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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2025	L\$200.0194/US\$1.00	L\$202.2440/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.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

French Version Inside

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-Say they're dying from drugs




CMC appoints leaders

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Continental News

Sudan's army denies bombing convoy taking aid to famine-hit area

Sudan's army has denied bombing a World Food Programme (WFP) travelling in the convoy were safe, it added. Sudan plunged into a civil war



The conflict in Sudan has caused a massive humanitarian crisis (archive shot)

convoy taking aid to a famine-hit area in the country's Darfur region. The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) had blamed the army for Wednesday's air strike in the town of Mellit, which is under RSF control. A UN agency said a drone hit the convoy, and three lorries in the 16-vehicle convoy caught fire and were destroyed. All staff

in April 2023 after a vicious power struggle erupted between the army and the RSF, creating one of the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The RSF does not have an air force, but both sides use drones. The attack is the latest in a string of assaults on humanitarian operations in Sudan. "Humanitarian staff and assets must never be a target," the WFP said, urging

the warring parties to respect international humanitarian law. The convoy was headed towards a village near Mellit, a "famine-affected area" some 90km (56 miles) north-west of el-Fasher, the WFP said. The city, the army's last foothold in the Darfur region, has been besieged by the RSF for more than a year. It is one of the main areas of conflict in the civil war, and the RSF has intensified its battle for control of el-Fasher in recent weeks. Both sides have previously been accused of using starvation as a weapon of war by obstructing the delivery of aid and looting food. Five aid workers were killed in a similar attack in el-Fasher in June. Tens of thousands of people have died, and 12 million have been forced from their homes because of the conflict. More than 4.5 million refugees, mostly women and children, have fled to neighbouring countries. BBC

South African MP opens fire to fend off attack during attempted hijacking

A prominent South African MP fired his gun to fend off a violent attack by a gang on him and two of his colleagues in Cape Town. Ian Cameron - along with two other members of parliament's police committee, Lisa Schickerling and Nicholas Gotsell - were returning from a work trip when their vehicle was ambushed in the township of Philippi on Tuesday. The assailants smashed the car's windows with bricks, injuring Cameron and Gotsell. Cameron, whose teeth were broken, retaliated by opening fire, injuring one of the attackers. Police said two teenagers, aged 16 and 18, had been arrested while they investigate a case of attempted murder and attempted hijacking. Crime is a major problem in South Africa and the country has one of the highest murder rates in the world. One of the suspects was apprehended while seeking medical treatment at a hospital on Tuesday, while the other was arrested on a farm early on Wednesday, police said, adding that a

search was under way for a third suspect. Cameron, who chairs the police committee, told broadcaster Newzroom Afrika that they were returning from an unannounced visit to a police academy in Philippi when "the first brick came through [the window]" on the driver's side and hit him in the face. Cameron said that while he was trying to fend off his attacker, he saw his colleagues also face a barrage of attacks from the other assailants. "I realised that if we don't do something, then this can go really bad. So I did my best to act in self-defence with my

firearm and then we sped off to the closest secure location." In South Africa, it is legal to carry a firearm, so long as you have a licence. Cameron, who was seen with a cut lip in the interview, said some of his teeth had been broken, while Gotsell was briefly hospitalised after he was hit on the head. Gotsell, speaking after being discharged from hospital, praised Cameron, saying he "acted with such bravery". All three MPs are members of the Democratic Alliance (DA), the second-biggest party in South Africa's coalition government. BBC



Ian Cameron has been lauded for his bravery after he opened fire in self-defence

Ghanaian music star Shatta Wale detained over Lamborghini purchase

Popular Ghanaian musician Shatta Wale has been detained in an investigation linked to his purchase of a luxury car, the Ghanaian authorities have said. Wale's yellow Lamborghini was seized earlier this month at the request of the US, which alleged that the vehicle was tied to the proceeds of a criminal enterprise. Ghana's Economic and Organised Crime Office (Eoco) said Wale voluntarily entered custody on Wednesday and was subsequently questioned over the car. Wale's management did not mention the US' allegations in their statement, saying

and boosted his global profile by collaborating with Beyoncé on her 2019 song Already. After being questioned, Wale was granted bail of 10,000,000 Ghanaian cedis (£910,00; £675,000), Eoco said. It added that the musician would remain in custody until the agency confirms that the sureties specified in the bail could be met. Meanwhile, a small crowd of Wale's fans gathered outside Eoco's offices in the capital city Accra to show solidarity with the musician. Eoco previously said Wale's Lamborghini would be returned to the US to aid in the restitution of Amuah's victims. Amuah and his co-conspirators had impersonated vendors to defraud nearly 70 public and



Shatta Wale is one of Ghana's best-known dancehall stars

instead that the artist was detained over "tax obligations". The 2019 Lamborghini Urus was identified by the FBI and US justice department as being linked to "a \$4m (\$3m) crime involving one Nana Kwabena Amuah, a Ghanaian who is currently serving jail in the USA", Eoco said on Thursday. Wale has denied knowing or being connected to Amuah, who received a seven-year sentence for fraud in 2023. He said he was a "third-party owner" of the \$150,000 (£110,000) car and that he did not know who had shipped it to the country. Wale, real name Charles Nii Armah, is one of Ghana's best-known musicians. He has built a hugely successful career on Jamaica's dancehall sound,

private organisations across the country, US court records show. On Wednesday, Wale's management urged fans to remain calm and avoid speculation while the musician remained in detention. "We want to assure all fans and the general public that his legal team is fully engaged and actively working with the authorities to resolve this matter," the statement said. The seizure of Wale's car is part of a broader operation - Ghana has been working with the US to dismantle an international fraud network that targets Americans. This month, the FBI and US Justice Department extradited and arrested three Ghanaian nationals alleged to be the masterminds of a \$100m fraud scheme, which involved romance scams and phishing attacks. BBC

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 Jim O'Brien

Keeping the Transatlantic Relationship Alive

WASHINGTON, DC - The confusion sewn by the Alaska summit between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, and the follow-up summit between Trump and European leaders, including Ukraine, has more than justified the decision taken by NATO's non-US members to increase defense spending and intensify security cooperation. This commitment made it possible for European and Ukrainian leaders to propose that they buy tens of billions of US military equipment as part of a sustainable plan for peace in Europe, and Ukraine.

