishing structures identified as drug dens. In one clip, an unidentified woman can be heard pointing at a suspected drug addict who was trying to flee from officers, shouting, 'La one there!'

These aggressive actions began on April 7 in Saye Town and on 12th Street, Sinkor, when residents demolished ghettos, destroyed illegal dwellings, and either chased away or handed over suspected drug users and dealers to authorities.

On Saturday, August 16, 2025, Liberia's Drugs Enforcement Agency joined residents at Barnersville's Chicken Soup Factory to conduct house-to-house searches for suspected drug dealers. Officers were seen burning materials seized from the surrounding houses. Similar operations also took place around Peace Island and other locations across Liberia.

However, other Community leaders are openly supporting these efforts. Byss Wallace, a resident of Fiamah, believes to be the chair lady of the market, told our reporter that, "We will start our own here and make sure everyone involved is out. If we see you in dirty clothes, we'll hand you to

Boakai established a multisectoral steering committee comprising the Ministry of Health (Chair), Ministry of Justice (Co-Chair), Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA), and Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP). Additionally, he pledged to undergo a drug test alongside his vice president and called on all government officials to follow suit.

Despite these declarations, experts and frontline workers have expressed concerns about the effectiveness of the government's response. Reports indicate that while over \$3 million has been pledged for anti-drug initiatives, there is minimal support on the ground, and unregulated rehabilitation centers have emerged in the absence of government-run facilities.

On August 7, 2025, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai made his most recent statement on Liberia's drug crisis. This announcement followed the receipt of a progress report from the Multisectoral Steering Committee on Drugs and Substance Abuse, which he had established to address the escalating issue.

Meanwhile, the president's new declaration has ignited community-led raids to dismantle drug dens and confront suspected dealers, reclaiming neighborhoods from the grip of crime. If sustained, these bold actions could play a key role in eradicating drug activity across the country.

Le CDC saisit la Cour suprême dans une affaire de litige foncier

Le parti d'opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) a porté devant la Cour suprême du Liberia un litige foncier de longue date concernant son siège national à Congo Town. La formation politique conteste deux

partis, qu'il occupe depuis plus de vingt ans et dans lequel il affirme avoir consenti d'importants investissements. Selon le CDC, des négociations d'achat avaient été engagées en 2024 avec la succession de feu Martha Stubblefield Bernard, représentée par M. Ebrima Varney Dempster, et

par hostilité, déposant en 2024 une requête d'expulsion devant le tribunal civil. Saisi, la Cour suprême avait tranché en mai 2025 en faveur du parti, confirmant sa qualité de locataire légal.

Malgré cette décision, le CDC affirme que la succession a adressé, le 2 juin 2025, un préavis d'une semaine pour libérer les lieux, en violation selon lui de l'accord de vente conclu. En réponse, le parti a introduit une action en exécution spécifique pour contraindre à la vente, mais le juge président George W. Smith a rejeté la requête sans en examiner le fond. Le CDC dénonce également le fait que la même juridiction ait simultanément examiné une procédure sommaire de récupération du bien, alors que son action initiale restait pendante – ce qui constituerait une violation de l'article 11.2.1(d) du Code de procédure civile libérien.

Le président national du CDC, Me Janga A. Kowo, a critiqué ce qu'il qualifie



récentes décisions judiciaires qu'elle estime contraires à l'équité et préjudiciables à l'État de droit.

Au cœur de l'affaire se trouve l'immeuble abritant le siège du

avaient abouti à une offre de droit de préférence que le parti dit avoir acceptée.

Cependant, lorsque le CDC a entrepris une vérification de routine sur le bien, le bailleur aurait réagi

La Chine commémore le 80^e anniversaire de la Guerre de Résistance contre l'agression japonaise

L'ambassade de la République populaire de Chine au Liberia a organisé, jeudi 14 août, une cérémonie solennelle marquant le 80^e anniversaire de la Guerre du peuple chinois de Résistance contre l'agression japonaise et, plus largement, de la Guerre mondiale antifasciste. L'événement, tenu au TM Mall de Monrovia, a rassemblé de hauts responsables gouvernementaux, des partenaires internationaux au développement, des représentants d'organisations chinoises au Liberia ainsi que plusieurs invités de marque. La rencontre visait à rappeler les liens historiques forgés entre la Chine et le Liberia au cours de l'une des périodes les plus sombres du XX^e siècle.

Dans son allocution d'ouverture, S. E. Yin Chengwu, ambassadeur de Chine au Liberia, a insisté sur la portée universelle de ce devoir de mémoire. Selon lui, il ne s'agit pas « d'entretenir la haine », mais de rendre hommage à ceux qui ont sacrifié leur vie et de préserver la paix.

