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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025	L\$200.0078/US\$1.00	L\$202.2306/US\$1.00

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

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French Version Inside

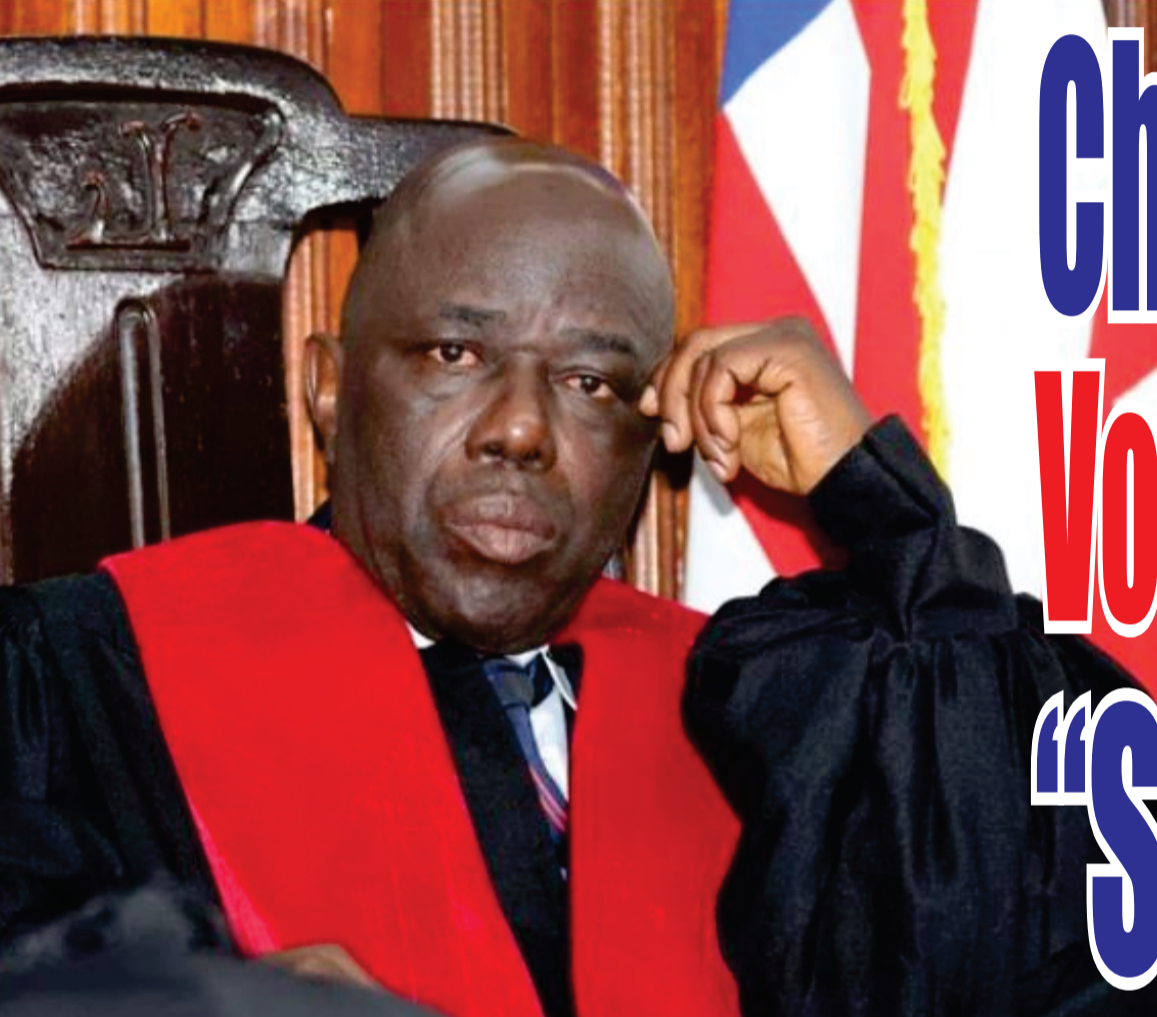
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Chief Justice Gbeisay Vows to End Judiciary's "Stepchild" Status

P10

CSA to overturn 260 wrongful dismissals





P11




-D.G. Josiah Joeikai reveals





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Continental News

DR Congo rebels killed 140 civilians despite peace process, rights group says

M23 rebels killed at least 140 people in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo last month in one of the worst atrocities by the armed group since its resurgence in late 2021, Human Rights Watch has said in a report. This is despite a peace process, brokered by the US and Qatar, to end the conflict in the region. Witnesses told the advocacy group that the Rwanda-backed rebels "summarily executed" local residents, including women and children, largely from the Hutu ethnic group in the Rutshuru area, near the Virunga National Park. The rebels have previously strongly denied any role in these killings, calling the charges a "blatant misrepresentation of the facts". It did not respond to a request to comment on the report, the rights group said. The alleged massacre appears to have taken place during an M23

campaign against an armed Hutu group, the FDLR, formed by perpetrators of the 1994 genocide in neighbouring Rwanda. HRW said the total killings in July may exceed 300, corroborating similar findings by the UN earlier this month. Fighting between government troops and the M23 escalated in January, when the rebels captured large parts of the mineral-rich east, including the regional capital Goma. Thousands of people have been killed and hundreds of thousands of civilians forced from their homes in the ongoing conflict, the UN says. How Trump wants the US to cash in on mineral-rich DR Congo's peace deal What's the fighting in DR Congo all about? In the report, released on Wednesday, HRW said the M23 used machetes and gunfire to attack people in at least 14 villages and farming areas near the Virunga National Park between 10 and 30 July.

The M23 fighters surrounded and blocked off all roads into the area to prevent people from leaving, witnesses said. "We woke up on 11 July and [the M23] were there in large numbers.... [T]hey were already on our doorstep.... [T]hey killed people with guns and machetes," a man said, adding that five members of his family were killed in Katanga area. A woman who saw M23 fighters kill her husband with a machete on 11 July said that M23 fighters that day rounded up about 70 women and children. "They told us to sit on the edge of the riverbank, and then they started shooting at us," the woman was quoted as saying, adding that she survived after falling into the river without being shot. Another man said that he watched as the rebels killed his wife and four children aged nine months to 10 years from afar, according to the report. Locals said that M23 fighters told them to immediately bury the bodies in the fields or leave them unburied, preventing families from organising funerals. "M23 fighters also threw bodies, including of women and children, into the Rutshuru River," the report added. Citing 25 witness accounts plus medical workers, military and UN personnel, the report said that members of the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF), were backing the M23 operation.



Mineral-rich eastern DR Congo has been hit by a long-running conflict

Gunmen in Nigeria kill Muslim worshippers in 'reprisal attack'

Gunmen in north-west Nigeria have stormed a mosque, killing Muslim worshippers in what the local government has called a "reprisal attack". Police in Katsina state said 17 worshippers were shot dead by the assailants - known locally as bandits - but other reports from the region say the death toll is higher. The mosque, located in the village of Unguwan Mantau, was attacked on Tuesday because local residents had ambushed and killed a number of "bandits" two days earlier, Katsina state official Nasir Muazu said. Banditry is rife in north-western Nigeria, where armed gangs target locals, often for financial gain. Muazu, Katsina state's commissioner for internal security, said the attack occurred during morning prayers and that the gunmen shot "sporadically". As of Wednesday afternoon, the attackers remained at large. Muazu said the police and military personnel had been deployed to find them.

Despite the reprisal, Muazu said the local government "reaffirms its unwavering support for community-based security initiatives". Residents of Unguwan Mantau, meanwhile, have been mourning and tending to the wounded. As per tradition, grieving families have been sitting outside their homes, accepting condolences from visitors. Ali Isa Pantami, a popular Islamic cleric and Nigeria's former communications minister, hit out at the killers, saying they "betray the sense of humanity on earth". "We urge the relevant security

agencies to ensure the arrest of the criminals and bring an end to this inhumanity and criminality of the highest order," he wrote in a statement posted to social media. "The killers of defenceless people are heartless, malevolent, and worse than animals." Nigeria's vast north-west region borders Niger and criminal gangs criss-cross between the two countries, evading capture. Katsina and neighbouring state Zamfara have been hit the hardest by banditry in the region, losing the most lives and experiencing the most displacement as a result of the problem.



The security forces are under pressure to hunt down the assailants

Leading conservationist in South Africa denies smuggling rhino horns worth \$14m

A leading conservationist in South Africa, charged with smuggling rhino horns worth \$14m (£10m), has insisted he has "nothing to hide". In a statement, John Hume, the former owner of what is thought to be the world's largest rhino farm, denied allegations that he trafficked the horns from South Africa to South East Asia. The 83-year-old Mr Hume and five others, including a lawyer and a game reserve manager, have appeared in court on 55

medicine. The sale of rhino horns is legal between citizens in South Africa, but exporting them is not allowed. The accused appeared in a magistrate's court in the capital city Pretoria on Tuesday and were granted bail. They did not enter a plea - this is not required in South Africa during an initial court appearance. Mr Hume, however, proclaimed his innocence in a statement. "I have nothing to hide and have fully cooperated with investigators for years," he said. "I categorically reject the allegations against me and maintain that I have never acted unlawfully. I am



John Hume began breeding rhinos over two decades ago

charges, including theft, money laundering and fraud. The group was allegedly part of an international rhino horn trafficking syndicate between 2017 and 2024, prosecutors said. Mr Hume and his co-defendants are accused of smuggling more than 960 horns, obtaining permits to sell them locally, when the true intention was to export the horns to South East Asia, where they are used in traditional

confident that, once the facts are tested in court, I will be vindicated and my innocence confirmed." Mr Hume's former farm, Platinum Rhino, was home to approximately 2,000 southern white rhinos. He sold the farm in 2023, saying he could no longer continue to support the rhinos, which he had been breeding for over two decades. Mr Hume was born in Zimbabwe and raised on a sheep farm. He made a living developing holiday resorts, before turning his hand to conservation in the 1990s.