This is the right approach, perhaps the only one, not only for promoting European and Ukrainian defense, but also for rebuilding transatlantic cooperation in a variety of sectors, from AI to tariffs. Defense may be the simplest sector for the US and Europe to align, for multiple reasons.

For starters, all the joint (transatlantic) work done since NATO's Wales Summit in 2014 has already established a solid foundation. Second, there is broad agreement on the need for Europe to do more. Europe and non-US NATO members now plan to spend 5% of GDP on defense by 2032, and European officials have said that Europe will spend 3%, on average, by 2028. Following the launch of a €150 billion (\$175 billion) EU fund that has already solicited bids, EU defense investment is scheduled to be ten times what it was.

Nor is this just a headline created to appease the Trump administration in the short term. NATO leaders had already committed (at the NATO Summit in July 2024) to fund regional defense plans, and the estimated cost for those was approximately 3.5% of GDP. The Trump administration has highlighted the European commitments and agreed to treat spending on crucial military infrastructure as counting toward the 5% target. Although some countries will have difficulty meeting the higher targets, at least in the near term, the continent's military capabilities will be much stronger than would have been the case.

Third, the money will be spent on meeting the most crucial military needs. Under the 2024 plan, NATO will determine how to prioritize military capabilities, implying that the US still has a say in the matter. This approach should address the long-held US concern that European defense initiatives result in redundancies or divert funds from more pressing needs.

Fourth, this approach also allows US companies to participate in and benefit from European defense procurement, giving the US a stake in Europe's re-arming effort. Donald Trump touted European spending on US arms following his July meeting with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and one senior European official estimates that 40% of early EU defense spending will go to US firms. Much of this is already directed toward capabilities that only the US can provide, such as advanced air defense.

To be sure, difficult decisions lie ahead. Above all, European leaders will have to determine how far they should go in creating alternatives to US equipment. These decisions will not be made all at once, and continued tensions with the Trump administration will increase the likelihood of Europe moving away from US-made weapons systems where it can.

Another challenge for European leaders will be to allocate the new money pouring into the sector. Every European leader will lobby for domestic companies. But here, too, Europeans' initial moves have been promising. The EU is focused on creating effective capabilities, and key member states have called attention to what Ukraine most needs and can produce on its own. This emphasis on Ukraine sets a clear, urgent objective and allows spending to proceed without ensuring that every state gets some funding. Still, it will be important to understand how much investment can be directed to Ukraine without duplication or bidding up scarce resources.

Looking ahead, a small, informal group of European leaders should identify urgent investment projects and participants. Any such group will be a hot ticket for European leaders, so its work should be discreet. It will need to include the countries with the largest industrial capacities, while also being sufficiently representative. Focusing on the largest defense and industrial capabilities and frontline states may be the best way to start.

Europe's decision to keep the US involved in its defense industrial strategy did not come easily. In the first months of the second Trump administration, some in Europe questioned whether cooperation with the US was even possible. But by recognizing that America and Europe each have something to contribute to shared transatlantic security interests, European leaders are setting an example of how transatlantic cooperation can recover even during a destructive period.

These structural considerations matter, because successful cooperation on defense can provide a model for other areas. Economic growth over the next generation is likely to come from industries such as AI, life sciences, and new energy technologies. China has a leading position in many of these sectors, and it will seek to shape global habits and standards for its own benefit.

Europe, the US, Canada, and the Indo-Pacific will respond more effectively together than they would separately. As a group, their size is comparable to China, and they can draw on shared habits of cooperation in aligning supply chains, investment, and standards.

A focus on aligning Europe and the US may seem premature, given the extent to which disagreements on trade and investment are impeding cooperation. These tensions will continue unless Trump stops treating Europe as only a competitor.

We cannot know when or if tensions will ease, but I believe they can and must - even if only after this administration ends. In any case, we should be ready for any opportunities that arise. The early steps on defense cooperation show that recognition of shared interests, open communication about the best path forward, and a willingness to let one another's companies compete on fair terms can be a basis for a renewed relationship, at least in discrete areas.

To prepare for that possibility, European leaders should identify strategically important sectors and make clear what conditions would allow them to keep the US as a long-term, reliable partner, and then to hold the US to its own commitments. Step by step, the partnership that underpinned peace and prosperity for previous generations can do the same for the next one.

Jim O'Brien was US Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasian Affairs during the Biden administration.

OP-ED

By Laura Tyson and George Papaconstantinou

Who Really Wins in the US-EU Trade Deal?

BERKELEY/FLORENCE - US President Donald Trump’s “reciprocal tariffs” have overturned the system of global trade. The vague, non-binding “agreements” he has announced are an obfuscation. Each has been unilaterally imposed, leveraging America’s economic and geopolitical power to extract concessions from trading partners. That is why the tariff rates vary both by country (sometimes reflecting political motives) and by sector (steel, autos and auto parts, and semiconductors).

