



'CONTROVERSIAL PICK'

-DEBATE ERUPTS OVER BOAKAI'S NEC CHAIR CHOICE

PAGE: 8



PAGE: 8

NGAFUAN TINTS GOOD ECONOMIC PICTURE

-At AfDB 2026 Outlook Launch



PAGE: 9

LEAD INVESTIGATOR FUMBLE TO SHOW EVIDENCE

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA		
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATE LIBERIAN DOLLAR PER US DOLLAR		
DATE March 25, 2026	BUYING L\$182.6479/1.00	SELLING L\$184.7822/US\$1.00
These are indicative rates base on the result of daily survey 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		



Media Link
INTERNATIONAL
REPUBLIC HOUSE

Media Link International,
A Public Relations(PR) And Consultancy Agency
Contacts: +231-555 333 777
WEBSITE @
www.medialinkintl.com / Email @ info@medialinkintl.com

YELLOW MACHINES TO BE DEPLOYED SOON

-Mr. Samukai Announces

By Jamesetta D Williams



PAGE: 9

WHO DELIVERS AMBULANCES, MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO MOH

By Stephanie M. Duncan



PAGE: 10

The Ministry of Health Liberia has received two fully equipped ambulances and a consignment of critical medical supplies from the World Health Organization to strengthen emergency response and improve maternal and newborn care services across the country. The handover ceremony, held in Monrovia, brought together government officials and health partners in a renewed push to tackle maternal and neonatal mortality. Liberia's Health Minister, Louise Mapleh Kpoto, described the donation as both timely and vital, noting that it comes at a crucial moment for the

CONFLICT BOILS BETWEEN MARYLAND, RIVER GEE COUNTIES

-Over Illegal Mining Activities

By Emmanuel Tobotinho Quiah

Tensions are steadily rising between communities in Maryland and River Gee Counties as persistent land disputes, largely driven by illegal mining activities, continue to threaten peace and stability in the southeastern region. The conflict, which has become increasingly frequent in recent months, is most pronounced in Maryland County's District Three. Communities including Gedebo, Barrobo, and Tu-ou are actively contesting ownership of strategic parcels of land believed to contain mineral deposits. Another major flashpoint is a creek that informally separates District Three of Maryland County from River Gee's Webbo District, an area now at the center of competing territorial claims. Speaking during his first 2026 constituency break over the weekend in Manolu Township, Maryland County Senator J. Gble-bo Brown described the situation as deeply concerning, warning that tensions can escalate rapidly if not urgently addressed. "The conflict between the people of Barrobo in Maryland County and the people of River Gee is serious," Senator Brown said. "At times, I am in legislative session and receive reports of tension, forcing me to step out and make calls just to calm the situation." According to the senator, illegal mining activities are the primary trigger of the disputes. He explained that many miners, often operating without proper authorization, follow creek lines in search of minerals and unknowingly cross into neighboring communities, sparking confrontation. "Some of the miners are illegal," Brown noted. "When we engaged the Ministry of Mines and Energy, they clarified that several of these



PAGE: 9

PROBE ORDERED INTO NURSING, MIDWIFERY BOARD FINANCES

By Jamesetta D Williams



PAGE: 10

A probe has been ordered into the financial operations of the Liberia Board of Nursing and Midwifery by the leadership of the House of Representatives. House's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will conduct a detailed review of the financial operations of medical structure. The decision followed concerns raised during the Board's appearance before Plenary on Monday, where its Registrar, Madam Cecelia K. Flomo, was invited to

ADVERTISE HERE
 0777-400-050/0555-333-777



Media Link International,
 A Public Relations(PR) And Consultancy Agency
 Contacts: +231-555 333 777
 WEBSITE @
 www.medialinkintl.com / Email @ info@medialinkintl.com



RESPECTING CONCESSIONS: A TEST OF LIBERIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LAW

By Staff Writer

Liberia's investment climate and legal credibility are once again under scrutiny, as unfolding developments around major concession agreements raise fundamental questions about the country's commitment to the rule of law.

When the presidential bid was launched years ago, it emphasized a widely embraced commitment to upholding the rule of law—an expectation that remains strong among many at home and abroad. It was on this basis, perhaps, that the five-year ARREST (Agriculture, Roads, Rule of Law, Sanitation, and Tourism) Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID)—covering the period 2025–2029—was introduced as a national development plan.

The second 'R' stands for Rule of law. And if this is one that should be upheld, then the government needs to look into that direction.

Over the years, from the past regimes, Liberia has been seen to some level as a country that does not respect the sanity of concession agreements. The United States Department Report on Liberia painted a gloomy picture of doing business in Liberia. The report highlighted that "While the 2010 Investment Act protects profits, investors face weak judicial processes and challenges in enforcing contracts".

For instance, Liberia Traffic Management (LTMI) / MDMC dispute: A \$50 million concession agreement signed in 2018 for traffic management was ignored when the administration subsequently signed a conflicting deal with a different company (MDMC) in 2020, leading to legal and concessional breaches. The Justice Minister in his Legal Opinion on the LTMI Concession stated that "Without speaking to the veracity of this claim, I am of the certain legal opinion that such defect, if existed, was cured by the ratification. The ratification made the Concession a law, and it its origin did not comply with the preexisting law like the PPCA, the effect of the Sct to ratify the Concession made that defect nominal.. if the decision was totally wrong or slightly wrong... the ratification has cured it."

The Minister further stated that "The potential flaws during the formative stage of the Concession are now 'water under the bridge' and as such, the Concession must be respected.. the contention of the improprieties surrounding the initiation of the Concession will not operate against the effectiveness of the Concession at this point." Following the Minister's Legal Opinion and with Legislature's involvement, The LTMI Concession, was respected and today, the agreement is in full swing.

What is at stake?