U.S. suspends most visa processing for Zimbabwe amid government concerns

The United States has suspended the processing of most visa applications for Zimbabwe until further notice. The U.S. embassy in Harare cited unspecified concerns regarding the Zimbabwean government as the driving factor behind this decision. The embassy also clarified that this suspension does not constitute a travel ban, and currently issued visas will remain valid. The suspension took effect on August 7 and applies to all visa services, with the exception of most diplomatic and official visa categories. This move follows previous restrictions imposed by the U.S. State Department, aimed at addressing visa overstays and abuses. A recent report indicated that the visa overstay rate for Zimbabwe stood at 10.57% in 2023. In related news, starting this week,

visa applicants from Zambia and Malawi will now be required to submit a bond of up to \$15,000 for certain visitor visas. The local community is expressing concern over the impact of this suspension. This situation underscores the urgency and challenges faced by families affected by the recent visa processing changes. We will continue to follow this developing story.



A man puts an expired passport into his pocket while he is waiting in line to submit a new passport application

EDITORIAL

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.

COMMENTARY

By Joschka Fischer

Trump's Peace in Our Time

MUNICH – So now Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin have met again, this time in the former Russian territory of Alaska. As an outside observer, one could almost get the impression that time had turned back to the world before the end of the Cold War, when the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, still determined the fate of the world in haughty unity.

But the meeting was much more than a historical reminiscence. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov wore a startling garment that he thought appropriate to the occasion, and to Putin's purposes: a sweatshirt with “СССР” (the Soviet Union's Cyrillic acronym) emblazoned across the chest. If it was a joke, there was menace behind it.

Anyone who knows the longtime Russian foreign minister knows that he is not exactly known for his sense of humor or for overlooking details in the serious business of summit diplomacy. Lavrov's sartorial choice was intentional; he intended to signal that Great Russia has returned to the top table of world affairs. The collapse of the USSR and its East European empire between 1989 and 1991 has been overcome. The empire is back, and it is reclaiming its lost territories.

The most important of these territories is of course Ukraine. As former US National Security Adviser [Zbigniew Brzezinski](#) famously [pointed out](#) in 1994, “without Ukraine, Russia ceases to be an empire.” Lavrov's sweatshirt was not about the Cold War, but about the world as Russia intends it to be.

Trump's invitation to Putin, an indicted war criminal, to meet on US soil endorsed that vision. Putin's joint appearance with the US president, shaking hands on the red-carpeted tarmac and sharing a limousine, announced to the world that Russia – without having backed down one iota from its maximum demands about Ukraine's future – was recognized once more as an equal partner. And with that, Putin broke more than three years of diplomatic isolation.

The message sent to Ukraine by the summit was also clear: even the US president accepts that the Russian empire is back. Don't think you can escape it by heading West. You belong where you belong: only when you understand this brute fact can peace return. You are on your own; the US will not help you, and Europe alone cannot.

But Europeans should also study the

subtext of the Alaska summit very carefully, because for them, too, this manifestation of a world order determined solely by the interests of great powers contains many sobering messages. If the meeting was attended by a whiff of the 1945 Yalta Conference, where World War II's victors divided the geopolitical spoils, that is because it was another milestone marking the decline of multilateralism and supranationalism.

The idea of “the West” no longer means much, if anything, to America under Trump. All that counts is Trump's worldview and his interpretation of American interests, as muddled as his interpretations are.

Europeans must decide for themselves where they stand. Although the US will not change its formal relations with Europe for the time being, Trump will continue to listen to Europeans and smirk approvingly at their flattery, then ignore them, as he did with the Alaska meeting.

Europeans must therefore understand that they are alone in this new world order. The US will no longer take their interests into account, whether in matters of security or trade.

Europe must become a global power in its own right, quickly and energetically confronting the entire spectrum of challenges that this entails, including space, intelligence services, and the entire digital sector. This “turning point” in Europe's long history requires much greater and more far-reaching efforts than just European rearmament with conventional hardware and personnel, as important as that may be. That is the message from Alaska for Europeans.

Why is Trump's America so obviously acting against its own interests? Except for the lifting of economic sanctions, Putin obviously got everything he wanted from the summit, above all escape from diplomatic isolation, US recognition of Russia as an equal world power, and acceptance of Ukraine's fate as an integral part of *Russkiy Mir* (the “Russian world”). Why is Trump strengthening Russia without any quid pro quo?

Such questions, as important as they may be for Europeans, will be answered only on the terrain of US domestic politics. Europe must now take care of itself.

Joschka Fischer, Germany's foreign minister and vice chancellor from 1998 to 2005, was a leader of the German Green Party for almost 20 years.

OP-ED

By TANAKA Akihiko, President,
Japan International Cooperation
Agency (JICA)

Africa and Japan: Co-Creating a Future Through Youth, Innovation, and Partnership



As the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9) convenes in Yokohama, the world turns its attention once again to Africa—a continent rich in diversity, resilience, and promise. This year's conference arrives at a critical juncture. Global challenges such as climate change, geopolitical fragmentation, and economic inequality are intensifying. In this context, TICAD9 offers a vital platform to reimagine development cooperation—one rooted in mutual respect, innovation, and strategic partnership.

At the heart of this vision lies Africa's youth. By 2050, one in four people globally will be African. This demographic shift presents a historic opportunity: a “demographic dividend” powered by a young, dynamic workforce. But this potential can only be realized through sustained investment in education, healthcare, and job creation. Without it, the same demographic forces could deepen poverty and instability.

JICA's Vision: Homegrown Development and Human Security

Since the launch of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 1954, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has worked in over 190 countries, fostering development through infrastructure, human resource development, and technical cooperation. Japan's ODA, led by JICA, has long championed the principle of “homegrown development.” This approach emphasizes empowering local communities to create their own solutions, rather than imposing external models.

JICA's programs in Africa exemplify this philosophy. The Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD), launched at TICAD IV in 2008, doubled rice production across the continent in a decade. Now expanded to 32 countries, CARD aims to double production again to 56 million tons by 2030—transforming Africa from a food-dependent region to one of self-sufficiency.

Other initiatives like SHEP (Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion) and KAIZEN (a productivity improvement method adapted from Japanese business practices) have empowered farmers and workers to improve their livelihoods and productivity with minimal resources. These programs are now led by African trainers, spreading sustainable development across the continent.

Underlying all of JICA's efforts is the concept of human security—a guiding principle reaffirmed in Japan's revised Development Cooperation Charter in 2023. Human security means ensuring that individuals are free from fear and want and can live with dignity. In a world facing compounded crises, from pandemics to climate shocks, this principle is more relevant than ever.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship: A New Era of Collaboration

Africa's youth are not just beneficiaries—they are innovators. Across the continent, young entrepreneurs are leveraging digital technologies to solve local problems and launch startups. Recognizing this, JICA launched Project NINJA (Next Innovation with Japan) in 2020, connecting African startups with Japanese investors and expertise. In 2025, JICA signed its first Grant Aid agreement with Nigeria to support local startups, marking a new chapter in Africa-Japan innovation collaboration.

At TICAD9, JICA will unveil the IDEA (Impact Investing for Development of Emerging Africa) Initiative, designed to mobilize private capital for socio-economic development and climate action. Complementing this, Japanese government amended the JICA Act in April 2025, enabling JICA to take financial risks and catalyze private investment—an unprecedented move in Japan's development cooperation history.

Youth Exchange: Building Trust and Shared Futures

Human exchange is central to the Africa-Japan partnership. Since 2013, the ABE Initiative (African Business Education Initiative for Youth) has enabled over 1,900 African students to study in Japan and intern with Japanese companies. One standout alumna is Ms. Pelonomi Moiloa from South Africa, who founded “Lelapa AI” to develop language technologies for under-resourced African languages. Her work earned her a spot on TIME's 100 AI talents of 2023.

Building on ABE, JICA will launch TOMONI Africa at TICAD9. “Tomoni” means “together” and “friends” in Japanese, symbolizing the spirit of mutual learning and collaboration. TOMONI Africa will expand face-to-face exchanges between African and Japanese youth, fostering friendships and joint ventures.

This spirit is already alive. In May 2025, JICA and Sapporo Kaisei High School hosted the “Japan-Africa Youth Camp,” where 300 Japanese students met 20 African peers to discuss culture, development, and future cooperation. Such interactions break down barriers and build lasting understanding.

Volunteers and Multilateralism: A Legacy of Partnership

Since 1965, over 16,000 Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) have served in Africa, contributing across sectors from education to agriculture. Many return to Japan with renewed purpose, launching social enterprises and revitalizing local communities. One example is Ms. Aya Tsuboi, who founded SUNDA Technology after her service as a JOCV in Uganda. Her IoT-based water payment system ensures sustainable access to clean water in Africa and was recognized by Forbes Japan NEXT 100 in 2023.