« L'expérience de la guerre rend les peuples plus attachés à la paix », a-t-il déclaré, invitant l'auditoire à se

souvenir du passé, à honorer les disparus et à ouvrir leurs cœurs aux perspectives de réconciliation et d'espérance.

L'ambassadeur a rappelé que la Chine et le Liberia avaient combattu côte à côte au sein de l'alliance antifasciste durant la Seconde Guerre mondiale. La Chine, principal champ de bataille en Asie de l'Est, a assumé un rôle décisif dans la victoire contre le militarisme japonais, tandis que le Liberia fournissait aux Alliés du caoutchouc en quantité, mettait à disposition ses aéroports et ses ports, et voyait certains de ses citoyens s'engager volontairement dans les rangs militaires.

« Chaque acte de courage, qu'il provienne d'un soldat ou d'un simple citoyen resté fidèle à sa conscience, mérite d'être honoré à

jamais », a poursuivi le diplomate, soulignant que les bouleversements actuels du monde rappellent l'importance de tirer les leçons de l'histoire. Représentant le gouvernement libérien et s'exprimant au nom de la ministre de la Défense nationale, le général Geraldine Janet George, le vice-ministre chargé de l'administration, Dr Augustine T. Larmin, a salué « la résilience et la détermination du peuple chinois face à l'agression japonaise ».

« C'est avec respect et solidarité que je transmets ce message au nom du Liberia », a-t-il déclaré. « La victoire du peuple chinois n'était pas seulement une victoire sur le Japon, mais un comb

a t



Éditorial

Lutter contre la drogue avec sincérité

Le président Joseph Boakai a présenté jeudi dernier un Plan national de lutte contre la drogue, ambitieux et multidimensionnel, destiné à répondre à la montée inquiétante de la consommation et du trafic de stupéfiants au Liberia. Le lancement a coïncidé avec un défilé dans les rues de Monrovia, organisé par des militantes anti-drogue — principalement des femmes et des mères — pour attirer l'attention des autorités sur la prolifération du trafic, de la vente et de l'usage de substances dangereuses dans le pays.

Dans un communiqué de l'Executive Mansion, le chef de l'État a qualifié cette prolifération de drogues d'« attaque contre notre avenir » et réaffirmé son engagement à protéger la jeunesse, les communautés et les générations futures du fléau de la toxicomanie.

Si nous saluons l'initiative présidentielle, force est de constater que la lutte antidrogue au Liberia semble souffrir d'un excès de discours et d'un manque d'actions concrètes. Les stupéfiants continuent de franchir nos frontières, y compris via l'aéroport international, sans réelle entrave.

Dès son arrivée au pouvoir, M. Boakai avait déclaré la drogue « Urgence nationale de santé publique » et s'était soumis personnellement à un test de dépistage, enjoignant tous les responsables publics à en faire de même. Mais cette directive est restée largement lettre morte.

Près de deux ans après, l'Agence nationale de lutte contre la drogue (LDEA) a déjà changé de direction à trois reprises, sans pour autant endiguer le trafic qui ravage notre jeunesse. Les arrestations annoncées se soldent souvent par la remise en liberté rapide des suspects, sans procès, ce qui alimente le sentiment d'impunité.

Le président Boakai a promis une lutte « implacable et sans distinction », affirmant qu'« aucun statut, aucun titre, aucun uniforme, ni aucune connexion » ne protégera les personnes impliquées dans le trafic de drogue. Mais pour que cette promesse inspire confiance, il faut passer des paroles aux actes fermes et visibles.

Nous appelons le gouvernement à mobiliser toutes les ressources disponibles pour traiter cette urgence nationale, protéger la jeunesse actuelle et préserver l'avenir du pays. La véritable clé de cette bataille se résume en un mot : Action.

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Le CDC saisit la Cour suprême

6 WDUWV IUR

fiée de « dénis en série » des requêtes du parti, parmi lesquelles une motion en annulation et un recours en certiorari introduit auprès de la juge à la Chambre, Cianeh Clinton Johnson.

« Ces décisions, rendues sans examen du fond, traduisent un abus de pouvoir judiciaire, compromettent l'État de droit et menacent la stabilité démocratique du Liberia », a dénoncé le parti dans un communiqué.

Le CDC s'inquiète également d'une disposition du jugement du juge Smith confiant l'exécution de l'expulsion à la Police nationale du Liberia plutôt qu'au shérif du tribunal, une mesure jugée « sans précédent » dans une affaire civile de propriété et qui, selon lui, soulève des doutes sur l'impartialité judiciaire.

Le parti a introduit des Bills of Exceptions dans les deux affaires – Exécution spécifique et Procédure sommaire – qui ont été validés par le juge Smith. Son équipe juridique finalise désormais les recours devant la Cour suprême.