The average US tariff rate now stands at 18.6%, the highest since the Smoot-Hawley tariff that crippled the global economy and contributed to the Great Depression. Gone are the principles of national treatment (treating foreign and domestic producers equally) and most favored nation (treating trading partners equally), the cornerstones of the postwar order that fostered trade, cross-border investment flows, and economic development around the world.

Gone, too, is American credibility. Trump is not to be trusted. He can change the tariff rates at any time, for any reason. His handshake agreements are not legally binding and cannot be monitored and enforced. Moreover, they may not survive court challenges. Trump is asserting that he, rather than Congress, has the authority to set tariffs in response to a “national emergency.” But since there is no emergency, the US Supreme Court should deem the tariffs unconstitutional when it finally rules on the matter. Whether it will, however, is uncertain.

The recent US trade deal with the European Union - “negotiated” in a peremptory meeting between Trump and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen - underscored one of Trump’s ostensible goals: to achieve America’s re-industrialization through protectionism for domestic producers and commitments by trading partners to invest in the United States. Hence, the tariffs are limited to trade in goods. While the US has consistently run a merchandise-trade deficit with the EU (\$183 billion in 2023), its services trade with the bloc has consistently been in surplus (\$127 billion in 2023).

The EU is also a major source of investment, production, and employment in the US. Before the handshake deal, EU companies had already invested more than \$2.4 trillion in the US economy, and cross-border investments between the US and the EU were valued at nearly \$5 trillion in 2023. Many EU business investments in the US are in the same sectors as EU exports to the US - biotech (pharmaceuticals), automobiles, aerospace, and chemicals. In 2023, European companies employed more than 3.4 million US workers.

But now, most imports of European goods will face a 15% tariff. Certain strategic items are exempted, and the tariff for steel and aluminum will be 50% (a policy at odds with Trump’s re-industrialization goal, since it increases US manufacturing and construction costs). While the Europeans see the 15% rate as a ceiling, Trump sees it as a baseline.

Nor are the tariffs reciprocal: the EU agreed to eliminate its remaining low tariffs on most US industrial goods, while “improving” market access for some US agricultural and fishery products. Meanwhile, the EU will maintain its low tariffs on imports from other trading partners, in keeping with its most-favored-nation commitments. As part of the deal, the EU also agreed to purchase \$750 billion worth of US energy by 2028, and to mobilize \$600 billion in business investment in the US by 2029.

The investment commitment is not enforceable, since those decisions ultimately fall to European companies. Still, the \$600 billion target is reachable, considering that EU companies invested about \$605 billion in the US over the last three years. The energy commitment, however, is delusional. US companies would struggle to supply \$250 billion in energy exports to the EU each year, given that their global energy exports totaled only \$165 billion in 2024. In any case, pursuing the \$250 billion target would disrupt energy-market dynamics globally.

Ultimately, the energy deal is sure to fail, as did the 2019-21 US-China energy deal. And over the longer term, Trump’s anti-renewables policies will weaken US producers in those sectors, handing the future to China and other Asia-Pacific countries, which already account for 90% of the global manufacturing capacity in EV batteries and fuel cells, and for almost all solar panels.


So, who “wins” in the US-EU agreement? Many see the EU as the clear loser, since the US clearly managed to use its hegemonic power to extract favorable terms. But this power rests on the strength of the US economy, which Trump’s policies - unsustainable deficits, cuts to scientific research, attacks on central-bank independence, immigration restrictions, handouts to the fossil-fuel industry - are quickly subverting. Moreover, in the short run, the tariffs will raise prices for US consumers and increase costs for US producers (including foreign investors in the US), slowing the economy. The resulting disruption in global trade will raise prices and slow growth in the EU, too, but by considerably less.

The EU faced a choice. It could pursue a costly trade war or agree to “the best deal we could get under very difficult circumstances” - circumstances that included an implicit US threat to withdraw support from NATO. The EU can counter the negative effects of the tariffs by diversifying its trading partners and negotiating new trade agreements with them. US tariffs are already encouraging closer trading relations with likeminded developed countries like Australia, Canada, Japan, and South Korea. They may also lend momentum to trade talks between the EU and Latin America’s Mercosur bloc, as well as with ASEAN “connector” economies that are critical to global supply chains. And finally, by sabotaging transatlantic cooperation on China, Trump has given the EU an opening to fashion its own trade and investment agreements with the world’s second-largest economy.

The EU has always been strengthened through crises. The necessary, second-best trade deal with the US should not undermine its main goal: achieving “open strategic autonomy” with an integrated defense industrial base, a differentiated trade profile that reflects its commitment to multilateralism, and policies to promote sustainable competitiveness and innovation, especially in high-tech industries where the EU lags both the US and China. If Europe succeeds, it will emerge as a major pro-democracy and pro-market leader in a multi-polar world.

Laura Tyson, a former chair of the President’s Council of Economic Advisers during the Clinton administration, is a professor at the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, and a member of the Board of Advisers at Angeleno Group. George Papaconstantinou, a former finance minister of Greece who negotiated the country’s first bailout, is Professor of International Political Economy at the European University Institute and the co-author (with Jean Pisani-Ferry) of *New World New Rules: Global Cooperation in a World of Geopolitical Rivalries* (Columbia University Press, 2025).