TICAD's multilateral format—bringing together governments, civil society, and international organizations—remains a cornerstone of its success. JICA's partnership with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, signed in 2022, aims to create a unified trade zone across the continent. JICA also promotes Corridor Development, connecting cities to boost economic activity, and supports One Stop Border Posts to streamline trade.

Beyond Africa, JICA facilitates triangular cooperation with countries like Egypt and Brazil to share their expertise across continents. In 2024, JICA and Indonesia signed a memorandum to jointly support African development, highlighting the growing potential of South-South collaboration.

A Shared Future Built on Respect and Co-Creation

Africa stands at a crossroads. Its challenges—poverty, conflict, governance—are real. But its opportunities—youth, innovation, resilience—are equally powerful. For Japan, engaging with Africa is not charity, but a strategic investment in a shared future.

As TICAD9 unfolds, the message is clear: Africa and Japan can co-create solutions to global challenges. Guided by human security, powered by youth, and built on mutual respect, this partnership offers a model for inclusive, sustainable development.

The future is not something to be given—it is something to be built, together.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

Section I.

(PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATIC RAINFALL AND
SYNOPTIC STATIONS)

Contract Identification No.: IFB NO./EPA/ERVCCS/NCB/006/25

1. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through its partner has received funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), to implement the project "Enhancing the Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities in Sinoe"(ERVCCS) and intends to apply part of the funds received towards payment under a **procurement and installation of Automatic Rainfall and Synoptic stations**. The contract will be rolled over for an additional one year, based on a performance review at the end of the first contract.

2. The Environmental Protection Agency now invites sealed bids from eligible registered bidders for the provision of a **procurement and installation of Automatic Rainfall and Synoptic stations**.


3. Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding process** as specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission Act (PPCA) of 2010.

4. Specification & Quantity

Procurement Number	Description of Services	Deadline for Submission
IFB No. EPA/ERVCCS/NCB/006/25	PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATIC RAINFALL AND SYNOPTIC STATIONS.	September 11, 2025

1. Qualifications and Requirements include:

- ❖ **Current business registration certificate**
- ❖ **Current tax clearance**
- ❖ **Provide manufacturer authorization letter.**
- ❖ **Vendor/Manufacturer experience of clients supplied over the past two (2) years. Please provide contact telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, and other details that will make due diligence easier.**
- ❖ **Company Profile/ Track Record,**
- ❖ **PPCC vendors registry certificate, and**
- ❖ **Audited Financial Statement for 2023 and 2024.**



2. Interested eligible bidders can obtain a copy of the bidding documents from the Procurement Unit of the Environmental Protection Agency beginning Wednesday, August 20, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. A complete set of bidding documents in English can be purchased for a non-refundable fee of **Fifty United States Dollars (US\$50.00)**.

3. The deadline for submitting bids is Thursday, **September 11, 2025**, at 12:00 p.m. Bids received after the deadline will be considered late and rejected and returned unopened. Electronic bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of Firms or Companies or their representatives who choose to attend on **September 11, 2025, at 12:05 p.m. in the ESIA conference Room, on the ground floor at the EPA office in the BRIGHT BUILDING 302-A OLD CID ROAD, MAMBA POINT, MONROVIA, LIBERIA.**

4. Bids submitted must be sealed and labeled: **IFB NO. EPA/ERVCCS/NCB/006/25**

5. All Sealed **Bids** must be accompanied by a **Bid Security** of **2%** of the total bid price from a reputable bank in the form of a Bank Guarantee. Bids shall be valid for **90 days** after the deadline for bid submission.

Submissions must be delivered to the address stated below.

Attention:

The Procurement Unit

3rd floor


Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

BRIGHT BUILDING 302-A OLD CID ROAD,

MAMBA POINT, MONROVIA, LIBERIA.


Cell #: +231-886-808-096/0776094211

Signed:




Maldona K. Kanyay
Procurement Officer/Sinoe Project

Approved:



Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo
Head of Procurement Committee



G.C. Holds Policy Dialogue on Improving Monrovia - A Pictorial Closing Statement

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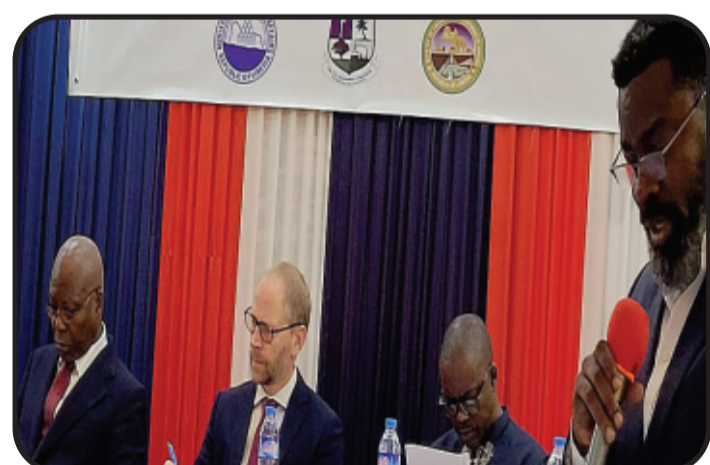
Over the last two days, many concerns have been raised. These include: The duplication of Functions; Service Delivery Gaps; Unclear Jurisdictions; Fragmented Governance; Revenue Collection Disputes; Erosion of Mandates; Overlap of Administrative Boundaries; Legal Inconsistencies; Weak Regulatory Enforcement mechanisms; Use of electoral Districts as administrative districts; and the Recentralization of Decentralization

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GHB and Vista Bank Group collaborate to support expansion in Africa

6 7 Cheapside, City of Vista Bank Group's operations said during the event. London; August 21, 2025 - across Gambia, Senegal, Sierra "This partnership represents a tangible expression of our commitment to be Africa's bridge to international finance and correspondent banking. We provide African Banking Groups like VISTA the critical access for funding, international trade finance and global payments that allows for expansion and growth. We have kept faith in providing this access to Africa, since 1959, and are honored to now deliver same to the VISTA Group," Mr. Adansi added. Vista Bank Group, through Vista Group Holding SA, operates as a pan-African financial services organization focused on building world-class banking capabilities while contributing to economic and financial inclusion across Africa. The group maintains strategic operations in multiple West African markets, with particular strength in small and medium enterprise banking, trade finance, leasing services, and bancassurance products. Under the partnership framework, GHB will provide



The partnership, formalized through a signing ceremony held recently in London, positions GHB as the primary correspondent banking partner for

Governance Commission ends Policy Dialogue on Monrovia Administration

Monrovia, Liberia; August 21, 2025 - The Governance Commission, in collaboration with the Ministries of Internal Affairs, Finance, and Development Planning, has ended a two-day policy dialogue aimed at strengthening coordination of the Monrovia City Corporation. The two-day brainstorming gathering held under the theme "Improving Monrovia City Administration through Effective Leadership, Proper Coordination, and Resource Mobilization" captured strategy on mobilizing resources and the adoption of several recommendations. The policy dialogue brought together representatives from the MCC, the Governance Commission, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, among many others. Speaking at the program marking the end of the dialogue, Governance Commission Acting Chairman, Professor Alaric Togba, stressed the need for the authority to demarcate Monrovia and provide its statutory mandates. Professor Togba disclosed that participants have agreed that there is an urgent need to review the mandates of institutions that have similar mandates to the Monrovia City Corporation. The participants agreed on the importance of political and administrative reorganization of Monrovia City to align with other cities in international best practices. During the two days, concerns were raised about the duplication of functions, service delivery gaps, unclear jurisdictions, fragmented governance, revenue collection disputes, erosion of mandates, and overlap of administrative boundaries. Other concerns included legal inconsistencies, weak regulatory enforcement mechanisms, use of electoral districts as administrative districts, and recentralization of decentralization. According to Professor Togba, it is the consideration of the Governance Commission that Mon



ArcelorMittal Liberia Dedicates Sewage Mitigation Projects in Buchanan Communities

Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, August 20, 2025 - ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) has turned over a series of water and sanitation facilities to residents of its fence-line communities in Buchanan, reaffirming its commitment to improving public health and community wellbeing. The official dedication took place Wednesday, August 20, in the Central Airfield Community near AML's airstrip on the outskirts of Buchanan. At the ceremony, AML handed over the five newly installed hand pumps and five modern public toilets to residents of Lemuel Town, Airfield Town, Family Town, Norway Town, and Sayou Town. The projects form part of the Buchanan Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiative



launched by AML in 2024. The program was designed to address water and sanitation challenges faced by communities within the company's concession area. It aims to ensure sustainable access to clean drinking water and safe sanitation facilities while promoting long-term environmental and public health improvements. As part of the broader WASH intervention, AML worked with community leaders to identify locations for hand pumps, the installations, and trained residents to properly maintain the facilities and safely store water. During construction, the company also provided 10,567 sachets of purified mineral water to residents to ease the immediate burden of accessing safe water. The total investment in the Buchanan WASH project amounts to US\$108,709.50. Speaking at the handover, AML's Head of Sustainability and External Relations, Marcus Wleh, said the projects reflect a different and more inclusive approach to community development. "The idea is for communities to manage the projects in a sustainable way so that they last longer and continue to serve the people who most need them," Wleh explained. "The towns should have committees to manage these projects in a responsible manner. These interventions were implemented upon the direct request of the communities, and ArcelorMittal is always ready to support its host communities." Town Chief Lawrence Sumo expressed gratitude on behalf of the beneficiaries, noting the facilities mark a historic first for the five towns. "We are happy that ArcelorMittal Liberia has done this for us. We don't know how to thank you, but God will bless your company's concession area. It is a blessing from ArcelorMittal for doing this for us," he said. Beyond the hand pumps and toilets, AML disclosed it is currently constructing 10 water tanks, each with the capacity to supply safe drinking water to as many as 500 people daily. These tanks are being built across Grand Bassa, Bong, and Nimba counties and are expected to be dedicated in the coming weeks. The Buchanan sewage mitigation projects underscore ArcelorMittal Liberia's growing investment in sustainable, nature-based solutions that address pressing environmental and health challenges while directly benefiting people in its operational areas.