Tout en réaffirmant son attachement à l'État de droit, le CDC a condamné ce qu'il appelle des « actions judiciaires arbitraires », avertissant que de telles pratiques risquent d'éroder la confiance du public dans le système judiciaire libérien.

En parallèle, la direction du parti confirme avoir entamé des dispositions pour transférer son siège national vers un autre site, si nécessaire.

Appelant au calme, le CDC exhorte ses militants et sympathisants à « rester patients » dans l'attente de l'issue de la procédure en appel.

Lutte antidrogue : le gouvernement soutient les actions citoyennes contre les ghettos

Le Liberia se trouve à un tournant décisif dans sa lutte contre la consommation de stupéfiants et la prolifération des ghettos. Le gouvernement a annoncé son soutien officiel aux initiatives communautaires visant à démanteler ces foyers de drogue, tout en soulignant que ces actions doivent impérativement se dérouler sous la supervision des forces conjointes de sécurité.

Cette position marque une évolution dans l'approche sécuritaire de proximité, mais elle suscite également des inquiétudes en matière de droits humains. Plusieurs témoignages font état de violences lors des récentes opérations menées par des habitants, au cours desquelles des personnes soupçonnées de consommation



La Chine commémore le 80 anniversaire de la

pour sauver le monde et redéfinir sa souveraineté.

Un moment fort de la commémoration a été la projection du documentaire chinois The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru, réalisé en 2024 par Fang Li avec la collaboration de Ming Fan et Lily Gong. Le film retrace le drame du Lisbon Maru, un navire de transport japonais qui convoyait 1 800 prisonniers de guerre britanniques en 1942.

Torpillé au large de l'île Dongji, en mer de Chine orientale, le navire sombrait alors que des prisonniers tentaient de fuir, sous les tirs des

gardes japonais. Dans cet instant tragique, plus d'une centaine de pêcheurs chinois bravèrent les flots déchaînés pour sauver de nombreux captifs de la noyade, incarnant une remarquable solidarité humaine et un sens profond du devoir moral.

À travers cette commémoration, l'ambassade de Chine a non seulement honoré la mémoire des victimes et des héros de la Seconde Guerre mondiale, mais aussi réaffirmé la valeur universelle de la paix et de la coopération entre les peuples.

« J'ai vu Satan » : témoignage d'un survivant à Kemah Town

À cœur de la crise nationale liée aux stupéfiants, qui continue de faire des victimes au Liberia, un homme de 48 ans affirme avoir fait l'expérience de la mort après avoir consommé une nouvelle drogue baptisée Sparking Android.

Otis Walker, surnommé « Ortega Mehn », fait partie des cinq survivants d'un groupe de neuf jeunes consommateurs de Kemah Town, dans la zone de Soul Clinic, district électoral n°4 de Montserrado. Quatre de ses compagnons n'ont pas survécu.

Dans un entretien accordé au New Dawn, Walker raconte avoir été plongé dans un état de coma après avoir pris la substance, qu'il décrit comme « plus puissante que le KUSH ». C'est à ce moment, dit-il, qu'il aurait « rencontré Satan ».

« Là où j'étais, je ne savais rien. Je voyais seulement Lucifer assis à côté de moi, qui me disait : Mon gars, ce n'est pas encore ton temps ; attends un peu. C'était ma première fois de voir Satan face à face », témoigne-t-il, encore marqué par cette expérience qu'il qualifie de « sauvetage divin ».

Il met en garde ses camarades : « Les drogues ne sont pas bonnes, il n'y a rien dedans. J'allais mourir, mais Dieu m'a sauvé. À partir d'aujourd'hui, je n'en prends plus. »

Quatre morts en une nuit
Le 13 août 2025, au moins quatre jeunes consommateurs – connus sous les noms de Crenshaw, Cradle, Jereh Doe et Archie Korpue – ont succombé après avoir ingéré du Sparking Android. Les survivants identifiés sont Walker lui-même, Shatta Boy, Adolphus, Doctor James et Crappie.

Selon des habitants, la drogue aurait été achetée à Du-Port Road avant d'être consommée à Kemah Town. « Ici, nous ne vendons pas cette

substance. Ils l'ont achetée là-bas, et dès qu'on en prend, on tombe et on meurt », a affirmé un rescapé.

Des usagers estiment que la drogue est écoulée à bas prix – environ 100 dollars libériens – mais serait manipulée de façon à devenir particulièrement dangereuse. « Il y a de la méchanceté : tu vas acheter ton produit, et on te donne du Sparking Android sans te prévenir », a confié un autre consommateur.

Une communauté sous le choc
La présidente de la communauté de Kemah Town, Garmai N. Massaquio, a décrit l'incident comme « un drame bouleversant » et appelé le gouvernement à mettre en place des centres de réhabilitation pour jeunes en situation de dépendance, connus localement sous le terme de Zogos.