Another dangerous Concession Agreement debacle

is in the offing and needs to be averted. It centers on TIA/LTA Agreement signed into law by the President and printed into handbills by the Authority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The LTA and TIA entered into a contract in 2018 and in 2022, the Contract was transitioned into a Concession, ratified by the Legislature, signed into Law by the President and printed into Handbills by Ministry of Foreign Affairs; thus making the Concession a lawful legal instrument.

In 2024, the Ministry of Justice, following a request from the LTA to investigate the TIA Concession, issued a Legal Opinion on the Concession, after it's investigative findings. In it's Legal Opinion, The Justice Ministry "confirms the validity of the former 2018 Contract and the July 14, Amended and Restated Agreement replacement". The Opinion also stated that "In the absence of a specific Judicial determination to the contrary, the 2022 Concession is Agreement is presumed to be legal, valid, and enforceable".

In November 2025, an Executive Order was issued suspending the operations of TIA and a request was submitted to the Legislature for the de-ratification of the TIA Concession. The two Houses of the Legislature subsequently conducted public hearings with relevant stakeholders. Following these proceedings, the Lower House voted in favor of de-ratification of the TIA Concession, while the Senate voted for the renegotiation of the Concession by the parties to address the Government's concerns. In its report, the Senate cited constitutional provisions, including Article 25 of the Constitution, which prohibits the impairment of contractual rights.

Following the stalemate in the two Houses' position on the President's request, a Joint Conference Committee was constituted. A Joint Conference Committee is constituted by Law where there's a disagreement in decisions/ actions taken or to be taken by the Legislature. The decision from the Joint Conference Committee becomes the final and binding decision of the Legislature.

In the TIA case, a Joint Conference Committee was constituted comprising of seven members from each House. The Committee, met, deliberated and did a report recommending the renegotiation of the TIA Concession, as opposed to the de-ratification. The Committee, in it's report, made several recommendations

to the Executive, including a) the lifting of the suspension placed on TIA's operations, and b) The Government must cease any attempt to initiate or approve a new contract for the same services while the TIA/LTA agreement remains valid. Doing so violates constitutional and statutory protections, undermines Legislative authority, and exposes the Republic to international claims and reputational risks, exposing it to further erosion in its investment climate.

Despite these recommendations, and while the implementation of the Legislature's recommendations are awaiting the Executive's implementation, reports have surfaced suggesting that the LTA, under the leadership of Clarence Massaquoi, have entered into a new agreement with Numtel Liberia JV Numbase LLC to replace TIA.

If confirmed, such a move would raise serious legal and constitutional concerns, including, Violation of an existing ratified concession, Undermining legislative authority, and Exposure to international arbitration and reputational damage.

Lawmakers, including Albert Chie, Amara Konneh, and Darius Dillon, have reportedly expressed strong preference for renegotiation—arguing it is the most balanced and lawful path forward. They stated that the signing of a parallel contract, when the ratified TIA Concession remains valid, binding and enforceable, raises serious concerns about the rule of law and the respect for the sanctity of contracts as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia.

Several other Lawmakers spoken to stated that if the Government can engage the LTMI that has similar Concession Agreement as TIA for renegotiation, it's only fair and for the respect of the rule of law and sanctity of contracts, for the Government to engage with TIA for the renegotiation of terms and clauses in the TIA Concession that the Government has issues with. They stated that just as LTMI has a legal and binding Concession that is being respected by the Executive, TIA also has a legal and binding Concession that the Government should respect with work with.

Observers point out that Liberia has historically favored renegotiation over cancellation in handling concession disputes. Major agreements involving companies such as, Arcelor Mittal, Firestone, and most recently under the current Administration CTN, MedTech, and Liberia Traffic Management, Inc. (LTMI) Agreements have all been successfully renegotiated rather than terminated. This precedent raises a critical question: Why should the TIA concession be treated differently?

The Way Forward

As the Executive considers the Legislature's recommendations, stakeholders are urging restraint, consistency, and respect for constitutional protections. In a country striving to attract investment and strengthen governance, the sanctity of contracts is not just a legal obligation, it is a cornerstone of national credibility. The coming weeks may prove decisive in determining whether Liberia upholds that standard—or risks repeating the very patterns it seeks to overcome.

The **New Republic**

Al-ghlor Toweh
PUBLISHER

alphonsotoweh@gmail.com
Alghlor@thenewrepublicliberia.com
0886-400-050/0777-400-050/0555-333-777

Ellis Togba
Editor-In-Chief
etogba85@gmail.com
togbaellis@yahoo.com
0770-126-589/0886-568-024

Prince Raymond Akofe
Graphic Designer
raymondlatunji33@gmail.com
WhatsApp
+231-881-905-406/ 0775-537-783

info@newrepublicliberia.com

NEW REPUBLIC NEWSPAPER IS PUBLISHED BY MEDIA LINK INTERNATIONAL INC

Editorial

BE AS ROBUST AS THE DISPUTE DEPICTS

THE LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT CARRIES, like any other government, the responsibility of protecting and safeguarding the territorial integrity of the country, ensuring that no inch of an already small-sized nation is grossly taken away by force, fully aware that anything contrary will not only spell complete doom for it, but also for the wellbeing of all Liberians, most especially residents of communities in the frontline of the nightmare. Granted the border tension is not the making of Liberia - a country still reeling from years of bitter conflict - but it, too, can't slumber while its neighbors are preying on its territory.

GIVEN OUR HISTORICAL ROLE it played in the comity of nations as a country that helped other nations gain independence, and considering where it has come and how far it has come in terms of democracy, peace and governance, conflict with our neighbors is the slatiest thing to pursue. This is why we agreed with President Joseph Boakai when he said pursuing diplomatic solution to the dispute does not amount to weakness. Truly, Liberia is not a weak nation that can give in the towel in face of aggression such as the one brought to its doorsteps by Guinea, a country that helped quench the flames of war several years ago. Those who experienced the war will recall the role of Guinean soldiers, vividly recalling names of remarkable Guinean army commanders. They were remarkable in their duties. Perhaps, they have forgotten this solemn task and the lives lost in the process.