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6WDUWV IURGHIB and Vista Bank Group collaborate

a Bank Group with correspondent banking services, international credit line access, and sophisticated trade finance instruments. This 'TradeBridge' approach enables Vista Bank's clients, particularly small and medium enterprises, to access global markets through established international banking relationships that have historically been difficult for regional African banks to secure independently.

"Ghana International Bank has become our gateway to the global financial system. Where other international banks have been unable to provide the access we need, GHIB has demonstrated genuine commitment to African development through practical banking solutions. This partnership enables us to serve the backbone of African economies—the SMEs in Banjul, Dakar, Freetown, Ouagadougou, and Conakry—with world-class trade finance capabilities," the Managing Director of Vista Bank France, Serge Raymond, said at the signing ceremony.

The collaboration addresses critical market gaps in African trade finance, where regional banks have traditionally faced barriers in accessing international credit lines and correspondent banking services. Through GHIB's established global relationships, Vista Bank Group clients will gain access to letters of credit, trade guarantees, foreign exchange services, and international payment processing capabilities essential for participating in global commodity markets.

Vista Group Holding SA has built its strategy around maximizing opportunities in respective markets through innovative banking and insurance products, with particular focus on MSME banking, women-focused financial services, trade and supply chain finance, and bancassurance solutions. The organization aims to become the financial institution of choice in its operational markets while maintaining efficient cost structures and effective risk management protocols.

The partnership aligns with GHIB's broader

continental expansion strategy, building on established market presence in Ghana, Gambia, and Guinea to support financial integration across Africa. GHIB's approach emphasizes continental unity, rejecting traditional Francophone-Anglophone divisions in favor of comprehensive African market development. "At GHIB, we recognize no artificial divisions within Africa. This partnership with Vista Bank Group demonstrates that African financial institutions can collaborate effectively across linguistic and cultural boundaries to create sophisticated banking solutions that serve our continent's development priorities," Mr. Adansi.

The collaboration will be implemented through GHIB's existing infrastructure, utilizing the bank's correspondent relationships with major international financial institutions to provide Vista Bank Group clients with seamless access to global trade finance markets. Initial services will include trade finance facilitation, cross-border payments, foreign exchange services, and credit line access, with additional capabilities to be developed based on market demand.

The announcement was made during CNVERGE '25, GHIB's flagship conference focused on "Rethinking Commodity Finance for Growth," which brings together key stakeholders across African trade finance, commodity markets, banking, and policy development. The partnership serves as a practical demonstration of the collaborative approaches to African financial development discussed throughout the conference.

Both institutions expect the partnership to contribute significantly to trade finance capacity building across West Africa while supporting the broader objectives of African economic integration and financial inclusion. The collaboration creates a foundation for enhanced intra-African trade facilitation and positions both institutions as leaders in pan-African banking cooperation. *Dispatch*

6WDUWV IURGovernment Commission ends Policy Dialogue

rovia that require authoritative clarification.

Undeniably, addressing the foundational challenges we face will require a review of the constitution of Liberia and a review of the mandates and functions of institutions and agencies that have roles and responsibilities for managing affairs and providing services in Monrovia city," he added.

Professor Togba rallies stakeholders' efforts in reconciling the overlaps and conflicts between institutional mandates concerned with the administration of Monrovia.

He pointed out that the city government of Monrovia

needs to be reorganized, properly coordinated, and better monetized for the promotion of development.

The Governance Commission also pointed to the lack of knowledge and understanding as a national issue that can no longer be ignored and emphasized that public education and awareness demand the reintroduction of the teaching of government and civics in the schools. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

WHO Donates Blood Bank Equipment to C.B. Dunbar Hospital in Bong.

By Edwin N Khakie

Gbarnga, Bong County, August 21, 2025: The World Health Organization (WHO), in partnership with the Ministry of Health's Department of Blood Safety Program, has donated essential blood bank equipment to the C.B. Dunbar Comprehensive Hospital in Gbarnga City, Bong County.

The donation, which includes a blood collection and mixer scale along with a blood bank refrigerator, is aimed at strengthening the hospital's blood services and improving its capacity to save lives.

Speaking during the handover, hospital administrator Mr. Enoch Kermue Darwolo Morris Sr. expressed profound appreciation to WHO and the Ministry of Health for their continued support to healthcare delivery in Liberia.

"This contribution comes at a critical time and will greatly enhance our ability to provide safe and reliable blood services. We assure WHO and the Ministry that these items will be used strictly for their intended purpose to improve patient care," Morris said.

Health officials noted that the equipment will not only improve storage and preservation of blood but also ensure timely availability for patients in need, particularly mothers, children, and accident victims who are most vulnerable to blood shortages.

The donation forms part of ongoing efforts by WHO and the Ministry of Health to expand safe blood services across Liberia and reduce preventable deaths linked to the lack of adequate blood supply in hospitals.

Community members and staff of the

ALCOP-USA chairman demands accountability from Liberia Chapter.

It appears that all is not well within the All-Liberian Coalition Party in terms of accountability, as one official makes demands.

By Edwin N. Khakie

USA, August 21, 2025: The Chairman of the All-Liberian Coalition Party's United States Chapter (ALCOP-USA), Mr. Abubakarseleke Soko Sackor, is demanding financial accountability from the party's Liberia leadership regarding funds transferred from the U.S. to support recent political activities.

In a statement released over the weekend, Sackor expressed deep concern that despite the sacrifices and contributions of ALCOP supporters in the U.S., the Liberia chapter has failed to provide any official financial report on how the funds were utilized.

"This silence is unacceptable and undermines the trust of our members and the credibility of our institution," Sackor stressed.

According to ALCOP-USA,

Biilty, who were entrusted with the handling of campaign resources, to present urgently:

Receipts and supporting documents of expenditures, including the purchase of campaign motorbikes.

An official communication explaining how all contributions were allocated and utilized.

"ALCOP is a people's party, and our people deserve honesty. We will not tolerate financial secrecy or a lack of accountability. Every dollar sent must be justified with evidence," Sackor emphasized.

He further warned that the failure of ALCOP Liberia to provide accountability could strain relations between the U.S. and Liberia chapters of the party and risk eroding trust within the broader Mandingo and Liberian communities.



significant contributions were mobilized from members and well-wishers across America and forwarded to Liberia to bolster the party's campaign operations. However, the chapter insists that no receipts, expenditure breakdowns, or financial statements have been provided to date.

Chairman Sackor specifically called on Mr. Ansu Dolley and Mr. Dee

The U.S. Chapter has given a 14-day ultimatum for the Liberia leadership to submit the requested financial report and supporting documentation to the Office of the Chairman of ALCOP-USA.

If unmet, Sackor hinted at possible consequences that could further test the unity and credibility of ALCOP both at home and abroad.

C.B. Dunbar Comprehensive Hospital boost to one of the county's most critical health facilities.



Boycotts lors de la cérémonie d'adieu de la juge en chef Yuoh

Le 15 août 2025, la cérémonie officielle de départ à la retraite de l'ancienne juge en chef de la Cour suprême du Liberia, Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, s'est tenue dans la salle d'audience suprême, mais elle a été marquée par une

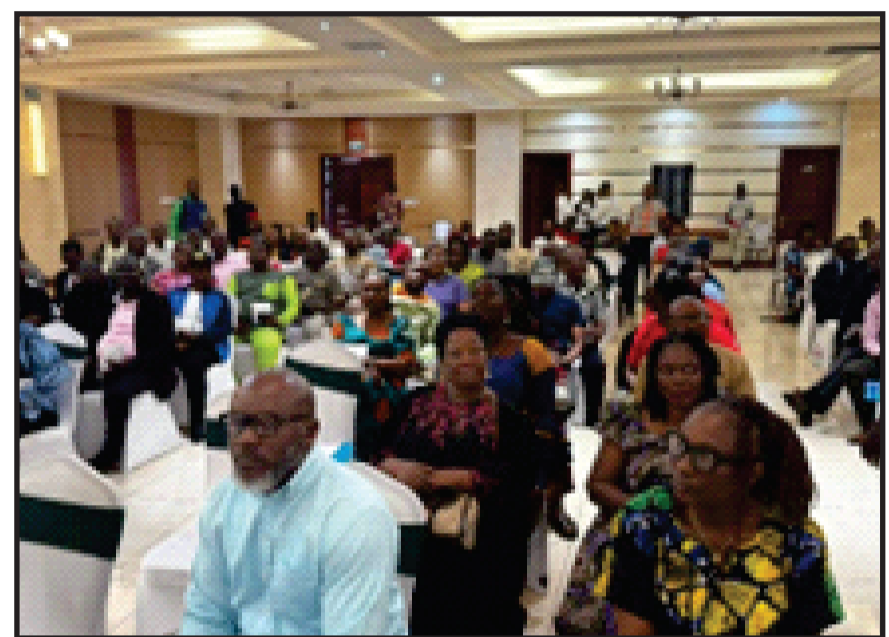
allocution spéciale, ni les principaux responsables du Parlement – le président de la Chambre des représentants, Richard Koon, et la présidente intérimaire du Sénat, Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence – n'ont assisté à la cérémonie. Aucun représentant officiel n'a non plus été dépêché

Augustine Fayiah, représenter le ministère.