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Lord, let them leave my learned friend small na

Dear Father:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

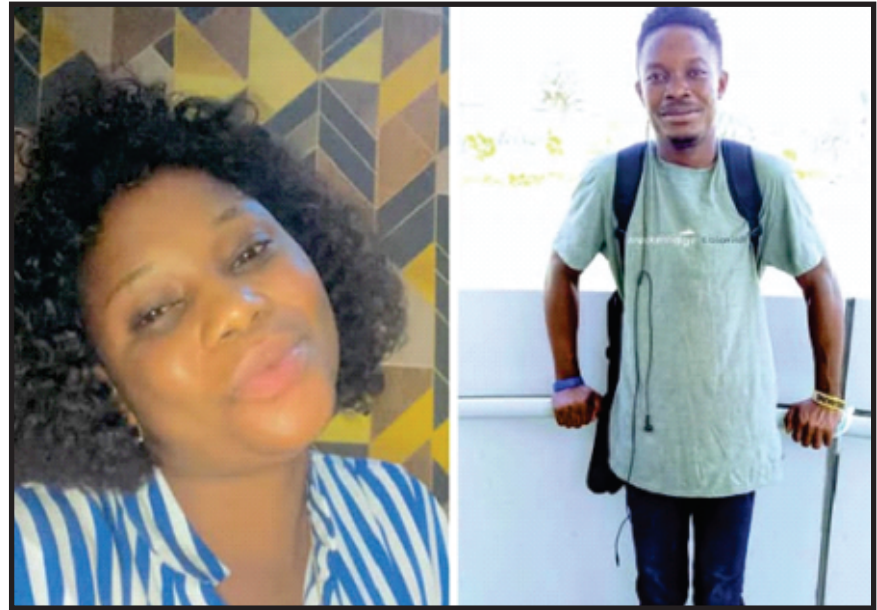
opportunity, during and after his visit to Japan, to present a clear and constructive vision for the rubber industry that emphasizes the importance of sustainable development. By doing so, he could create an atmosphere where local and foreign businesses can flourish. This vision would require establishing 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.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

S/Court hands down 5-year sentence in theft case

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh
Monrovia, Liberia; August 22, 2025 - The Supreme Court of Liberia has handed down a landmark judgment against Esona Kamara and Emmanuel Porte, work with popular Nimbaian businessman Taro Nya Dekpah for several years, beginning in 2022, absconded with a huge sum of money and was caught through a CCTV camera while returning the amount of



convicting them of theft of \$100,000 Liberian dollars in property and criminal facilitation in a major theft of property case here. Both Convicts Esona Kamara and her husband, Emmanuel Porte, have been charged with the crime. The incident occurred when Esona Kamara Porte, who used to

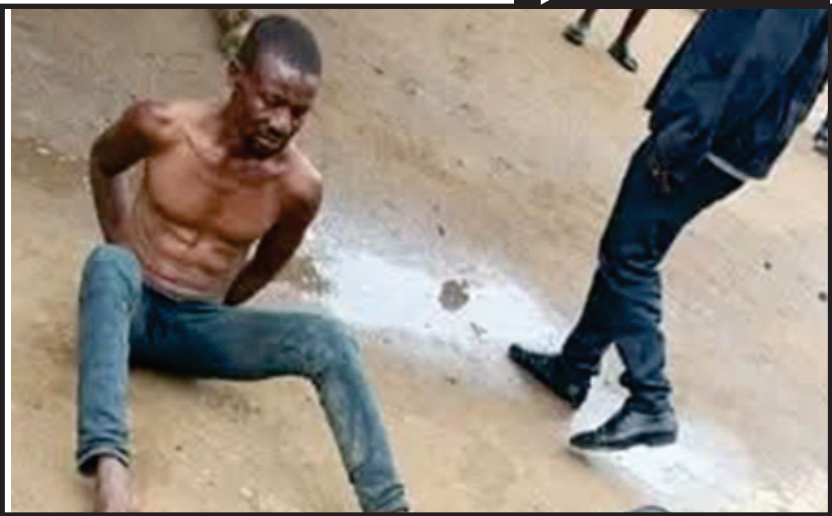
Porte, who initiated the ideas. Following a thorough ruling at the Supreme Court, both defendants, Esona Kamara and Emmanuel Porte, were charged with purposely, knowingly, intentionally, and criminally committing the crimes of Theft of Property, Criminal Conspiracy, and Criminal Facilitation.” The sentencing follows an indictment by the Grand Jury against Esona Kamara, Emmanuel Porte, and Princess Porte. The indictment states, “During the period from December 17, 2023, to January 31, 2024, in the City of Ganta, the principal defendant Esona Kamara, along with co-defendants Emmanuel Porte and Princess Porte, purposely, knowingly, intentionally, and criminally committed the crimes of Theft of Property, Criminal Conspiracy, and Criminal Facilitation.” Emmanuel Porte has been convicted for conspiracy.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Sen. Kogar reveals alleged plot to kill him

-Alleged suspect faces Police interrogation

By Stephen G. Fellajuah
Monrovia, Liberia; August 22, 2025 - In a disturbing turn of events, Nimba County Senator Samuel G. Kogar, narrowly escaped what he describes “an assassination attempt” involving traditional spiritual powers. The would-be attacker, a Guinean national identified as Diasielay, was arrested Monday night after allegedly infiltrating the Senator’s Ganta residence allegedly with an intent to kill, not with weapons, but with a simple touch. Speaking Thursday, August 21, 2025, on OK FM’s Morning Rush, Senator Kogar recounted unsettling days leading up to the arrest. “The fellow, since last week Saturday, had been passing around the community. But each time he asked for me, I’ve been indoors; they would tell him ‘the bossman is not here,’ and he would leave. But he had a bag deposited in the bush,” Kogar explained. The senator said suspicions grew when a resident allegedly spotted Diasielay outside his compound, oddly pressing his feet into the sand. When



▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

First Lady offers scholarship for specialized studies in health

By Lincoln G. Peters
Monrovia, Liberia; August 22, 2025 - The Office of Liberia’s First Lady, Kartumu Yarta Boakai, has taken a giant step to address critical medical gap within the Liberian health sector, especially maternal childbirth. The First Lady Office hosted an interactive forum for over 100 Liberian health practitioners to recruit candidates for more than 75 fully-funded scholarships in critical medical specializations. For doctors, the scholarships cover a wide range of high-demand fields, including various areas of Oncology, such as medical, pediatric, gynecological, surgical, and radiation oncology, as well as breast surgery, pain and palliative medicine, pathology, interventional radiology, and head and neck surgery. Other available specialties

range from three months to one year, will be conducted both online and on-campus at leading universities in the United Kingdom and India. To be eligible, applicants must be Liberian health practitioners with requisite academic credentials and a formal recommendation from the Office of the First Lady and the Ministry of Health. The final selection of candidates will be communicated through the MERCK FOUNDATION upon receiving an acceptance letter from the school and a cover recommendation letter from the office of the First Lady and the MOH. The application process commenced immediately following the forum. Interested and qualified candidates have been requested to submit their updated resumes to the Office of



First Lady, Kartumu Yarta Boakai

include reproductive medicine and embryology, diabetology and hypertension, pediatric cardiology and endocrinology, critical care, neurosurgery, rheumatology, spine surgery, geriatrics, infectious diseases, stroke medicine, family medicine, cardiology, pediatrics, women’s health, urology, and gastroenterology. For nurses and technicians, programs are available in oncology nursing, radiation technician training, laboratory technician programs, and oncology research and cytoscreeener training. The session, held at the A. M. Kyne Collegiate Resource Center at the William V. S. Tubman High School in Sinkor, Monrovia, provided detailed information on the scholarship programs, including available specializations, eligibility requirements, and application procedures. rovided by the Merck Foundation in partnership with the Office of the First Lady and the Ministry of Health, these scholarships are a cornerstone of the government’s effort to build an advanced and resilient healthcare system for Liberia. The fully-funded programs, which

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberian delegation holds talks with IFC Managing Director

Tokyo, Japan; August 22, Bank's delegation also 2025 - A high-powered included Mr. Ethiopis Tafara, Liberian delegation Regional Vice President for coordinated by Finance & Africa, IFC, Mr. Ousmane



Development Planning Diagona, Regional Vice Minister, Augustine Kpehe President for Africa, World Ngafuan, has held productive Bank and other World Bank discussions with the World Bank executives. Bank delegation to TICAD Liberian government headed by the Managing delegates to the talks Director of the International included Foreign Minister Sara Finance Corporation (IFC), Mr. Beysolow Nyanti, Minister of Maktar Diop. Education Dr. Jarso Jallah, The IFC is the World Bank NIC Chairman Jeff Blibo, private sector institution. The Commerce Minister

Magdalene Dagoseh; Agriculture Minister Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah, Mines & Energy Minister Wilmot J. Paye, NPA Managing Director Sekou Hussein Dukuly and others. According to a release from the Ministry of Finance in Monrovia, the discussion focused on plans of IFC to scale-up support to private sector investments in Liberia, including through IFC equity participation. Sectors to benefit include energy, agriculture, tourism, financial services, and many other. The delegations also discussed the World Bank's portfolio in Liberia with net commitments now totaling nearly US\$1 billion. The delegates noted with appreciation increase in disbursements to World Bank projects as a result of increased delivery and the need to accelerate implementation to pave way for increased World Bank support for Liberia's ARRREST Agenda. Press Release

Rivercess County: Magisterial Court drops criminal charge against journalists

-After advocacy and legal representation by PUL

(August 21, 2025): In a important triumph, significant victory for press safeguarding the rights of freedom, the Yarpah Town Doue and Gaye from ongoing Magisterial Court in Rivercess harassment, intimidation, County has agreed to drop the and threats that sought to "criminal contempt of court" undermine their journalistic charge against Liberian freedom. journalists Eric Opa Doue and PUL President Julius Kanubah Methuselah Gaye. This expressed relief at the decision comes after legal Magisterial court's decision, representation and concerted emphasizing the importance advocacy efforts by the Press of the Kamara Abdullah Union of Liberia (PUL). Kamara Act of Press Freedom and Liberia's commitment to The court's decision was delivered by Magistrate Debah Declaration of Table Zuku Debah on August 20, Mountain. 2025, after a compelling Attorney Boweh, who pleading by Attorney Bruce traveled to Rivercess on Boweh, who was appointed by August 19, stated before the the PUL to safeguard the interests of the journalists. While the criminal contempt charges were agreed to be dropped, the Magistrate has imposed the minimum fine of fifty United States Dollars on each of the journalists and has required them to submit a formal written apology to the Court, along with a retraction of their allegations of court bribery disseminated through their media outlets. The successful representation by Attorney Boweh marks an

Court that while the journalists' reports contained factual inaccuracies, these were not intended to detract from the Court's integrity; instead, they aimed to inform the public on a critical issue. Prior to his involvement, Attorney Boweh affirmed his commitment to the PUL and the Court to disclose any substantiated evidence of bribery, and should there be none, to advocate for the dismissal of the criminal contempt charge by



Citizens react to Supt. Cole's halt to school project

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Maryland, Liberia; August 22, 2025 - Several citizens in Maryland County have reacted to a recent Facebook post from the County Superintendent, Henry Cole, halting AN ongoing school project being undertaken by a son of the county, Dorbor Bedell. The Harper Demonstration High School in question has been in a deplorable condition for about five years, making learning unbearable for students. Amidst these conditions, several appeals made by parents and residents of Harper district to the Ministry of Education and local authority yielded no fruit, something, which drew attention of Mr. Bedell, a philanthropist. He urgently agreed to renovate the school to ensure a conducive learning

the CEO and the school administration. The post added that while the superintendent's office appreciate development initiatives in the county, "we will not tolerate any group disrespecting or undermining the administration under the guise of development." "We wish to inform the people of Maryland County that we apologize for any inconvenience caused by this directive", Cole continued. He emphasize that the decision was administrative, not political. Meanwhile, following the post, several residents and citizens in the county reacted, terming the decision as politically-motivated, consideration deplorable condition of the school and repeated calls for local authorizes for intervention that went unheeded.