IT IS JUST TRUE that when a friend visits your home and knows how things look, maybe the structure, the outlook and economy are far less than his, he develops a disrespectful attitude that beats imagination. The unfolding development at the border could just be the fact that Guinea was in Liberia and still has some insight about Liberia's military strength, and is therefore attempting to take advantage, knowing that we incapacitated to respond with equal measures in case of escalation. Nevertheless, a country must never easily give into any act of aggression. The Ukraine-Russia conflict is a typical example to take cue from. And Liberia, despite all the circumstances, needs not to just give in to this madness.

THIS IS WHY WE bemoan the approach being adopted, mainly the approach where government is trying to shift blame, accusing citizens of spreading falsehood and misinformation in an effort to cause panic. This could be interpreted as pampering Guinea. Of course, diplomacy might be the suitable way out, but it should not extend to keeping realities from citizens who deserve better and who stand to feel the pinch of any eventuality. Yes, the President visited Guinea along with his Sierra Leone counterpart, but it is equally important that he adopts other measures, maybe involving the United Nations, African Union and ECOWAS.

WHILE THE GOVERNMENT MAY be trying to put a foothold on the issue, ensuring that others do not cause false panic, the situation only sheds light on the "when snake misses you, lizard creates heartbreak for you upon seeing it" parable. The vestiges of the senseless civil conflict are still visible and lingering everywhere. These are plausible factors that got Liberians on their toes in light of the border tension with Guinea. While others may be wishing for escalation for their own aggrandizements, hundreds of other citizens are apprehensive, not even in preparedness to face war, which carries with it armors of destruction, death and hunger.

Liberians, no doubt, support their government in ensuring that the situation is handled with care and maturity. Yet, they want to be told or given the actual picture of how things are unfolding. This is because silence gives room to rumors and speculations, all of which are detrimental to national cohesion when matters like the border tension arise. The onus is now upon the government to be as robust as never before because the dispute itself weighs on its shoulders, in terms of what happens if things go ugly. Please be as robust as the dispute depicts, and blend diplomacy with some sort of alertness. This is our plea.

LETTER TO THE DEAD

Dear Great Ones In The Great Beyond:



What a wonderful but distressing time to come your way with a life saving information about happenings here on earth - this part of the world some of you spent shorter and longer times depending the time of birth and death. It is fascinating to come your way once more in the wake of unfolding developments, mainly the incursion into your country by forces from our brotherly Republic, Guinea. By the way, how are you guys on your side of the world - although no one knows where you are exactly, whether it is in heaven, hell or somewhere else. It will be a good thing when some of you provide information on your current place of residence. This is not to visit you, but for your family members and others to know too. This is because no one will remain here on earth, and this is why it is important that you help us with such information. Well, it is not force that you tell us; maybe you guys want everyone to be taken by surprise. Sorry, this is not the main issue or reason for this communication. We are sure that by now you are in the know of the tension at the Liberia-Guinea border in Lofa County where Guinea troops crossed into Liberia's side of the border. The people say the river, Makona River is for them, and no one should do anything on it, else, bamboo will divide kola. In fact, they seized the equipment of one company that was mining sand and other minerals in the river. It was not an easy thing when the news broke out. Some people almost packed their belongings to leave because they thought Liberia was to retaliate. But Liberia aablesch! Do you know how concerned and panicking your people back on earth are when it comes to something like war or army people trying to do something funny? In fact, the young people in Foya took the matter into their own hands, challenged and drove the guinea soldiers while AFL men were still preparing, shinning their boots and guns. You know, they don't have anything to use guns for, so all the guns finished getting rusty. Before they could reach there, the guys from Guinea were already out. But do you that the situation divided the whole country: some people say the government too weak, that is why the Guineans trying to ride on them. Anyways, it is not a surprise that Liberians take this issue for politics, because everything is politicized. Instead of everyone coming together, regardless of political affiliations, they put politics into the whole thing, blaming the government, the president for the problem because they were too slow to respond or tell citizens the real story. Well, the president addressed the nation after public pressure, saying Liberia security forces are on alert and remain vigilant.... No one knows what he meant by this statement. Well, we are sharing the information so that you know what's obtaining here. Some of your people, your family members, children and others are now briefing sigh of relief because the tension is calming down. But some people praying for the situation to go out of hand so they can dance on the battle field, just as some of you did during the civil war. We are sure former Presidents Samuel Doe, William R. Tolbert and others who experienced violent dethronements of their administrations are concerned about this issue, and will not be happy that Guinea had crossed the redline. Maybe, it is Liberia is small in size, with small army, no warplanes, no armor carriers, no missiles, no drones and the rest. But wait, Great ones, do they also forget, Liberians are warriors, that Liberians tasted war and know the true meaning of war? Great ones, we just wanted to share this information with you, but there are other scaring and uncomfortable happenings affecting your people. There is confusion everywhere because of gas or petroleum crisis. Gas or fuel prices are increased,