Pour de nombreux observateurs, ce boycott constitue une revanche politique. En janvier dernier, lors du discours sur l'état de la Nation prononcé par le président Boakai, aucun membre du pouvoir judiciaire – y compris les juges de la Cour suprême – n'avait pris part à la séance, alimentant alors de vives spéculations.

Si l'absence de la juge en chef Yuoh fut ensuite attribuée à sa participation à un symposium international au Caire, l'absence inexplicable des quatre juges associés – Jamesetta H. Wolokolie, Yussif D. Kaba, Yamie Q. Gbeisay Sr. et Ceaineh D. Clinton Johnson – avait suscité un tollé public. La justice avait finalement justifié ce retrait par le différend entourant l'élection du président de la Chambre des représentants, opposant Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa à Richard Koon du parti Unit

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absence remarquée : celle du président Joseph N. Boakai et de la haute direction du pouvoir législatif.

Ni le président Boakai, qui devait prononcer une

par l'Exécutif. Le ministre de la Justice, Cllr. N. Oswald Tweah, initialement prévu pour rendre hommage, a également brillé par son absence, laissant in extremis le solliciteur général, Cllr.

Les communautés libériennes se mobilisent contre la drogue

Au Liberia, la lutte contre la drogue prend un tournant inédit : soutenues par le gouvernement, les communautés locales organisent désormais elles-mêmes des opérations visant à démanteler les ghettos et détruire les abris de fortune de présumés trafiquants.

Face à la lenteur de la réponse officielle à la crise des stupéfiants, des leaders communautaires, exaspérés, passent à l'action. Raids, destructions de repaires et confrontations directes avec des suspects se multiplient, illustrant une nouvelle dynamique de « justice populaire » appuyée par les forces de l'ordre.

Cette vague d'initiatives citoyennes fait suite à une vaste marche anti-drogue organisée le 11 août 2025 à Monrovia, où les habitants du comté de Montserrado avaient convergé vers le Capitole pour exiger une réaction immédiate des autorités.

Quelques jours avant cette mobilisation, le président

Joseph Nyuma Boakai avait exhorté les Libériens à dénoncer les distributeurs de drogue dans leurs quartiers. Depuis, plusieurs communautés se sont organisées pour cibler les ghettos et les suspects.

Le 15 août, une descente conjointe de résidents et de policiers a eu lieu dans le comté de Nimba. Des vidéos diffusées en ligne montrent des habitants affrontant des présumés trafiquants et démolissant des structures identifiées comme repaires de drogue. Dans l'une d'elles, une femme interpelle un consommateur présumé tentant d'échapper aux agents, criant : « La one there ! »

Ce type d'action n'est pas

nouveau : dès avril, à Saye Town et dans le quartier Sinkor, des résidents avaient rasé des ghettos, détruit des habitations précaires et remis certains suspects à la police.

Le 16 août, l'Agence libérienne de lutte contre la drogue (LDEA) a rejoint des habitants de Barnersville, dans le quartier de Chicken Soup Factory, pour mener des perquisitions maison par maison. Des matériaux saisis ont été incendiés sur place. Des opérations similaires ont également eu lieu sur Peace Island et dans d'autres localités.

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Éditorial

La paix selon Trump

MUNICH – Donald Trump et Vladimir Poutine se sont à nouveau rencontrés, cette fois dans l'ancien territoire russe de l'Alaska. D'un point de vue extérieur, on croirait presque avoir remonté le temps jusqu'à une époque antérieure à la fin de la guerre froide, lorsque les deux superpuissances mondiales, les États-Unis et l'URSS, déterminaient encore le destin du monde, dans une forme d'unité condescendante.

Cette rencontre constitue toutefois bien plus qu'une réminiscence de l'histoire. Le ministre russe des Affaires étrangères, Sergueï Lavrov, portait ce jour-là un vêtement surprenant, qu'il jugeait certainement adapté à l'occasion ainsi qu'aux ambitions de Poutine : un sweatshirt sur lequel était inscrit « CCCP » (l'acronyme cyrillique d'URSS) en travers du torse. S'il s'agit d'une plaisanterie, elle n'en demeure pas moins menaçante.

Tous ceux qui connaissent depuis longtemps le ministre russe des Affaires étrangères savent que l'homme n'est pas tout à fait connu pour son sens de l'humour, ni pour négliger les détails dans les affaires sérieuses et la diplomatie de haut niveau. Le choix vestimentaire de Lavrov était réfléchi, et visait à faire comprendre que la Grande Russie était de retour à la table des affaires mondiales. Il n'est pas question de tourner la page de l'effondrement de l'URSS et de son empire d'Europe de l'Est entre 1989 et 1991. L'empire est de retour, et entend bien reconquérir ses territoires perdus.

Le plus important de ces territoires est évidemment l'Ukraine. Comme l'expliquait en 1994 l'ancien conseiller à la Sécurité nationale des États-Unis, Zbigniew Brzezinski, « Sans l'Ukraine, la Russie cesse d'être un empire ». Le sweatshirt de Lavrov ne symbolise pas la guerre froide, mais le monde tel que la Russie le conçoit.

L'invitation par Trump du criminel de guerre Poutine sur le sol américain valide cette vision. L'apparition conjointe de Poutine et du président américain, se serrant la main sur le tarmac recouvert d'un tapis rouge, et partageant une limousine, signale au monde entier que la Russie – qui ne recule toujours pas d'un iota par rapport à ses plus hautes exigences concernant l'avenir de l'Ukraine – est à nouveau reconnue comme un partenaire à part entière. Poutine rompt ainsi avec plus de trois ans d'isolement diplomatique.

Le message envoyé à l'Ukraine lors de cette rencontre est par ailleurs très clair : le président américain lui-même reconnaît que l'empire russe est de retour. N' imaginez pas pouvoir y échapper en vous orientant vers l'Ouest. Votre situation géographique fait votre destin, et la paix ne pourra revenir que lorsque vous aurez admis cette réalité. Vous êtes seuls, les États-Unis ne vous aideront pas, et l'Europe n'en est pas capable.

Il est par ailleurs important que les Européens eux-mêmes étudient le sous-texte du sommet en Alaska, dans la mesure où, pour eux aussi, cette manifestation d'un ordre mondial déterminé uniquement par les intérêts des grandes puissances s'accompagne de messages qui donnent à réfléchir. Si ce sommet présente un parfum de Conférence de Yalta de 1945, durant laquelle les vainqueurs de la Seconde Guerre mondiale se partagèrent le butin géopolitique, c'est parce qu'il constitue un pas supplémentaire sur la voie du déclin du multilatéralisme et du supranationalisme.

Le concept d'« Occident » ne signifie plus grand-chose pour les États-Unis de Trump. Seules comptent désormais la vision trumpienne du monde et l'interprétation par le président américain des intérêts de son pays, aussi confuse soit-elle.

Les Européens doivent décider eux-mêmes de leur position. Les États-Unis n'opéreront pour l'heure pas de changement majeur dans leurs relations officielles avec l'Europe, mais Trump continuera d'écouter les Européens avec un sourire en coin, recevant volontiers leurs flatteries, pour ensuite les ignorer, comme lors du sommet en Alaska.

Les Européens doivent par conséquent prendre conscience qu'ils sont seuls dans ce nouvel ordre mondial. Les États-Unis ne tiendront plus compte de leurs intérêts, que ce soit en matière de sécurité ou de commerce.

L'Europe doit devenir une puissance mondiale à part entière, en affrontant rapidement et énergiquement l'ensemble des défis que cela implique, y compris dans les domaines de l'espace, du renseignement et du numérique au sens large. Ce « tournant » dans l'histoire de longue date de l'Europe nécessitera des efforts beaucoup plus importants et de plus grande portée qu'un simple réarmement européen en équipements et en effectifs conventionnels, aussi important soit-il. Tel est le message adressé aux Européens depuis l'Alaska.

Pourquoi l'Amérique de Trump agit-elle si manifestement contre ses propres intérêts ? À l'exception de la levée des sanctions économiques, Poutine a semble-t-il obtenu tout ce qu'il souhaitait à l'issue du sommet, notamment la fin de son isolement diplomatique, la reconnaissance par les États-Unis de la Russie en tant que puissance mondiale comme les autres, et l'acceptation du sort de l'Ukraine comme partie intégrante du *Russkiy Mir* (le « monde russe »). Pourquoi Trump renforce-t-il à ce point la Russie, sans aucune contrepartie ?