environment for kids. The project began on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, following a dialogue with the school principal and District Education Officer, but a message from the Superintendent Cole halted the entire work. Cole in his Facebook post, said his administration has disapproved the renovation at the Demonstration High School because of procedural errors. According to him, government has a procedure for its operations, noting that in any project, it is imperative that the county administration is informed to facilitate better collaboration and seamless communication, which he said was never done. The Superintendent's Facebook post added that the administration is currently securing funding for immediate repair of the school from the proper authority, a matter that was previously discussed with

According to Freddie Goe, Chair of Maryland County Unity Party Youth Congress, said as young people and stakeholders in the growth of county, they recognized the importance of proper coordination in all government projects. But it's also important to acknowledge and appreciate individuals, organizations, and foundations that out of goodwill, choose to invest in the development of schools and communities. The Dorbor Bedell Foundation's intervention at the Harper Demonstration High School is a welcome initiative, especially given the longstanding condition of the campus. This effort was initiated in consultation with the County Education Officer, District Education Officers, and the

Français

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

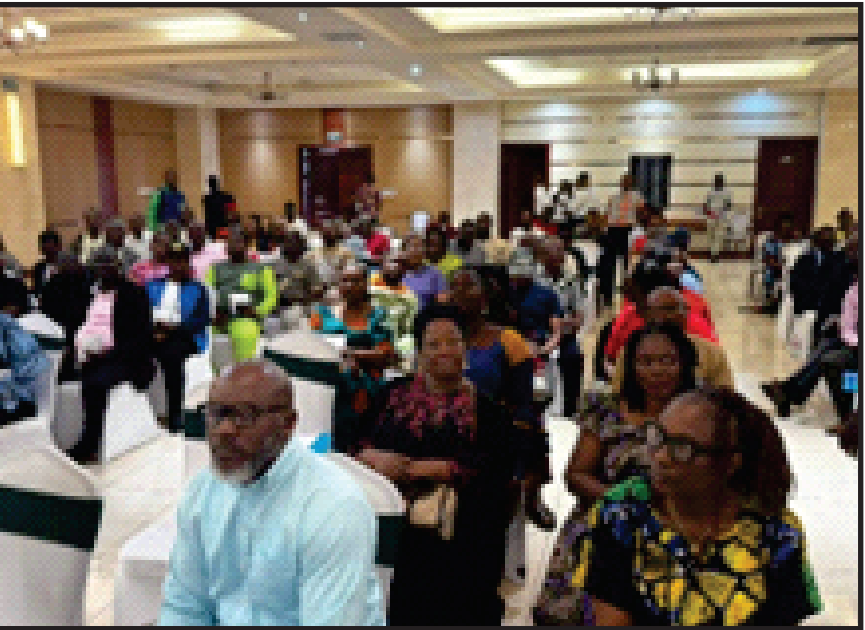
Augustine Fayiah, représenter le ministère.

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

y.

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.



absence remarquée : celle du président Joseph N. Boakai et de la haute direction du pouvoir législatif. Ni le président Boakai, qui devait prononcer une

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.



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 « СССР » (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.

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S/Court hands down 5-year

The two individuals were sentenced to five years each in prison. In addition to their prison terms, the court ordered the defendants to sell the property acquired from the money stolen (fourteen million five hundred thousand Liberian dollars), along with \$28,000 (twenty-eight thousand United States dollars), after paying one million seven hundred forty-seven thousand Liberian dollars to enable restitution of a balance of L\$12,753,000 and US\$28,000, representing the value of funds and property linked to the case.

However, should the amount so generated not be able to cover the money to be restituted after the sale of the property acquired, they are ordered to reconstitute the difference.

At the same time, the case, which has drawn public attention, highlights ongoing concerns over financial crimes in the country. Legal analysts say the judgment sends a strong warning to would-be offenders that theft and criminal facilitation will not be tolerated.

Observers also view the ruling as a step toward strengthening public confidence in Liberia’s justice system. By combining both imprisonment and restitution, the Supreme Court underscored its commitment to ensuring that justice is not only punitive but also restorative.

The conviction of Kamara and Porte comes amid broader calls for stronger judicial action against corruption and property-related crimes, which continue to undermine public trust and economic growth in Liberia. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court of Liberia has also exonerated Princess Porte, who was earlier charged as part of the crime, and asked for her immediate release.

According to court records, the prosecution established that Esona Kamara and Emmanuel Porte were directly linked to the unlawful taking and facilitation of funds belonging to the Taro and Sons Business Incorporated in Ganta, Nimba County.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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CMC appoints leaders

pledged to uphold the vision of CMC. Madam Yah Tokpah, speaking on behalf of the appointees, expressed gratitude to Representative Bility for the confidence reposed in them.

She assured the gathering that they would work tirelessly to advance the party’s agenda and serve the Liberian people with commitment and integrity.

Former Representative Larry Younquoi, a seasoned lawmaker and strong advocate for democratic reforms, emphasized that the Citizens Movement for Change represents a new political direction in Liberia.

“The Citizens Movement for Change is about transparency, accountability, and inclusion,”

Younquoi stated. “I am honored to be part of this process, and we will prioritize the needs of ordinary Liberians above all else.”