and so the Keke drivers, motorbike riders also increase transport fares all by themselves.... It will surprise you guys that the government has not done anything about this. All they are doing is issuing warnings to go after people will hoard and arbitrarily increase prices because of the problem. Transport Ministry people sleeping, yet to take any measures such as drawing up new transport fares to march the gas crisis, so that business people or commercial drivers do not milk the crisis by increasing fares. Of course, it is already happening. Anyway, maybe it is because of the way the government or the president treated the Transport Ministry by taking two key functions away from them. They say the Ministry should not driver license, vehicle registration business anymore. Everything is turned over to a controversial company owned by foreigners or Lebanese. All the noise, all the cries by employees of the ministry and ordinary citizens did not move the government to stop. The one that made plenty people vex and even afraid is the failure of the supreme court justice in chambers to say something into the complaints filed before the court. The man closed his mouth or reserved commits on the matter at the time the whole nation was tuned to him. Chey, this is how Liberia looks and does things. If you have four hundred Liberian dollars in your pocket, and you have to go to work, think twice. Otherwise, you will sleep in your office because the amount cannot carry and bring you from work, especially your office is far off. Great ones, it is good to ask. Please tell us if pregnant girls were allowed in school in the day during your time. If it did not happen during your time, it is happening now in Liberian schools where pregnant girls are allowed to be school. This is the situation in one school in Brewerville, where one public school or government school allows pregnant girls to be in school amongst other girl students. It is not easy, Great ones, everything has changed in your country. Every bad thing is welcomed and good thing opposed. Imagine, this is happening right here in Monrovia. Then, what do you expect in the interior of the country. It might just be worst and uncontrollable. Ministry of Education is here announcing different policies it cannot implement twenty-four seven, while schools in Monrovia rot in bad practices.... The other day, Commerce ministry put new bus outside for employees, and the whole country went wild as if the bus is going to serve everyone. In fact, they no rider on it, meaning it is reserved for employees of the ministry. Instead of ding something with transport fare crisis, they are concerned with their own accord - what they can do to keep going, while the rest of the citizens get swallowed up in the whole fuel crisis. Well, Great ones, we just thought to share minute of happenings with you so that you have a fair understanding of the situation... In short, it is not easy. The going keeps getting tough because "your men" are keeping their small money in the banks, in their pockets, don't want to share with any one because they don't know what tomorrow holds for them. Thanks for your kind attention. It was good coming your way. We will talk you soon on new developments. Be bless and keep tuned!



NHA MULLS AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGENDA

By Jamesetta D. Williams

The National Housing Authority (NHA) is strongly mulling the possibility of an affordable housing units with the aim of addressing the country's housing challenges.

NHA Managing Director, Florence Geebae said about 200,000 new dwelling units are required to reduce overcrowding.

Among them, she said, are 163,035 units to keep pace with population growth, and 4,891 units annually to replace old or damaged homes, she said, adding "With 70% of the population living in slums, the country needs a total of 512,000 urban dwellings by 2030."

The Managing Director noted that the NHA is working to modernize and amend its outdated 1960 Act to strengthen its mandate to plan, develop, and regulate housing projects.

She said "A draft act has been formulated and is under review by the Law Reform Commission, following consultative meetings with government institutions including the Civil Service Agency."

Highlighting achievements since her appointment in 2024, she named the launch of the NHA's official website, and the provision of internet services for staff.

According to her, efforts have been made to reclaim properties across the country, including sites in Omega, Zwedru, Tower Hill, and Dough Estate, while ongoing projects in Nimba, Lofa, and Grand Kru counties are being assessed to maximize government investments.

Madam Geebae added that the NHA has focused on attracting investors and potential homeowners, referred to as "off-takers," enrolling over 1,500 tenants into its database.

She also announced that a national conference is planned for May 2026 to bring stakeholders together and further promote housing development opportunities.

Regarding the construction of 600 sectional housing units across six counties, Geebae explained that the project is being implemented in phases, with land identification, topographic surveys, geotechnical studies, site planning, and bill of quantities already completed.

"Partners such as Larry's Construction and other developers are ready to begin construction once funding is secured," she said.

She emphasized the economic impact of the project, saying the 600 units will provide decent, affordable homes for 2,640 Liberians and create approximately 3,000 indirect jobs, including skilled and unskilled labor, suppliers, and food vendors at construction sites.

Hon. Geebae outlined key measures under the new Housing Act, including the establishment of a Rent Monitoring and Regulatory Bureau to ensure fairness in the rental market and protect tenants, as well as the creation of a National Housing Trust Fund to provide affordable housing finance.

"The fund will be managed transparently by the NHA in partnership with NASCAP and the Ministry of Finance, with contributions from the national budget, payroll deductions, grants, donations, loans, and investment income," she noted.

In conclusion, Geebae said despite challenges, the NHA remains committed to affordable, sustainable, and equitable housing for all Liberians, particularly low- and middle-income households.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 1, 2026

EVENTS & HISTORY

705 Greek Pope John VII is elected as Pope John VI's successor

792 Maya city of Piedras Negras celebrates military triumph over nearby settlement of Pomona (as depicted in Stela 12 Piedras Negras) [1]

1064 The body of the first bishop of Tournai, Saint Eleutherius of Tournai, is translated (moved)

1318 Berwick-upon-Tweed is captured by the Scots from the English

1340 Danish squire and national hero Niels Ebbesen kills German prince Gerhard III of Holstein in his bedroom, ending the 1332 to 1340 interregnum in Denmark

1504 English guilds/corporations go under state control

1572 Watergeuzen capture Brielle from the Spaniards, during the Eighty Years' War, gaining the first foothold on land for what would become the Dutch Republic.

1663 Gemert in the Netherlands fines unwed mothers a penalty of 50 guilders

1693 Cotton Mather's four-day-old son dies, and witchcraft is blamed

1776 Friedrich von Klinger's "Sturm und Drang" premieres in Leipzig

1778 New Orleans businessman Oliver Pollock creates the "\$" symbol

1792 Groningen feminist Etta Palm d'Aelders demands women's right to divorce

1803 France mandates that only names from historical or saint calendars can be used or added to civil records

1816 Jane Austen declines writing advice from royal librarian Rev. James Stanier Clarke, suggesting that she write a historical romance of the house of Cobourg [1]

1822 Italian composer Luigi Cherubini becomes director of the Conservatoire de Paris music college, holds position for nearly 20 years

1850 San Francisco County government established

1853 Cincinnati becomes 1st US city to employ fulltime professional firefighters

1863 US Congress passes the first war-time conscription law, calling for the registration of all 20 to 45-year-old males

1865 Battle at Fort Blakeley, Alabama, between Major General Edward Canby's Union forces and Brigadier General St. John R. Liddell