Aussi importantes soient-elles pour les Européens, ces questions ne trouveront de réponses que sur le terrain de la politique américaine. L'Europe doit dorénavant s'occuper seule d'elle-même.

Joschka Fischer, ministre allemand des Affaires étrangères et vice-chancelier de 1998 à 2005, a compté parmi les leaders du parti écologiste allemand pendant près de 20 ans.



6WDUWV IURP Boycotts lors de la cérémonie

Un notable présent à la cérémonie a exprimé sa déception face au refus manifeste du président Boakai d’assister ou de déléguer un représentant à cet événement solennel. Plus surprenant encore, quelques minutes après la clôture de la cérémonie et l’ajournement de la session judiciaire de mars 2025, le nouveau juge en chef, Yamie QuiQui Gbeisay Sr., et le juge associé Boakai Kanneh ont discrètement quitté les lieux pour se rendre au Palais présidentiel. Ils y ont aussitôt été investis, aux côtés d’autres hauts responsables, par le président Boakai lui-même. La cérémonie d’investiture, qui a rassemblé des responsables gouvernementaux, des diplomates et des proches, a vu le président nommer officiellement Yamie Gbeisay au poste de juge en chef, Boakai N. Kanneh comme juge associé, et Victoria W. Duncan comme juge résidente du comté de Margibi. Le président a également commissionné plusieurs ambassadeurs : John Ballout (Nigeria), George S.W. Patten (Afrique du Sud), Mohammed M. Dukuly (Émirats arabes unis), Henry B. Fahnbulleh (Égypte), ainsi que Clarence K. Massaquoi, Ben A. Fofana, Emmanuel J. Payegar, Patrick R. Honnah et Angela Cassell Bush à la tête de la Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA). Dans son allocution, le président Boakai a exhorté les nouveaux responsables à servir « avec intégrité, responsabilité et résultats », rappelant que « le service public est une mission, pas un privilège ». Fidèle à son appel récurrent, il a lancé : « Pensons Liberia, Aimons Liberia,

Bâtissons Liberia ». Il a affirmé que l’ère du « business as usual » est révolue, avertissant que les performances des responsables seront désormais mesurées à l’aune de leurs résultats. « Ce moment est le vôtre. Votre pays vous appelle. Servez avec courage, intégrité et humilité », a-t-il insisté, ajoutant que la transparence et la déclaration de patrimoine ne sont pas négociables, mais des obligations légales et morales. S’adressant au pouvoir judiciaire, il a martelé que la réforme est « urgente et non négociable », appelant à une justice transparente, rapide et équitable, socle d’une démocratie prospère. Aux nouveaux ambassadeurs, le président a rappelé leur rôle stratégique, alors que le Liberia entame son mandat historique de deux ans au Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies : « Vous êtes appelés Excellence pour une raison. Représentez-nous avec dignité et efficacité : attirez les investissements, stimulez le tourisme, construisez des partenariats et faites entendre la voix du Liberia. » Enfin, il a mis au défi la direction de la LTA d’exploiter pleinement les opportunités de l’ère numérique afin de favoriser l’innovation, la croissance économique et l’inclusion des jeunes dans une économie du savoir. Martelant sa politique de tolérance zéro envers la corruption, le président Boakai a prévenu : « Tout détournement de ressources publiques entraînera des poursuites. Ceux qui violeront nos lois anti-corruption seront pleinement tenus responsables. »

6WDUWV IURP S Les communautés libériennes

Certaines voix communautaires saluent ouvertement ces actions. À Fiamah, la responsable du marché, Byss Wallace, a déclaré : « Nous allons lancer notre propre opération ici pour chasser tous ceux qui sont impliqués. Si nous voyons quelqu’un mal habillé, nous le remettrons à la police. Au moins, cela les obligera à se laver. » Elle a désigné un centre de loisirs voisin, qu’elle estime devoir être le premier visé. Selon elle, depuis l’appel du gouvernement, plusieurs jeunes consommateurs tentent de changer de comportement : certains se coupent les cheveux et portent des vêtements propres pour ne pas être pris pour cibles. La question de la drogue figure depuis longtemps dans le discours présidentiel. Le 29 janvier 2024, lors de son premier message sur l’état de la Nation, Joseph Boakai avait déclaré la toxicomanie « urgence nationale de santé publique », qualifiant notamment la drogue synthétique « KUSH » de menace existentielle pour la jeunesse et la sécurité nationale. Il avait alors mis en place un comité multisectoriel associant les ministères de la

Santé, de la Justice, de la Jeunesse et des Sports, de la Protection de l’enfance et du genre, des Finances, ainsi que la LDEA, et promis de se soumettre à un test antidrogue, en appelant ses collaborateurs à en faire autant. Mais malgré les promesses, des critiques persistent. Plusieurs experts et acteurs de terrain dénoncent l’insuffisance des moyens concrets. Sur les 3 millions de dollars promis pour les initiatives anti-drogue, peu de fonds auraient été effectivement alloués, et de nombreux centres de réhabilitation privés, non réglementés, ont émergé faute de structures publiques adaptées. Le 7 août dernier, à la réception du rapport du comité multisectoriel, le président Boakai a renouvelé son engagement contre ce fléau. Depuis, son appel semble galvaniser les citoyens, qui multiplient les initiatives locales pour reprendre le contrôle de leurs quartiers. Si elles se poursuivent, ces actions communautaires, conjuguées à un accompagnement institutionnel renforcé, pourraient constituer un tournant décisif dans la lutte contre la drogue au Liberia.

Liberia : la juge en chef Sie-A-Nyene Yuoh se retire, saluée pour son rôle dans la stabilité politique

La juge en chef à la retraite Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh a revendiqué, comme principal héritage de son passage à la Cour suprême du Liberia, la consolidation de la stabilité politique du pays. Lors de sa cérémonie de départ, vendredi 15 août, elle a également rendu hommage à l’ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, dont le programme d’autonomisation des femmes a permis à de nombreuses Libériennes d’accéder à des postes de premier plan dans la vie publique. Nommée juge associée en 2013, puis promue juge en chef en 2022 sous l’administration de George Weah, Mme Yuoh est la deuxième femme de l’histoire à occuper cette fonction et la troisième à siéger à la Cour suprême. Elle se retire après près de douze années de service, à l’âge constitutionnel de 70 ans. « La loi reste la loi » Dans un discours empreint de gravité, Mme Yuoh a rappelé que la justice libérienne « n’est pas un instrument politique, mais le gardien impartial de la loi ». Elle est revenue sur la période houleuse des élections générales de 2023, marquées par le transfert de pouvoir entre le Congrès pour le changement démocratique (CDC) et le Parti de l’unité (UP), affirmant que la Cour avait alors assuré la stabilité institutionnelle. « Les élections ne sont jamais des événements ordinaires. Durant ces moments, les tensions s’exacerbent, mais à travers tout cela, la loi est demeurée constante. La loi reste la loi, quels que soient les changements au gouvernement », a-t-elle insisté. Elle a exhorté ses successeurs et collègues à rester fidèles à la Constitution, soulignant que « la Cour suprême est et doit rester la gardienne de la loi, à tout moment et en toutes circonstances ». Hommage à une carrière et à un engagement Saluée pour sa rigueur et sa capacité à diriger la magistrature dans des



contextes politiques tendus, Mme Yuoh a décrit son ascension au poste de juge en chef comme « un moment décisif » de sa carrière. Citant le Psaume 18:29, elle a confié que sa foi l’avait guidée tout au long de ses années sur le banc, exprimant désormais son souhait de se consacrer à une vie plus calme auprès de ses petits-enfants. « Aujourd’hui ne marque pas une fin, mais la continuation des idéaux qui nous unissent en tant que nation régie par les lois », a-t-elle déclaré. Un passage de témoin Son successeur, le juge Francis Korkpor Gbeisay, ancien juge associé reconnu pour sa solide expérience juridique et son tempérament mesuré, a promis de préserver l’indépendance de la justice et de poursuivre les réformes visant à renforcer l’accès équitable au droit. Dans un témoignage personnel, il a raconté sa première rencontre avec Mme Yuoh dans les années 1990, alors qu’il était étudiant en droit : « Je l’ai vue plaider avec une maîtrise impressionnante et je me suis dit : voilà le modèle d’avocat que je veux devenir. Cette impression m’est restée, et aujourd’hui, en prenant sa succession, j’ai le sentiment que c’était hier. » Il a salué en elle une personnalité « vibrante et sociale », qui a marqué chacune de ses fonctions. Avec humour, il l’a encouragée à profiter de la retraite sans renoncer aux plaisirs de la vie : « Laissez un peu de temps aux chemins de fer et aux danses que vous aimez tant. »

Une empreinte durable Les juges Jamesetta Howard Wolokolie, Yussif D. Kaba et Ceaineh D. Clinton-Johnson ont, dans des hommages séparés, salué sa précision dans les arrêts rendus et son engagement pour l’efficacité judiciaire et l’autonomie financière de l’institution. « Merci, juge en chef. Par votre courage et votre détermination, vous avez laissé une feuille de route pour l’avenir du système judiciaire. Votre plan stratégique de cinq ans constitue un chef-d’œuvre qui, s’il est suivi, consolidera une magistrature forte, fière et respectée », ont-ils conclu.