« Nos enfants meurent, il faut une solution », a-t-elle plaidé. De son côté, le président de la communauté voisine, Nanmagai Paye, a tenu à préciser que les décès ne se sont pas produits dans sa juridiction, tout en appelant à une politique plus ferme de lutte contre les stupéfiants et à la construction de structures de désintoxication.

Réactions locales : entre colère et initiatives citoyennes

Face à la recrudescence de la consommation de drogues, des habitants de Saye Town, une autre communauté de Monrovia, ont récemment entrepris une action radicale : détruire des ghettos, brûler des abris précaires et chasser les individus soupçonnés d'y consommer des stupéfiants.

Cette initiative survient une semaine après la campagne nationale antidrogue du 7 août 2025. « Nous agissons pour protéger nos enfants. Nous ne dormons plus, la drogue tue chaque jour », a confié Patricia Menson, une résidente.

Des leaders locaux, dont Papa Morris, estiment que cette action vise avant tout à restaurer la sécurité et la paix dans un quartier longtemps gangrené par les effets néfastes de la drogue. « Le message est clair : Saye Town ne sera plus un refuge pour les activités liées aux stupéfiants », a-t-il déclaré.

Toutefois, si certains saluent cette initiative communautaire, d'autres mettent en garde contre les dérives du vigilantisme et insistent sur la nécessité d'approches institutionnelles et légales pour éradiquer le fléau de la drogue au Liberia.



de drogue auraient été battues et pourchassées avec des bâtons. Le mercredi 13 août, des résidents de Saye Town et de 12^e Rue à Sinkor se sont mobilisés, détruisant des ghettos, rasant des abris précaires et chassant ou arrêtant des individus considérés comme trafiquants ou consommateurs.

Cette réaction communautaire survient après la marche nationale Say No to Drugs du 7 août dernier, au cours de laquelle des citoyens de divers quartiers de Montserrado avaient manifesté devant le Capitole pour alerter les autorités sur la gravité du phénomène.

Contexte alarmant

La mobilisation citoyenne a pris une ampleur particulière après la mort de quatre jeunes hommes à New Kemah Town (Soul Clinic), intoxiqués par une nouvelle drogue surnommée Android ou Spark. Ce drame a renforcé le sentiment d'urgence et poussé certaines communautés à agir elles-mêmes, procédant même à des arrestations citoyennes avant de remettre les suspects à la police.

Le président Joseph Boakai, dans son deuxième train de mesures politiques présenté quelques jours plus tôt, avait déjà exhorté les communautés à signaler les cas liés à la drogue à la Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA).

La position officielle du gouvernement

S'exprimant au nom de l'exécutif lors d'un point de presse au ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme le 14 août, le vice-ministre de la Communication et des Affaires publiques, Daniel Sanoe, a salué l'engagement des communautés tout en appelant à la prudence.

« Fermer les ghettos peut contribuer à réduire la criminalité et la violence, et à freiner la propagation des drogues qui détruisent nos familles. Mais ces actions doivent être menées de façon légale et sans violation des droits humains », a-t-il déclaré.

Tout en condamnant les excès observés, il a insisté sur la nécessité d'une coordination avec les autorités et la sécurité conjointe : « La posture violente adoptée était une erreur, mais nous encourageons d'autres communautés à se joindre à cet effort, dans le respect des règles. Cela envoie un message clair : il n'y a pas de place pour le trafic et la vente de drogues au Liberia. »

Le responsable gouvernemental a réaffirmé la politique de tolérance zéro en matière de drogue : « Aucun statut, aucun uniforme, aucune somme d'argent ne vous protégera si vous êtes impliqué dans la vente ou la distribution de stupéfiants. Le gouvernement ne peut pas lutter seul ; nous appelons chaque citoyen à jouer son rôle. »

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The Flying President: Concerns Regarding Boakai's Large Delegation for Japan's TICAD-9

By Seltue Robert Karweaye Sr.

Liberia and Japan have a strong partnership built on Japan's significant development assistance. During George Weah's presidency (2018-2024), Japan focused on infrastructure, food security, and economic growth. Key projects included the Japan Freeway and a road corridor linking Freeport to the Gabriel Truck Bridge, with investments totaling about US\$93 million. Japan also allocated \$20 million for road connectivity improvements. In addition to infrastructure, Japan provided crucial food assistance through the KR Food Aid Program, with a \$2.7 million grant in November 2018 and a donation of 5,019 metric tons of rice in December 2019. The government and people of Japan provided a grant of \$217,780 for the initiation of phase one of the Modern Duala Market Project. In 2023, the Government of Japan also committed to providing \$20 million to extend the road from Freeport to the Gabriel Tucker Bridge.