1865 US Civil War: Battle of Five Forks: Union Army captures crucial supply route point and 4,000 Confederate soldiers in Dinwiddie County, Virginia [1]

1866 US Congress rejects presidential veto giving all equal rights in US

1867 Exposition Universelle opens in Paris

1867 First African Americans vote in municipal election in Tuscumbia, Alabama

1867 Singapore, Penang & Malacca become British crown colonies

1868 Samuel Armstrong opens Hampton Institute

1871 New Constitution adopted by the German Empire

1872 The Standard newspaper issues its first edition

1873 British White Star steamship SS Atlantic sinks off Nova Scotia, Canada, killing at least 535 people

1873 Namık Kemal's play "Vatan" premieres in Constantinople

1881 Anti-Jewish riots break out in Jerusalem

1881 Postage stamps become used nationwide in Netherlands

1888 Students from Rotterdam, Netherlands establish a cricket club called Rotterdamsche Cricket & Football Club Sparta which evolves into Sparta Rotterdam

1889 First dishwashing machine, invented by Josephine Cochrane, is marketed in Chicago newspaper



NPA REVIEWS OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

By Jamesetta D. Williams

The Senior Management Team of the National Port Authority (NPA) has continued its regular management meetings, aimed at enhancing operational efficiency and strengthening internal coordination across the institution. The latest session, held on Monday, March 30, 2026, was presided over by James R. Bernard, Deputy Managing Director for Administration. The meeting forms part of the NPA’s structured governance framework designed to ensure consistent oversight and effective decision-making. Over recent months, the Senior Management Team has been reviewing key administrative and operational milestones, with a particular focus on departmental performance. Presentations on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have become a central feature of the meetings, providing a platform for assessing progress and identifying areas for improvement. Management has also placed emphasis on strengthening inter-departmental collaboration, a move seen as critical to advancing ongoing institutional reforms within the port authority. The initiative underscores the NPA’s commitment to disciplined oversight, operational efficiency, and results-driven leadership as it works to improve service delivery across Liberia’s port sector. Officials say the meetings will continue to play a vital role in aligning departmental goals with the broader strategic objectives of the institution.



LNP, MOROCCO HOLD TALKS ON BILATERAL POLICING COOPERATION

The Liberia National Police (LNP) has taken a significant step toward enhancing its international security partnerships, following high-level bilateral talks between Inspector General Gregory Coleman and Moroccan security chief Abdellatif Hammouchi in Rabat, Morocco. The discussions, held during an official visit by the LNP delegation, form part of ongoing efforts to strengthen international cooperation and adopt global best practices in modern policing.

The engagement underscores Liberia’s commitment to leveraging Morocco’s advanced security experience to improve national policing capacity. During the meeting, Inspector General Coleman emphasized the LNP’s interest in deepening collaboration with Morocco’s Directorate General of National Security and Territorial Surveillance (DGSN-DGST), particularly in key operational areas. Talks focused on capacity building in counter-terrorism, combating violent extremism, and addressing organized crime issues increasingly central to global and regional security frameworks. The Liberian delegation also expressed interest in gaining technical expertise in forensic science and the development of modern investigative laboratories. Both sides acknowledged the importance of sustained and structured collaboration and agreed to initiate steps toward a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The proposed agreement is expected to formalize cooperation and expand security ties between the two nations. Officials disclosed that plans are underway for the signing of the MoU in Rabat in May 2026, marking a new phase in Liberia-Morocco security relations. The LNP says the initiative aligns with its broader strategy to strengthen institutional capacity, improve service delivery, and ensure public safety through international partnerships. The Police authority reaffirmed its commitment to building a professional, modern, and responsive force capable of addressing evolving security challenges.



RREA ADVANCES HYBRID POWER PROJECT IN GREENVILLE

By Jamesetta D. Williams

The Rural and Renewable Energy Agency (RREA) has announced a new milestone in its efforts to expand electricity access in southeastern Liberia, with progress ongoing under the Light-up Southeast Liberia initiative. According to the agency, an 820kVA diesel generator along with key electrical cables has been procured and delivered to support the development of a hybrid power system in Greenville City. The project, implemented with funding support from the European Union on behalf of the Government of Liberia, aims to provide reliable and sustainable electricity to homes, businesses, and public institutions in the area. RREA indicated that the hybrid system will combine solar energy, battery storage, and backup diesel generation to ensure a stable and continuous power supply. Construction of the solar facility is currently underway in Murrayville, at the site of the former Vamplah Plywood Factory. Upon completion, the solar plant is expected to generate approximately 877kWp of electricity. The system will also include a battery energy storage component with a capacity of about 1,142kWh, designed to store excess energy produced during the day for use at night or during periods of low sunlight. The diesel generator, according to the agency, will serve as a backup source to maintain electricity supply when solar and battery systems are insufficient, thereby improving reliability while reducing overall dependence on fossil fuels. RREA noted that the hybrid system is an interim solution pending the completion of a 2.0-megawatt mini hydropower plant currently being developed on the Sinoe River, which is expected to become the primary source of electricity for Greenville upon completion. The agency described the project as part of broader efforts by the Government of Liberia, in partnership with the European Union, to increase energy access, improve livelihoods, and stimulate economic development in South-east Liberia. Officials say the initiative reflects ongoing investments in renewable energy and resilient infrastructure aimed at supporting long-term sustainability in the region.

ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development - A/ID

Pillar	Strategic Policy	Program	Intervention	Outcome	Output	KPIs	Link to SDG	Baseline	Targets by 2029
Rule of Law	Justice and Human Rights	Justice Policy Reform and Decentralization	Strengthening access to justice services for PWDs and other vulnerable persons	Increased accessibility of justice services for PWDs and vulnerable groups	Justice services provided for PWDs and vulnerable groups	Number of legal aid services offered (disaggregated by specialized services such as sign language interpreters, Braille materials, or other assistive technologies).		TBD	Strengthen access to justice services for PWDs and other vulnerable persons
						Number of legal aid offices established and operationalized within the first year of the Act's passage		0	Operationalize the Legal Aid Act
						Number of national laws and policies revised or enacted to align with international gender and human rights standards (e.g., family law, labor law, and criminal law)	S.5.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment	TBD	Increase Liberia's compliance to human rights rating by 80%; Include human rights in educational curricula
Rule of Law	Justice and Human Rights	Justice Policy Reform and Decentralization	Conduct of policy reforms for the rule of law institutions	Enhanced credibility, capacity, and independence of key institutions such as the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, and other legal bodies	Drafting and adoption of new policies that address gaps in the rule of law institutions	Number of new policies that address gaps in the rule of law institutions drafted and adopted		TBD	Revise and enact at least 5 key laws or policies related to rule of law institutions

ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development - AAID

Pillar	Strategic Policy	Program	Intervention	Outcome	Output	KPIs	Link to SDG	Baseline	Targets by 2029
Rule of Law	Justice and Human Rights	Enforcement of Human Rights	Support to the protection of the rights of citizens and residents, including vulnerable and marginalized groups	Improved rights and protection for vulnerable and marginalized persons	Rights of vulnerable groups (such as anti-discrimination, anti-violence, and social protection laws) protected	Number of laws addressing the rights and protection of vulnerable and marginalized groups enforced	16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law	TBD	Increase advocacy for the passage of vulnerable and marginalized legislations
Rule of Law	Justice and Human Rights	Enforcement of Human Rights	Promote the inclusion of human rights in the educational curricula	Increased human rights awareness and knowledge	Educational materials, including textbooks, lesson plans, multimedia resources, and interactive tools, to support human rights education developed and distributed	Percentage of schools (primary, secondary, and tertiary) where human rights topics are included as part of the formal curriculum	4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	TBD	Human rights course included in educational curricula
Rule of Law	Justice and Human Rights	Enforcement of Human Rights	Strengthen the national mechanism for reporting and follow-ups on all human rights instruments	Enhanced compliance with international human rights obligations	Annual report detailing the country's progress on implementing international human rights instruments, status of recommendations, and challenges published	Annual human rights report in compliance with international standards published on time	16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles	TBD	100% of human rights reports are submitted on time and meet international reporting standards.



'CONTROVERSIAL PICK'

-Debate Erupts Over Boakai's NEC Chair Choice
By Othello Saerweh Nimely

The pick of Jonathan Weedor to head the National Elections Commission (NEC) is far more considered as 'controversial pick' by both opposition figures and ordinary citizens, spotlighting his political history and connection to the ruling Unity Party (UP). President Joseph Boakai's choice for the top position at the country's electoral body has already sparked widespread public debate and criticism on the basis of his ties to the governing party and tribal link to the President. As President Boakai, Mr. Weedor is a citizen of Lofa Count, which is

believed to be enjoying the lion share of officials of government appointed by the head of state. The President on March 30, 2026, named Jonathan Weedor as Chairman of the National Elections Commission, replacing Davidetta Browne-Lansanah, who recently resigned from the post. However, the nomination has since drawn scrutiny, with critics questioning Weedor's independence and suitability to lead the country's electoral body. Concerns intensified after a video surfaced on social media appear-

ing to show Weedor openly supporting President Boakai during the 2023 elections. The footage has fueled public skepticism about his neutrality, especially as Liberia prepares for the crucial 2029 general elections. also, the appointment raises serious questions about the credibility of the NEC, an institution tasked with ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections. A prominent critic of the ruling Unity Party and a ranking member of the opposition Congress for Democratic Change,

former representatives Acarous Gray warned that the nomination could destabilize the country's democratic process. In a strongly worded statement posted on social media, the opposition figure accused President Boakai of attempting to "plunge Liberia into serious chaos." He called on the Liberian Senate to reject the nomination, cautioning that confirming Weedor could lead to what he described as a "national calamity" ahead of the 2029 elections. "Let's see whether the Liberian Senate will protect Liberia from a 2029 national calamity or allow this nomination to sail through," the statement read. Additional concerns have also been raised over regional ties, as Weedor hails from Lofa County, the same county President Boakai is from, further intensifying debate over perceived bias. Meanwhile, public reaction remains divided. Some Liberians have taken to social media to express fears that the appointment could undermine confidence in the NEC. Speaking in an interview on Carey Street, a staunch CDC stated "Even if President Boakai appoints himself or his family as NEC Chair, he will still be voted out in 2029;". The NEC plays a pivotal role in safeguarding Liberia's democracy, overseeing the organization and conduct of elections nationwide. As the debate continues, attention now turns to the Liberian Senate, which holds the authority to confirm or reject the President's nominee. CENTAL Raises Concerns Also, the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) has expressed mixed views over the nomination of Mr. Weedor as Chairman of the NEC, praising his professional credentials while questioning his independence.