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FEATURE ARTICLE

The Future of Liberia's Rubber Industry: An Examination of Presidential Executive Orders and International Relations:

By: Austin S Fallah

Stay tuned for my soon my soon to be released new book: "Labor Patterns of Economic Growth: Navigating the way to Economic Freedom of Developing and Third World Countries": In recent years, Liberia has faced numerous challenges in securing its economic future, with its agriculture and raw materials sector playing a pivotal role in its development.

A significant aspect of this sector is the production and export of latex rubber, which has implications for the nation's economy, local employment, and international relations.

The focal point of this disquisition is President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's Presidential Executive Order on raw or unprocessed rubber latex exports from Liberia and the implications of his current visit to Japan.

Essentially, this korero will argue that while President Boakai's visit to Japan may emphasize fostering international relations and exploring business opportunities, it is crucial to critically evaluate the effects of the Executive Order and what it means for the sustainability of the rubber industry in Liberia.

The root of this inquiry lies in the significance of the rubber industry in Liberia's economy.

Liberia is one of the world's oldest producers of natural rubber and has historically been a significant economic driver for the nation.

Rubber production provides livelihoods for thousands of Liberians and constitutes a vital source of income for rural communities.

Nonetheless, this industry is currently grappling with numerous challenges, including reliance on multinational corporations, fluctuating global rubber prices, environmental concerns, and the impacts of climate change.

The Executive Order issued by President Boakai aims to regulate the export of unprocessed rubber latex to encourage local processing, enhance the value chain, and stimulate economic growth.

President Boakai's approach is strategic. By instituting an Executive Order restricting the export of raw latex, the government is attempting to promote the establishment of local processing facilities that could create jobs, increase local revenues, and enhance the quality of rubber produced.

These initiatives align with a broader vision of promoting sustainable practices in Liberia's agricultural sector.

However, it is vital to evaluate the potential implications of an executive order that may conflict with the interests of multinational corporations, particularly Firestone Liberia, a subsidiary of the Japanese-owned Bridgestone Corporation, which historically has had a significant hand in Liberia's rubber sector.

This immediate economic tug-of-war demonstrates the complexities of Liberia's relationship with global markets and multinational corporations.

Firestone's extensive rubber plantation operations in Liberia create jobs and represent a considerable portion of the raw rubber harvested in the nation.

However, the concern arises when the benefits of such foreign investments are weighed against the necessity for economic independence and

sustainability.

Will President Boakai's Executive Order be upheld in the face of pressure from corporations such as Firestone?

Ultimately, that remains speculative.

President Boakai's current visit to Japan is set to include discussions and meetings, potentially signaling a shift toward renegotiating terms that may favor international trade.

It is essential to analyze the implications of this visit, especially in light of his Executive Order.

The underlying question persists: Is this visit a strategic negotiating effort to lift the Executive Order on raw rubber exports, thereby permitting Firestone and other foreign entities to sustain their operations without the regulatory constraints imposed by this executive order?

To assess this, we must consider the context of international relations and the balance of power between Liberia and Japan.

Japan has been a crucial partner in Liberia's post-conflict recovery and development, providing aid, investments, and infrastructure support, such as the Japanese Freeway.

The relationship between Liberia and Japan is a crucial element of Liberia's international position.

President Boakai's visit may well center on trading opportunities, broader economic cooperation, and potentially revisiting or negotiating specific economic policies, such as exporting unprocessed rubber latex.

While fostering international relations and seeking beneficial economic partnerships are essential, these efforts must not undermine domestic policies to strengthen the local economy.

Liberia must carefully navigate the delicate balance between attracting foreign investment, which is essential for stimulating economic growth, and implementing sustainable practices that allow local industries to thrive.

Opponents of President Boakai's Executive Order may argue that restricting raw latex exports could deter foreign investment, particularly from established companies like Firestone.

They may contend that such restrictions could create a less attractive business environment, leading to industry stagnation and potential job losses.

The concern is that adherence to such restrictions could result in companies seeking more favorable investment conditions in other countries, particularly in regions where rubber production conditions are more favorable or less bureaucratically restrictive.

Nevertheless, realizing that a sustainable approach must focus on domestic capacity building is key.

While responsiveness to international interests is necessary, Liberia must prioritize its economic resilience.

Rubber processing addresses local employment concerns and stimulates the growth of ancillary industries, encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation within Liberia.

President Boakai's administration has the

opportunity, during and after his visit to Japan, to present a clear and constructive vision for the rubber industry that emphasizes the importance of sustainable development.

By doing so, he could create an atmosphere where local and foreign businesses can flourish.

This vision would require establishing clear frameworks and incentives for investment in local processing while ensuring a robust regulatory framework that prioritizes the interests of Liberian workers and communities.

This leads to the conundrum: will President Boakai uphold the Executive Order in light of international pressure, or will he concede to demands from powerful multinational corporations like Firestone?

The answer may shape the evolution of Liberia's rubber sector over the next weeks, months, and years.

It exposes a critical tension between global economic pressures and national economic sovereignty aspirations.

Examining the trajectory of similar economies is a valuable case study to further illustrate this point.

Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand and Malaysia have effectively balanced extensive corporate participation and local empowerment.

These countries have successfully implemented policies that favor value addition at local levels, thereby maximizing their economic returns on natural resources.

They provide a model from which Liberia can draw valuable lessons.

In essence, President Boakai's forthcoming visit to Japan could serve as a pivotal moment for the rubber industry in Liberia.

Promoting international relations while fostering local economic development could significantly shape the industry's future.

How President Boakai addresses stakeholders from both domestic and international platforms will be critical in determining whether the Executive Order remains in effect or will be reviewed.

The sustainability of Liberia's rubber industry hinges upon President Boakai's ability to reconcile the demands of international business with the need for domestic development.

His actions during his visit to Japan could tip the balance toward either liberalizing raw rubber exports or reinvesting in local capacities.

Ultimately, the decisions made in the next few weeks, months, and years must reflect Liberia's commitment to sustainable economic growth, ensuring that the benefits of its rich natural resources directly improve the lives of its citizens while creating a stable foundation for future generations.

Ultimately, only time will reveal the long-term consequences of these political and economic decisions.

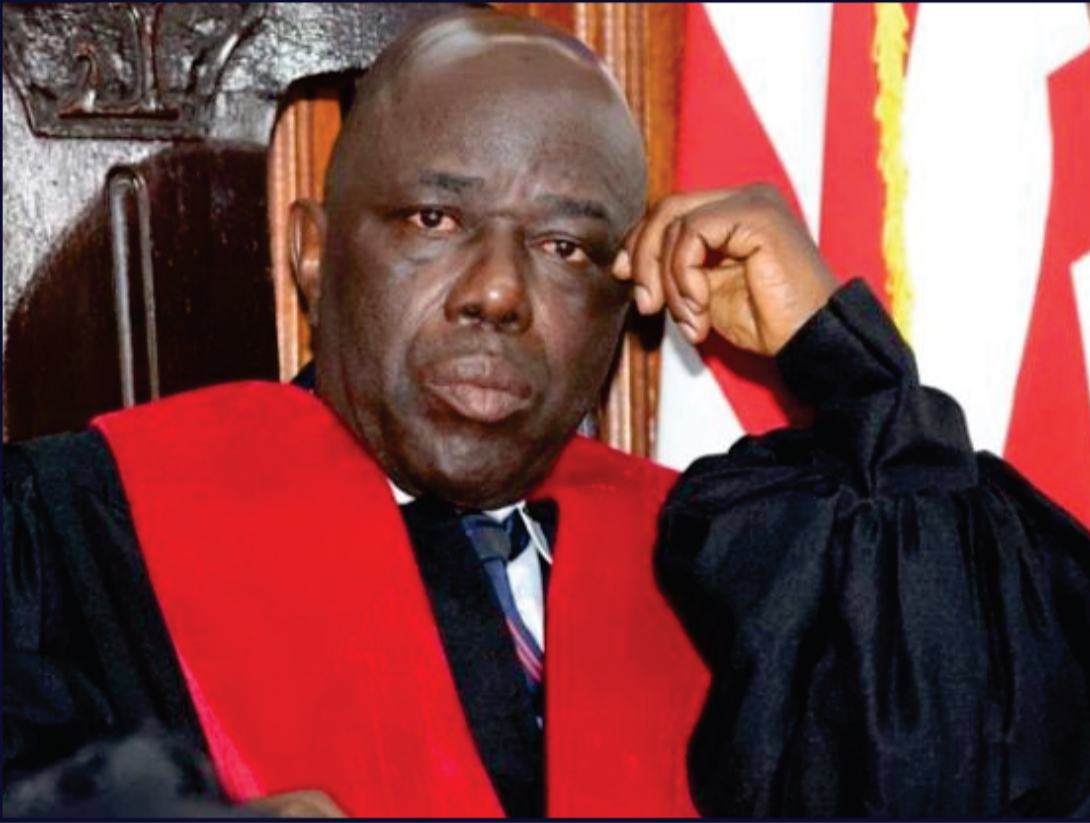
Still, Liberiaia stands at a critical juncture where strategic foresight could pave the way for a robust economic future anchored in sustainable principles.

The choices made in the coming days, weeks, months, and years will undoubtedly define the nation's trajectory as it navigates the complexities of domestic empowerment and international commerce.