This spirit of cooperation continued fervently during the Joseph Boakai administration. A grant agreement was signed on March 12, 2024, between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Liberia for the Japan Freeway Extension Project. Japan also donated \$3 million worth of rice in September 2024, following a delivery of 3,294 metric tons valued at \$1.5 million in June 2024. This ongoing support highlights the strong partnership and shared development goals between the two nations.

As a developing nation, Liberians are keenly aware of the importance of the strong bilateral relationship between Liberia and Japan, nonetheless, President Boakai's upcoming trip to participate in the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-9), scheduled for August 20 to 22, 2025, in Yokohama, Japan, as well as his attendance at Expo 2025 in Osaka, has elicited a range of reactions from citizens and stakeholders across the nation. Concerns have been raised regarding the frequency of international trips taken by the administration since taking office.

In approximately 19 months of service, President Boakai has undertaken a series of international trips, including visits to the United States (four times), China, Italy, South Korea, Indonesia, Canada, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Guinea-Bissau. This pattern of travel has sparked discussions among the population regarding the implications of these trips on domestic priorities and whether they address the pressing needs of the Liberian people.

According to a press release from the Executive Mansion dated August 15, 2025, President Boakai is set to participate in the TICAD-9. He will be accompanied by a delegation comprising 23 members. In addition to the delegation, the President will also bring along his communication, protocol, security, and attendant teams, bringing the total estimated count of accompanying personnel to around 40.

Analysts have expressed significant concerns over the President's compliance with the Government of Liberia's Revised Travel Ordinance Law of 2025, which came into effect on January 2, 2025. Specifically, critics argue that the President's delegation infringes on Rule #3, which stipulates that "Total Government of Liberia-funded representation at any program or event held outside Liberia shall not exceed five (5) persons in total, regardless of how many entities are involved." Additionally, Rule #4 states that for specific high-level meetings, such as the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Africa-China Summit, Korea-Africa Summit, and the Commission on the Status of Women Conference, the maximum allowable number of delegates is capped at seven (7). Given that TICAD-9 falls under the category of such high-level events, it raises questions regarding the appropriateness of the President's extensive delegation.

As per the GOL Revised Travel Ordinance Law, the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for officials traveling abroad is established at US\$344 daily. This allowance is further broken down into US\$110 for meals and US\$234 for hotel accommodations. Excluding costs associated with communication, protocol, security, attendant teams, and air travel, it is projected that Liberian taxpayers will incur approximately US\$4,816 for each delegate accompanying the President to TICAD-9. Consequently, the overall expenditure for the entire delegation—which amounts to US\$110,768—excludes airfare, which could significantly

increase the total financial commitment to this trip. This situation has prompted calls for greater accountability and adherence to established travel regulations within the government.

The ongoing controversy surrounding the size of the President's delegation to the TICAD-9 is steeped in multiple critical issues that deserve thorough scrutiny: First, the financial implications of the delegation's size are considerable and warrant serious concern. Beyond the base expenses of chartering international flights—which can reach staggering amounts depending on distance and aircraft specifications—there are also significant costs associated with accommodations in Tokyo, where hotel rates for suitable lodging can soar. Furthermore, each delegate receives per diem allowances, intended to cover daily meals and incidental expenses, adding to an already ballooning budget. Given the government's distressing financial position, characterized by a rampant borrowing strategy to satisfy even fundamental public obligations, a chorus of voices is questioning the prudence of such high-profile expenditures. Is it defensible to allocate such resources when the nation is grappling with budget deficits that threaten essential services?

In addition to the financial implications, these extravagant expenditures raise pressing questions about the government's genuine understanding of—and empathy for—the severe challenges facing ordinary Liberians. While the administration persistently urges the populace to display patience with the ARREST Agenda—an initiative ambitiously designed to address critical sectors such as Agriculture, Roads, Rule of Law, Education, Sanitation, and Tourism—evidence of sincere leadership in this regard appears scant.

A particularly striking illustration can be found in the 2025 national budget of \$880.6 million, signed into law by the President in early January, showing a troubling lack of funding for social protection programs, leaving many vulnerable citizens without support. Public outrage has surged over the startling expenditure of more than \$300,000 on two lavish bulletproof Lexus SUVs, a move that starkly underscores a significant disconnect between government actions and the everyday realities experienced by many citizens. This expenditure raises critical questions about the underlying priorities of the government and its accountability to the public.

In light of the ongoing economic hardships afflicting the nation—whether due to rising prices, widespread unemployment, or inadequate public services—many Liberians are increasingly questioning whether the government is deliberately ignoring their struggles or simply lacks the empathy needed to understand their plight. While the Boakai administration may assert that it prioritizes the well-being of its citizens, the public's interpretation of its actions is what truly matters.