Executive Director of CENTAL, Anderson Miamen, in a statement issued Tuesday acknowledged that Mr. Weedor possesses the "requisite experience and technical capabilities" for the role, describing him as a seasoned expert in electoral management and governance with both local and international exposure. "No one can take that away from him," Miamen noted, emphasizing that Weedor's competence is not in doubt. However, the CENTAL Executive Director raised concerns about what he described as a lack of full independence—an essential requirement for the leadership of the country's electoral body. He pointed to a video circulating on social media that allegedly shows Weedor's close ties to the ruling Unity Party and the current administration, warning that such perceptions could undermine public confidence. "The same cannot be said about his independence," Miamen stated, adding that the perceived political connection "somehow undermines his suitability for the position." Miamen argued that Liberia has several equally qualified individuals who are widely regarded as independent and could serve in the role without raising concerns about political neutrality. Referencing past appointments, he dismissed comparisons to previous decisions under former President George Manneh Weah, where individuals with political affiliations were appointed to the Commission. "How does repeating that mistake make it right?" he questioned. He also challenged the notion that legal provisions requiring resignation from political parties upon appointment are sufficient, suggesting that such issues should

be avoided from the outset by selecting candidates with clear independence. Miamen is now urging President Joseph Nyuma Boakai Sr. to reconsider the nomination in order to prevent future disputes that could affect the credibility of the Commission. "I hope the President will rethink his decision and do the needful, to avoid claims and counterclaims about what may or may not happen in future," he said. The CENTAL boss further called for broader consultations in future appointments to the NEC, recommending engagement with key stakeholders, including development partners and civil society organizations. He concluded by stressing the importance of maintaining both capacity and independence within the electoral body. "We need an Election Commission that is capacitated and independent, on paper and in practice," Miamen said. "We should avoid anything that will undermine such characterization, which will have implications for its work and engagements in the future." If confirmed, Weedor will become the second controversial pick to head the electoral body which holds enough to the sanity of the country's tensioned democracy. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in 2013 nominated a former legislative contestant to head the National Elections Commission, 17 months following the resignation of Mr. James Fromayan. Cllt. Jerome Kokoya, a Unity Party partisan, contested for Bong County District#1 Kokoya, during the 2011 Presidential and General Elections, and was confirmed by the Liberian senate despite public criticism and outcry.



NGAFUAN TINTS GOOD ECONOMIC PICTURE

-At AfDB 2026 Outlook Launch
By Jamesetta D Williams

Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, has painted a positive picture of the country's economic outlook, underscoring growing economic resilience despite recurring global and domestic shocks. Minister Ngafuan, speaking at the launch of the 2026 Macroeconomic Performance and Outlook Report by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Abidjan on March 30, said Liberia continues to demonstrate stability through sustained reforms, improved fiscal management, and

strengthened institutions. The AfDB report highlights Africa as a global growth frontier, projecting the continent to remain among the fastest-growing regions in 2026. It notes that 32 of 54 African countries recorded improved economic performance in 2025, with 22 nations including Liberia posting growth rates above five percent. Participating as a panelist alongside key policymakers such as Retselisitsoe Adelaide Matlanyane, Adama Coulibaly, Mthuli Ncube, and Aminata Touré, Nga-

fuan emphasized Liberia's progress despite its relatively small population. He recalled that following years of conflict, Liberia faced a severe debt crisis, with its debt-to-GDP ratio exceeding 700 percent. However, through sustained reforms and international support, the country secured significant debt relief covering nearly 90 percent of its obligations laying the groundwork for macroeconomic stability. The Minister also reflected on the devastating impact of the Ebola virus disease, which claimed over 5,000 lives in Liberia.

He noted that lessons learned from the crisis strengthened national institutions and enhanced the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to mitigate broader economic and social disruptions. Addressing more recent fiscal challenges, Ngafuan disclosed that Liberia experienced a major setback following the withdrawal of more than \$300 million in external project financing after the exit of its second-largest donor. Despite this, he said the government maintained fiscal stability through improved domestic revenue mobilization. "The sky did not collapse on our heads," Ngafuan remarked, attributing the country's resilience to enhanced tax administration, increased digitization, improved transparency, and efforts to curb revenue leakages. As a result, Liberia recorded its highest-ever domestic revenue collection and achieved a modest budget surplus, reinforcing confidence in ongoing economic reforms. On sectoral performance, the Minister highlighted the mining sector as a key driver of growth, noting that while it contributes significantly to GDP, government revenues from the sector have historically lagged behind earnings by private entities. He disclosed ongoing collaboration with the AfDB aimed at improving transparency and boosting

revenue generation to ensure greater national benefit. Liberia's economic outlook remains positive, with GDP growth recorded at 5.1 percent in 2025 and projected to rise to 5.6 percent in 2026. Inflation has also declined significantly, averaging 8.2 percent in 2025 and dropping to around 4 percent by December, with January 2026 figures slightly above 3 percent. However, Ngafuan cautioned against emerging inflationary pressures driven by rising global fuel and transportation costs, warning that such increases are already affecting vulnerable populations. "While we remain confident, the reality is that rising prices are already affecting the poor," he said. He noted that the government is implementing targeted interventions, including support to the national petroleum sector and expanded social protection programs, to cushion the impact on households. He also called on development partners, including the AfDB, to strengthen crisis response mechanisms to better support countries facing short-term economic shocks. Despite ongoing challenges, Ngafuan reaffirmed Liberia's commitment to sustained reform and economic resilience. "We have become accustomed to managing shocks, learning from them, and emerging stronger," he said. Minister Ngafuan currently serves as Liberia's Governor on the AfDB Board and chairs Constituency 15, which includes Ghana, The Gambia, Sudan, Sierra Leone, and



LEAD INVESTIGATOR FUMBLES TO SHOW EVIDENCE

The rig- ma- role and drama in the landmark trial of former Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel Tweah and other former government officials at Criminal Court ‘C’ of- ficials con- tinue un- abated, day after Judge Usman Fei- ka ruled to admit photocopy cheques into evi- dence, de- spite the defence re- sistance on legal grounds. Cllr Arthur Johnson ob- jected that Prosecution should not be granted ap- plication be- cause under the law they have failed to prove through their sub- poena wit- nesses that the original checks are missing. He contend- ed that once

legal final- ity is not brought to this question the judge cannot mark the photo- copies under the theory of the “best ev- idence “. On Tuesday, major pros- ecution wit- ness and lead investigator Babba fum- bled to show evidence that defendants used money personally. Despite be- ing given all evidence submitted by the Prosecu- tion to pin- point the ev- idence that shows funds were person- ally diverted and used by the defen- dants. Mr. Babba went on to explain his investiga- tion and the existence of CBL docu- ments with- out provid- ing evidence that money was misused. While it is true other witnesses’ testimonies matter in the case, this particular situation is likely to have a huge im- pact, accord- ing to legal- ists, on what is said to be a major rea- son for the indictment. All checks referenced by the CBL were legal checks showing the defendants acted within the due pro- cess of Gov- ernment fi- nances. According to legal minds, the failure to show what lawyers call “personal en- richment” is not encour- aging to the prosecution since that is the burden that has to be met to es- tablish theft and criminal conspiracy. Despite the situation, Prosecu- tion is bull- ish about its evidence against the accused, the reason the indictment was brought against them. The trial con- tinues today.