Observers see these appointments as a strategic move by Representative Bility to consolidate political influence in key counties and prepare the CMC for serious participation in the 2029 elections.

With a strong leadership team, a clear development-oriented agenda, and growing grassroots support, many analysts believe the Citizens Movement for Change is gradually positioning itself as a formidable force capable of reshaping Liberia’s political future.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Citizens react to Supt. Cole’s

school administration. It demonstrates the spirit of partnership that government continues to encourage, where community actors and philanthropists buttress government’s development agenda, he said..

“While we respect the office of the Superintendent and his call for proper procedures, we also believe that genuine development should never be obstructed or politicized. The renovation of schools is not for any individual benefit, but for the future of our children and the dignity of education in Maryland County”, he added.

Harrison K. Brownan, another citizen, called Supt. Cole to redirect the promised-funding to the Old John Hilary Tubman & A. Dash Wilson building below JJ. Dossen Hospital.

“That building is very deplorable Sir. Let Mr. Bedell continues with his work. Sorry, for him not reaching your honorable office. Please note that Marylanders will develop Maryland County”, Harrison said.

Broway Clarence JP said, how can Superintendent Henry Cole undermine development on the basis of procedural, instead of having a

“Moreover, this is my very first time to hear/witness county superintendent interfering into school matter, instead of the County Education Officer (CEO), DEO, County School Board Chairperson, PTA and other academic related authorities”, Broway noted.

When the New Dawn contacted the office of Mr. Bedell, it was alleged that the County Education Officer had approved the ongoing renovation work and they’re even surprised about what is going on.

As it stands, the project remains untouched and school is about to open next month.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Sen. Kogar reveals alleged plot to kill him

known record, was initially detained by the Liberia National Police (LNP) Nimba Detachment. He has since been transferred to the Ministry of Internal Affairs’ Bureau of Customs and Cultural Affairs in Sanniquellie, Nimba County, where he is being further investigated by traditional authorities, including Chief Herbalist, Leroy Gborley.

The Senator further alleged that the suspect confessed to being sent by three people, two men and a woman, to carry out the spiritual assassination. The investigation remains active as officials work to trace individuals behind the alleged plot and the motive.

Starts from Back page

ArcelorMittal Conducts Road Safety

everything about us,” and that a helmet significantly reduces the severity of injuries in an accident. He cautioned riders that head impacts can cause long-term damage—even when the injured person appears o u t w a r d l y normal—underscoring the helmet’s role as a critical safeguard.

Police Commander Horace T. Zeigeay praised AML for organizing the program and providing safety materials to the riders. He urged motorcyclists to take safety seriously, noting that it is a matter of protecting their own lives.

Commander Zeigeay also pointed out common violations of Liberia’s Vehicle and Traffic Law, including playing loud music while riding, using earpieces, riding in slippers, competing for road space with faster vehicles, and overtaking in dangerous areas, all of which increase the risk of accidents.

The event ended on a note of mutual commitment to road safety, with AML, the Liberia National Police, and the motorcyclists agreeing that protecting lives must remain a top priority in the Yekepa region.

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Rivercess County: Magisterial

acknowledging the shortcomings in the journalists’ report.

Following a thorough assessment, Attorney Boweh concluded that the journalists lacked credible evidence to support their claims of bribery against the Court, having relied instead on unnamed informants and conjecture.

This finding was consistent with the PUL’s earlier evaluations and the journalists’ own admission of their inaccuracies, which they have publicly acknowledged and apologized for—a practice deemed acceptable in both journalistic ethics and legal proceedings.

Background:

Eric Opa Doue was apprehended by court marshals on August 13, 2025, at the behest of Associate Magistrate Debah Zuku Debah. After a release, he was instructed to appear before the court on August 18, 2025, but attended without legal representation. The Magistrate subsequently mandated his reappearance with legal counsel by August 20, 2025, to avoid the risk of re-arrest.

In the second case of criminal coercion, Methuselah Gaye was detained on August 14, 2025, following a complaint lodged by police officer Ojuku Weeks, who is acting as a private prosecutor. Officer Weeks alleged that the journalists had made “false allegations” implicating him in narcotics-related offenses and bribery.

Both journalists spent a night in custody, later released upon meeting stringent bail conditions: Gaye paid a cash bond of 60,000 Liberian dollars or USD 300, while Doue was released after paying 2,000 Liberian dollars or USD 10, with support from community figures in Rivercess County.

The PUL condemned the arrests as part of what appears to be a coordinated effort to stifle journalistic expression in Rivercess County, raising concerns over the refusal of Public Defender Abraham Nyounway to provide legal representation to the journalists.

Pending before the Cestos City Magisterial Court is a case of criminal coercion against the journalists, overseen by Associate Magistrate Dixon Yeahgar. The PUL will collaborate with journalists Doue and Gaye, along with Attorney Boweh, to seek a just and amicable resolution in the days ahead.