This situation emphasizes the importance of optics in governance. Regrettably, the Boakai government has displayed insufficient awareness and sensitivity regarding how its lavish spending might be perceived, especially during such arduous times for many families. The choice to invest heavily in luxury vehicles instead of addressing pressing social and economic issues raises significant concerns about the administration's credibility and its genuine commitment to serving the needs of the people. As public trust erodes, the government must reconsider its approach to spending and strive for a more compassionate connection with the citizens it represents.

Furthermore, in light of the country's current debt profile, which paints a worrisome picture for its financial future, the government's current pattern of excessive spending will likely hinder its ability to secure any meaningful support for debt forgiveness or relief from its Western creditors. Despite widespread apprehension regarding the loan accumulation under the Weah administration, the Boakai government has continued down a similar path, prioritizing borrowing over responsible fiscal management.

In June 2025, a coalition of civil society organizations, including prominent advocacy groups and community leaders, released a powerful joint communiqué urging the

Liberian government to reject any austerity measures that could exacerbate the already critical economic situation. They emphasized the need for a fair and inclusive approach to debt restructuring and called for comprehensive reforms in the tax policies, which they argue disproportionately favor large corporations while imposing a heavier burden on ordinary citizens.

As it stands, Liberia's public debt has surged beyond \$2.5 billion, translating to an astonishing 67% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This alarmingly high debt level severely limits the government's capacity to invest in vital sectors such as healthcare, education, and climate resilience—areas deemed essential for achieving the country's long-term developmental objectives. In the national budget approved for 2025, a considerable allocation of \$153 million, accounting for 17.4% of the budget, is dedicated exclusively to servicing this debt. This highlights the urgent necessity for a fundamental shift in fiscal policy that prioritizes public investment and seeks to alleviate the crippling debt burden on the Liberian population.

Despite repeated warnings from civil society groups and concerned citizens regarding the unsustainable nature of our borrowing practices, the government's propensity to continue accumulating debt shows no sign of abating. Many observers are left questioning whether the administration possesses the fiscal discipline required to curtail extravagant and unnecessary expenditures. Without such discipline, the government will likely find it increasingly difficult to convince international creditors to agree to debt relief or forgiveness, potentially jeopardizing the country's economic stability and growth prospects.

The size of the TICAD-9 delegation and certain expenses highlight the need for greater accountability, especially as the government's economic policies strive to deliver the promised benefits. Addressing these concerns could enhance the potential for meaningful political change in Liberia. President Boakai's delegation to TICAD-9 brings to mind the controversy surrounding the inclusion of two 2025 Lexus LX 700HR Super Ultra Luxury bulletproof SUVs in his extensive presidential convoy. This penchant for grandeur is emblematic of Boakai's political style, which has consistently revolved around cultivating and sustaining a network of political patronage and loyal clients.

Also, concerns regarding the size of Boakai's TICAD-9 delegation are likely to heighten the growing dissatisfaction among the Liberian populace, who are increasingly disillusioned with the current state of democracy and the pervasive presence of messianic politics in the country. Consider the possibility that he might travel with a significantly reduced entourage, foregoing the usual extravagant display associated with high-ranking officials. Instead of a large delegation, he could opt for a small group of essential advisors or even attend international conferences virtually, demonstrating a commitment to efficiency and a pragmatic use of public resources. By streamlining his motorcade to a more modest size—perhaps even utilizing a staff bus for local meetings—Boakai could convey a message of humility and accessibility that resonates with ordinary citizens. Such a dramatic transformation would not only mark a significant departure from the traditional expectations of political leadership in Liberia, characterized by a prebendal mentality prioritizing personal gain over public service, but it would also actively challenge the prevailing norms within the political landscape.

If President Boakai were to embrace this radical change, it would likely capture the attention of the Liberian public and spark discussions across communities about the nature of political leadership. This strategic shift could redefine his public image, prioritizing authenticity and connection with the citizenry, thereby rekindling a sense of trust in political institutions. Moreover, his ministers and aides, witnessing their leader exemplifying a more humble approach to governance, would likely feel compelled to align with this new philosophy. This adjustment could foster a culture of accountability, transparency, and genuine service, moving away from a history of entitlement and excess. I rest my pen.

Govt. launches National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy

The Government of Liberia describes the launch of the Liberia National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy as a significant step towards boosting local trade.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh
Monrovia, Liberia; August 18, 2025 - The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) has launched the Liberia National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy, a significant milestone in the country's economic

Minister Dagoseh explained that the aim of the strategy is to harness benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, focusing on empowering micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and

Trade Area will integrate gender, women, youth, people with disabilities, and environmental considerations.