Chief Justice Gbeisay Vows to End Judiciary's "Stepchild" Status

Liberia's newly commissioned Chief Justice, Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay, has ushered in a new era for the nation's judiciary, pledging to assert the branch's constitutional rights and to end its long-standing perception as the "stepchild" of government.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Temple of Justice, August 21, 2025: Speaking during the official seating ceremony on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at the Supreme Court Chamber—a gathering attended by top government officials, legal luminaries, and international partners—Chief Justice Gbeisay set an



assertive tone for his administration. Chief Justice Gbeisay, sworn in alongside Associate Justice Boakai N. Kanneh, emphasized that under his leadership, the judiciary would demand recognition as a co-equal branch of government. He highlighted the ongoing inadequacy of salaries and benefits for judges, acknowledging the sacrifices made by the nation's judiciary over the years. He noted that while judges in Liberia are not the lowest paid in West Africa, their compensation remains insufficient given their responsibilities. "In fact, we will demand our rights under the Constitution and ensure that the judiciary is no longer a stepchild of the other two branches of government. We are co-equal and must be seen as co-equal in all decisions, including financial administration," Gbeisay declared. He affirmed that his administration would make robust and result-oriented representations to legislative and executive authorities to secure improved budgetary support for the judiciary. Chief Justice Gbeisay publicly thanked President Joseph N. Boakai's administration for initiating the implementation of the Financial Autonomy Act of the Judiciary, a legislative milestone aimed at strengthening the judiciary's fiscal independence. By doing so, he

signaled a new chapter in judicial-executive relations, one grounded in constitutional rights and mutual respect. Associate Justice Boakai Kanneh, also officially seated, expressed deep gratitude to President Boakai for his nomination and commissioning. He pledged to work with his colleagues to uphold justice "without fear or favor," echoing the solemn responsibility entrusted to the bench. Drawing inspiration from the Lord's Prayer, Kanneh reflected on the gravity of the judiciary's role: "We have been given a task of dispensing justice. So, the society depends on us based on the decision we make for stability, peace, and progress." The formal ceremony was attended by an array of dignitaries, including Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung, who represented the Executive branch; House Speaker Richard N. Koon; and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairs Augustine Chea and Joseph Jallah. Senior Associate Justice Jamesetta Howard Wolokolie presided over the proceedings, ordering the Marshal to open the court officially. Following tradition, the Marshal, in the company of the Minister of Justice, the Dean of the Supreme Court Bar, and the President of the Liberian National Bar Association, escorted Chief Justice Gbeisay to his seat of honor. Senior Associate Justice Wolokolie then relinquished her authority, passing the leadership to the new Chief Justice, who presided over the remainder of the ceremony and ordered the seating of Associate Justice Kanneh. *-Edited by Othello B. Garblah.*

6W DUWV IURP 73 million babies die yearly from abortion

The Pro-Life Global executive further explained that the organization's core belief is that "the fetus is a human being with a right to life, making abortion a violation of that right." She praised the Supreme Court of the United States for overturning the landmark abortion ruling, recalling that her institution was among several organizations that staged protests during the legal battle leading up to the decision. Madam Sharp also criticized insurance coverage for abortion in the U.S., saying: "The status quo is that about 85% of private insurance plans currently cover abortion services. It prevents women from being able to use their own money to purchase an insurance plan that excludes

abortion." She further blamed some parents for pressuring their children into abortion when faced with unplanned pregnancies, describing such decisions as harmful and extreme. She commended the students for their engagement and urged them to become ambassadors of the pro-life movement in their schools and communities for the common good of society. The program in Brewerville was held under the theme: "Protecting Life and Family." In Liberia, abortion is illegal, but it is practices underground, destroying thousands of lives, mainly for economic and other reasons. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

CSA to overturn 260 wrongful dismissals

Civil Servants arbitrarily dismissed and suspended rekindle hope here, as Civil Service Boss, Dr. Josiah Joekai, discloses plan to reinstate about 200 affected Civil Servants.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Monrovia, Liberia; August 21, 2025 - The Director General of the Civil Service Agency (CSA) of Liberia, Dr. Josiah Joekai, Jr., has inspired hope in dismissed and suspended Civil Servants across the country, disclosing that the Independent Grievance and Complaint System has concluded inquiries and investigation into 260 complaints of wrongful dismissal, with nearly two hundred resolved, awaiting to be overturned, while boasting that arbitrary suspensions, dismissals, or transfers era has past. Delivering a keynote addressed on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 during celebration of the 22th anniversary of the Accra Comprehensive Peace Accord, organized by the Kofi Annan Institute of Conflict Transformation, University of Liberia, Dr. Joekai said the CSA has embarked on series of reforms, especially establishment of the Board of Appeal. "The Civil Service is the backbone of governance. For too long, it was weakened by patronage. But change is here. For the first time in 18 years, President Joseph N. Boakai reconstituted the Examining Committee of the Board of Appeal. Civil servants now have an Independent Grievance and Complaint System. Over 260 cases have been received, with nearly 200 resolved, many of which required wrongful dismissals to be overturned." Dr. Joekai stated. According to him, Civil Servants no longer fear arbitrary suspensions, dismissals, or transfers, while boasting that such dark era is past, adding that today, dignity, decency, and accountability are returning because a merit-based system is being introduced at all levels and they are held accountable for punctuality, performance, and productivity. "But let us also be clear, the public sector cannot be Liberia's largest employer. A weak private sector burdens the state, stunts growth, and reduces tax revenue. A strong civil service requires a strong private sector. We must create jobs. We must implement the Decent Work Act of 2015. No foreigner should hold a job that a Liberian is qualified to perform. Companies must return unskilled and domestically trained jobs to Liberians. This is not xenophobia. This is fairness. This is the law. Other nations do it. Ghana prioritizes Ghanaians in employment and public access fees. We must do the same for Liberians. Because unless Liberians are prioritized in their land, we undermine peace itself." He indicated. Commenting on the Accra Comprehensive Peace Accord, with specific focus on the

True and Reconciliation Commission and Liberia's current political stability, Dr. Joekai said that security is not enough because peace is not only about silencing guns. Peace must also mean confronting the truth. He stated that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) gave Liberia a framework and it collected over 22,000 statements from victims and perpetrators, while documenting massacres, atrocities, and human rights violations and provided recommendations for justice, reparation, and healing. "It was not perfect. But it gave us something precious; it gave us memory. And yet, two decades later, much of its work remains undone. Many recommendations remain ignored. Victims still wait for closure. Perpetrators still walk freely. My fellow Liberians, let me be honest with you: reconciliation without truth is shallow. Peace without justice is fragile. That is why the government's decision to establish the War and Economic Crimes Court is historic. It signals that Liberia is finally ready to stop dancing around the truth. Those perpetrators must account. Those victims must see justice. The culture of impunity must end. This is not vengeance. This is not a division. This is healing. This is accountability. This is the only way to ensure that Liberia never again returns to war." Dr. Joekai pointed out. Speaking on governance and democracy, he asserted that the ACPA was not only about peace, it was about governance because it established institutions designed to prevent the abuses that had fueled war. He lamented that the Governance Commission was tasked with reform, while the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission was designed to ensure transparency and the National Elections Commission strengthened to safeguard democracy. "And because of those reforms, Liberia has held multiple free and fair elections. Since 2005, we have seen peaceful transfers of power unthinkable during our years of conflict. But democracy is not just elections. It is also accountability. It is transparency. It is the fight against corruption. It is the courage to decentralize power so that every county, every district, feels the presence of government. Let us be clear: Liberia is not yet the democracy we dream of. Corruption lingers. Institutions are weak. But compared to where we stood in 2003, we have moved mountains. And that movement is owed to the framework of governance born from the ACPA", Dr. Joekai noted. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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-U.S.-based group discloses

to women. Yet we have spoken to countless women who say otherwise," Madam Sharp noted.

According to her, many women suffer from emotional scars and physical harm as a result of abortion but are often silenced or made to feel ashamed.

Montserrado County, on August 19, 2025, Madam Melenie S. Sharp said her institution is on a mission to train young people as “foot soldiers” to spread anti-abortion awareness.

She revealed that the group has already trained about 8,000 individuals, mainly youth, who

She said Pro-Life Global is giving women the platform to share their stories and find healing, stressing that “coming together, we see that we are not alone.”

Madam Sharp noted that the group works through churches, communities, and even online platforms to reach women in crisis, offering them alternatives to abortion and empowering them to choose life.

She explained that through its partnership with PreBorn!, thousands of babies have already been saved worldwide.

“Our mission is simple: to save babies, offer mothers hope, and share the love of Jesus Christ. With abortion services becoming more accessible, compassionate care is needed more than ever,” she stated.



are “saving lives by preventing abortion globally.”

“For far too long, we have been told that abortion causes no harm



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A hand holding a pen is shown writing the word "PRESS" in a bold, sans-serif font. The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of colorful paint splashes and brushstrokes in shades of purple, pink, yellow, and blue. The word "PRESS" is written in white with a black outline, positioned diagonally across the lower part of the image.

A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline 'New Dawn', a calendar titled 'New Dawn CALENDAR', a magazine with the headline 'JSS\$2.5m for Nat. by-elections', and a brochure titled 'New Dawn BROCHURE'. The publications are arranged in an overlapping, artistic manner on a blue background.