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Zogoes protest in PaynesvilleCMC appoints leaders

At-risk or disadvantaged youths are protesting in Paynesville, government's attention to their plight.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah
Paynesville, Liberia; August 22, 2025 - Hundreds of disadvantaged youth, Police (LNP) Support Unit at commonly referred to here as the King Gray Graveyard. zogoes, protest in Paynesville, During the operation, dozens



outside Monrovia, demanding urgent government intervention to address drug addiction and support their rehabilitation. The protest began in King Gray community, a known drug hotspot, and proceeded to the Samuel K. Doe (SKD) Sports Complex in Paynesville. The protesters, many of whom are victims of substance abuse, poverty, and social neglect, chanted slogans such as "No more drugs", carrying placards with desperate appeals for help. Some placards read, "We're dying from drugs. I am a victim, too. Government, please intervene. Rehabilitation is a must." Their demonstration came amid growing frustration over the government's unfulfilled promises to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society. One protester lamented: "We are tired of drugs. We voted for these people, and they promised to rehabilitate us and reunite us with our families. But the only results we get

of zogoes and suspected drug dealers were arrested. Shockingly, police and some unidentified individuals were seen forcibly cutting the hair of both male and female detainees. The motive behind this act remains unclear, but has drawn public outrage. In response to the protest, a representative from the Ministry of Youth and Sports addressed the demonstrators, acknowledging the severity of the drug crisis across the country, revealing that over 100,000 young people in Liberia are affected by drug addiction. "This is the time to come to your side. The issue of drugs is affecting every fabric of the nation," the official said. "At the Ministry of Youth and Sports, we inherited a work plan that recognizes this crisis. We are committed to implementing it and reaching out to victims, who are willing to be rehabilitated", he assured. The protest also occurs in the

broader context of escalating national efforts to combat drug abuse. Recently, residents of Saye Town and 12th Street in Sinkor, Monrovia took matters into their own hands by destroying local ghettos and chasing away alleged drug users with sticks and other objects. The Liberian government, while acknowledging the spirit behind these actions, has urged community members to coordinate lawfully with the Joint Security of Liberia to avoid human rights abuses. This growing public momentum against drug abuse follows the "Say No to Drugs" campaign march on August 7, 2025, when hundreds gathered at the Capitol Building and demanded swift government action. The very next day, President Joseph Boakai unveiled a new set of anti-drug policies, urging citizens to report drug-related activities directly to the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA). The protest by zogoes in Paynesville signals a powerful shift that Liberia's most vulnerable youth are now taking a public stand, not only against drugs but for their own rehabilitation and dignity. Their plea is clear: Liberia's fight against drugs must include, not ignore, victims. Structured rehabilitation, humane policing, and long-term social support will be essential if the nation is to break the cycle of addiction, poverty, and marginalization. Editing by Jonathan Browne

By: S. Matthew M. Quoi, Jr. Nimba County

Sanniquellie, Liberia; August 22, 2025 - The Citizens Movement for Change (CMC), a newly established political party in Nimba County, has appointed a fresh batch of leaders to steer its affairs, up to the 2029 Presidential and general elections. At an induction ceremony held in Sanniquellie, the official capital of Nimba County, three prominent sons and a daughter of the county were officially appointed by the political leader and founder, Representative Musa Hassan Bility. The ceremony focused on the installation of regional coordinators for Nimba, Bong, and Lofa Counties, three strategic counties in Liberia's political landscape. Those appointed included Madam Yah Tokpah, Regional Coordinator for Nimba, Bong, and Lofa Counties. She becomes one of the most

support in Liberia's northern counties, especially Nimba, Bong, and Lofa, where it has gained grassroots acceptance. Representative Musa Hassan Bility, who also serves as political leader of CMC, underscored that the newly appointed officials are expected to serve as a bridge between the party and the public. According to him, the core objective of the party is to strengthen its internal structures, while promoting effective engagement with citizens across the country. He stressed that the CMC aims not only to become a competitive political force but also to champion development initiatives that directly benefit ordinary Liberians. "We are not just here to win elections," Bility declared. "We are here to bring empowerment opportunities, improve infrastructure such as roads, and deliver real,



influential female figures in the party's rising leadership structure. Former District #8 lawmaker, Larry Youngquoi, was also appointed to serve as Vice Chair for Planning, Data, and Statistics, bringing with him years of legislative and policy experience. Additionally, Mr. Harrison Luo, was named National Coordinator for the National Advisory Council Statistics, further strengthening the party's technical and organizational base. The Citizens Movement for Change was officially registered in 2025 during the senatorial by-election in Nimba County. Since then, it has sought to position itself as a reformist, people-centered party dedicated to development, good governance, and inclusive participation. Since its establishment, the party has enjoyed growing

lasting change to the people of Liberia." The induction ceremony was described as colorful and inspiring, with a massive turnout of supporters dressed in the party's signature yellow, a color that symbolizes hope and a new dawn for Liberian politics. The occasion also drew the attention of other political figures. Among them was Jonah Nulee Togbah, a former candidate for Bong County District #4, who previously aligned with the People's Unification Party (PUP). Also present was Representative Josiah Marvin Cole, a prominent lawmaker, who remains affiliated with the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), further highlighting the event's political significance. In their acceptance speeches, the newly appointed officials

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ArcelorMittal Conducts Road Safety Training for Motorcyclists in Yekepa

The Department of Health & Safety of ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML), in collaboration with the Liberia National Police, has concluded a one-day road safety training for commercial motorcyclists operating in the Yekepa region.

Held on August 12, 2025, the session brought together about 150 riders, each of whom received a certificate, a reflective safety jacket, and a helmet upon completion. The training was facilitated by AML Safety Manager Ahmad Massaquoi, AML Transport Coordinator Koffa Slewion, and police officers from the Yekepa detachment. Discussions focused on the vital role of helmets in

commercial motorcycling as a livelihood—often abandoning formal education to support their families—AML's Health & Safety Department saw the need to provide both training and protective gear to help prevent serious injuries, especially



the ages of 18 and 35—accounted for the largest share of the 138 recorded road accidents in the country. In his remarks, Mr. Massaquoi stressed that careful, cautious riding is essential to preserving life. Recognizing that many young people in Liberia have turned to

to the head. He called on all stakeholders to take responsibility in promoting safer riding practices.

Mr. Slewion delivered an engaging presentation on helmet safety, noting that the head "contains

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