Bomi County Senator and Liberian Senate Chair on Commerce Alex J. Tyler, stressed that the e-commerce platform will connect businesses and enhance economic empowerment.

Senator Tyler said the platform will boost regional digital markets, adding "This initiative will open doors for entrepreneurs, farmers, young graduates, and marginalized groups to trade beyond borders."

He continued that the strategy will reflect Liberia's economic aspirations and commitment to leveraging regional trade for sustainable development and shared prosperity, thus far creating a single market for goods, services, and investments across the African continent with an estimated 1.3 billion consumers. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



transformation journey. Commerce Minister Magdalene E. Dagoseh, who addressed the official launch in Monrovia, said the AfCFTA is significant towards the boost of local trade.

boosting trade facilitation, diversifying exports, and enhancing competitiveness. She emphasized critical enablers such as institutional capacity, policy coherence, and digital transformation. The Africa Continental Free

Nimba Service Center generates LRD 9 Million; US\$1.1 Million

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acknowledged lawmakers' concerns over the company's activities, stressing that the county is working toward mediation to ensure the company fulfills its obligations under the Mineral Development Agreement (MDA).

and stakeholder collaboration. According to her, retaining 40% of locally generated revenue would significantly boost Nimba's development agenda and directly benefit citizens across the county.

"There's always room for improvement. We want affected communities to be fully included in any new mineral agreements, and we support our lawmakers in pushing for that," she said.

She further highlighted that Nimba is one of the fastest-growing counties in Liberia with the second largest voting population next to Montserrado County, while assuring residents that her leadership will uphold President Boakai's ARREST Agenda for national renewal. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Superintendent Gono urged residents to continue supporting their local government for progress and partnership, reaffirming her commitment to inclusive development



Associate Justices Jamesetta H. Wolokolie, Yussif D. Kaba, Yamie Q. Gbeisay, Sr., and Associate Justice Ceaineh D. Clinton Johnson fueled public speculation.

an entitlement. The President, however, repeated his signature call: "Let us together Think Liberia, Love Liberia, and Build Liberia."

The Judiciary eventually linked their absence to an internal speakership dispute in the legislature between former speaker Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa and Richard N. Koon of the Unity Party (UP).

President Boakai declared that the era of "business as usual" is over and that his Administration will measure officials by their performance and commitment to the Liberian people.

A prominent Liberian attending the ceremony expressed disappointment due to the Executive's failure to show up at the ceremony and deliberate refusal to send a proxy.

"This is your moment to rise. Your country is calling. Deliver with courage, integrity, and humility," the President said. He added, "We will be tracking your progress and holding you accountable."

However, most disappointingly, minutes following the conclusion of the retirement ceremony and the adjournment of the March A. D 2025 Term of the Supreme Court, incoming Chief Justice Yamie QuiQui Gbeisay, Sr, and Associate Justice Cllr. Boakai Kanneh quietly

Transparency and asset declaration are not optional; they are legal requirements and moral obligations." Addressing the Judiciary, President Boakai said the need for reform is "urgent and non-negotiable,"

Boycotts at Chief Justice Yuoh's exit ceremony

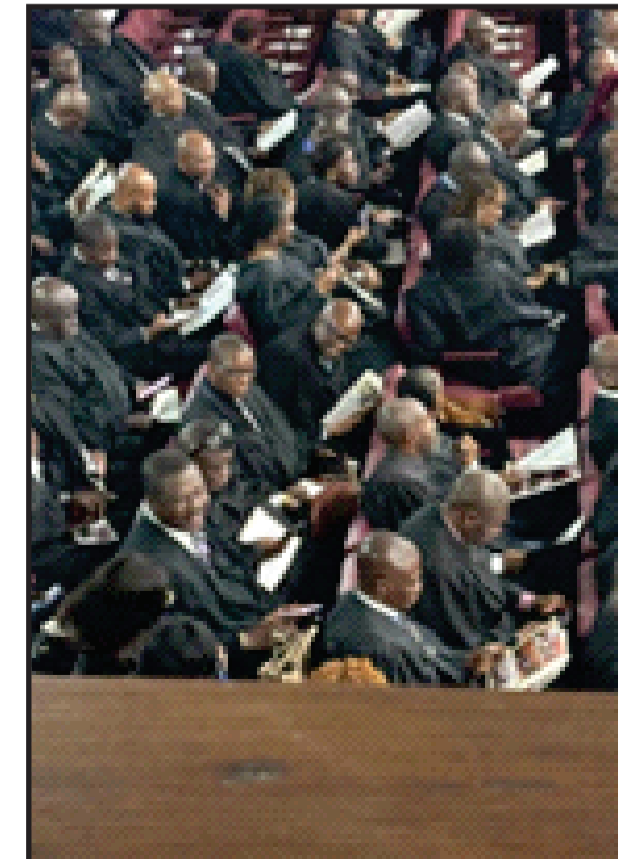
On August 15, 2025, the official retirement ceremony for former Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh unfolded in the Chamber of Liberia's Supreme Court—but with a notable absence.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Monrovia, August 18, 2025: President Joseph N. Boakai and the top leadership of the Liberian legislature, including Speaker Richard Koon and Senate Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence, boycotted the event. President Boakai, who had been scheduled to deliver special

remarks, neither attended nor sent a proxy. Similarly, the Justice Minister, Cllr. N Oswald Tweah was absent when called to deliver a tribute, leaving Liberia's Solicitor General, Cllr. Augustine Fayiah, to represent the Ministry at the last moment. Many observers interpreted these absences as an act of political payback. Earlier in the

year, during President Boakai's State of the Nation Address on January 27, 2025, no member of the Judiciary—including Supreme Court Justices—was present, and no explanation was provided at the time.

While the absence of the Chief Justice was later attributed to an international symposium in Cairo, Egypt, the unexplained nonattendance of four Associate Justices: Senior



The commissioning ceremony was attended by senior government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, and family members, among others.

To the newly appointed Ambassadors, the President underscored their role as Liberia's face abroad, particularly as the country begins its historic two-year term on the United Nations Security Council. "You are called 'Excellency' for a reason. Represent us with dignity, but also with action—attract investment, boost tourism, build partnerships, and make Liberia's voice heard," he said.

The officials commissioned by the President were Chief Justice Yamie Gbeisay, Associate Justice Boakai N. Kanneh, and Margibi County Resident Judge Victoria W. Duncan. Furthermore, President Boakai also commissioned John Ballout, Ambassador to Nigeria, Amb. George S.W. Patten—Ambassador to South Africa, Mohammed M. Dukuly—Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Henry B. Fahnbulleh—Ambassador to Egypt, Clarence K. Massaquoi—Commissioner & Chairman, LTA, Ben A. Fofana—Commissioner, LTA, Emmanuel J. Payegar—Commissioner, LTA, Patrick R. Honnah—Commissioner, LTA, Angela Cassell Bush—Commissioner, LTA

The President charged the LTA leadership to ensure Liberia seizes the opportunities of the digital age. "Your work must drive innovation, economic growth, and opportunities for our young people to thrive in a knowledge-based economy," he stated, adding that technology must benefit every corner of the country.

Meanwhile, giving a special remark at the commissioning ceremony, President Boakai challenged the newly commissioned officials of government to serve with integrity, accountability, and results, warning that public service is a trust and not

President Boakai highlighted his Administration's zero tolerance for corruption, warning that any misuse of public resources will be met with full legal consequences. "Those found in breach of our anti-graft laws will be held fully accountable," he warned. **-Edited by Othello B. Garblah.**

Nimba Service Center generates LRD 9 Million; US\$1.1 Million

-Superintendent Kou Gono reveals

Nimba County Service Center has reportedly generated more than nine million Liberian dollars and 1.1 million U.S. dollars during the 2024-2025 fiscal year, according to Superintendent Kou Meapeh Gono.

By: S. Matthew M. Quoi, Jr.

Nimba, Liberia; August 18, 2025 - County Superintendent, Madam Kou Meapeh Gono, has disclosed that the Nimba County Service Center generated more than nine

million Liberian dollars and 1.1 million U.S. dollars during the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Speaking at a local governance stakeholders' gathering in Bong County, Superintendent Gono described the achievement as a significant milestone in the county's development drive. She attributed the success to teamwork, fiscal discipline, and commitment of both the Nimba Legislative Caucus and citizens.

their encouragement. I also thank the people of Nimba, who are hungry for development," Madam Gono said. She emphasized the importance of rebranding the county, decentralizing development, and ensuring that Monrovia is not the only hub for opportunities in Liberia. "The war is over, and we have a lot of catching up to do. We want to make Nimba a new destination for growth and development," she stated. Highlighting the strong performance of the Nimba County Service Center, Superintendent Gono expressed support for President Joseph N. Boakai's vision of fiscal decentralization, particularly the proposed policy that would allow counties to retain 40% of revenue generated locally. "If 40% of what comes from our county service center remains in Nimba, the impact will be visible. It will ease the burden on county administration and directly benefit our people," she noted, calling on the Liberia Revenue Authority to implement the policy. On the issue of ArcelorMittal's operations in Nimba, Superintendent Gono ack



Madam Kou Meapeh Gono

million Liberian dollars and 1.1 million U.S. dollars during the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Speaking at a local governance stakeholders' gathering in Bong County,

"Everything we've achieved would never have been possible without the support and cooperation of the Nimba Legislative Caucus. They are our bosses, and I'm grateful for

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