YELLOW MACHINES TO BE DEPLOYED SOON

-Mr. Samukai Announces

By Jamesetta D Williams

The Executive Chairperson of the Yellow Machines Board of Authority said the deploy- ment of the Yellow Machines across Liberia is just around the corner. Brownie J. Samukai, during a brief- ing at the Ministry of Information (MOI), said the first batch of 1,107 machines that arrived in the coun- try on February 22 and staged in Kingsburg will soon be ready for deployment. He said surveys have been con- ducted across all 15 counties, with 19 hubs identified to handle the dis- tribution, adding “Four of the larger counties will have two hubs each, while the remaining counties will have one.” Mr. Samukai disclosed that the remaining 168 machines, includ- ing front-end loaders, backhoes, bulldozers, and motor graders, are currently in the subregion. “The original schedule projected arrival by April 3, but global shipping com- plexities have caused delays,” he stated. According to him, large vessels are offloading cargo to smaller ships

before the machinery reaches Liberia, while assuring the public that updates will be shared once the machines arrived. He acknowledged the fact that some counties face infrastructure chal- lenges, including bridges that may not support the heavy equipment. He named in Grand Kru where YMBOA is working with the Ministry of Pub- lic Works to ensure the machines can safely reach their designated hubs. “Transport will occur in daylight only, and movement will be carefully managed to avoid accidents,” Samu- kai disclosed, saying that “Yellow Machines are mission-oriented and will be used exclusively for govern- ment-approved tasks, such as opening and repairing roads, connecting towns and villages, and improving access to schools and hospitals.” Also, he said county superintendents, elected officials, and local authorities will oversee the decisions on where machines are deployed, stressing that “No individual may use the machines for personal purposes.” He further said that “deployment also includes a significant employment

component.” At the same time, Yellow Machine Board Director Samukai disclosed that a total of approximately 1,127 Liber- ians will be hired across the 15 counties as operators and mechanics. “Applications, initially due March 30, have been extended to April 10. Pri- ority will be given to local residents, and operators will undergo train- ing, including guidance from Chinese suppliers of the equipment, to build technical capacity,” he said. “Those trained will later train other Liberians in their counties.” Mr. Samukai also indicated that hubs will include basic facilities such as fuel storage tanks of 13,000–15,000 gallons, maintenance bays, and solar- powered lighting. He added “These skeleton facilities are designed to keep machines operational, secure, and properly maintained.” Mr. Samukai stressed that there is no intention for the machines to remain idle or become “white elephants.”

According to him, the Armed Forces of Liberia, particularly the engi- neering units under the Ministry of Defense, are collaborating to build hubs and support logistics. Samukai emphasized that the rollout will be gradual, beginning with Grand Kru and then expanding through the southeast, south-central, and ulti- mately all regions of Liberia. “Machines will only operate under formal approvals, and all local gov- ernance and supervision structures will be respected. By the end of May, county roads identified for devel- opment should have full bills of quantity ready, and operations will proceed as planned,” he noted. This initiative, he said, is designed to benefit the local people, improve county infrastructure, and cre- ate opportunities for Liberians to acquire skills and employment while ensuring the Yellow Machines serve their intended public purpose.

CONFLICT BOILS BETWEEN MARYLAND, RIVER GEE COUNTIES

individuals only hold licenses for prospecting, not mining. Yet, they go beyond that, and this is what is creating confusion and conflict.” The situation is further complicated by the absence of a clearly demarcated and officially recognized boundary along the creek. As miners move along the waterway, they inadvertently encroach on disputed territories, heightening mistrust among residents of both coun- ties. In response, Senator Brown disclosed that he has initiated discussions with River Gee County Senator Boye Charles Saygbe to jointly intervene. The two lawmakers are expected to visit the affected areas together, accom- panied by local government authorities, including superintendents from both counties. “I have spoken with Senator Saygbe,

and we have agreed to go there together,” Brown said. “We will engage elders, community lead- ers, and citizens to find a lasting solution. It is clear that illegal mining is at the center of this problem.” The planned intervention is expected to include broad stake- holder consultations aimed at easing tensions, clarifying land concerns, and curbing unauthor- ized mining activities. Beyond the cross-county dispute, Senator Brown also revealed plans to address internal land conflicts within Maryland County, particularly in Karluway District. He intends to convene meetings with local elders and citizens to resolve longstanding disagree- ments over land ownership.

WHO DELIVERS AMBULANCES, MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO MOH

By Stephanie M. Duncan



country’s healthcare system. “On behalf of the Government and people of Liberia, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for this generous support,” Dr. Kpoto said, emphasizing that the equipment will significantly enhance the country’s emergency medical response and maternal healthcare delivery. The donation follows closely behind the government’s launch of a nation-wide “365-day action plan” aimed at reducing maternal and newborn deaths, signaling a coordinated effort to address longstanding challenges in the health sector. Also speaking at the event, Teyah Sackie Moore, Acting Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Minister for Health Services, said the support reflects growing collaboration between Liberia and its international partners. “This contribution underscores the strength of our partnership and our shared commitment to improving health outcomes for women and children,” Dr. Moore noted. For his part, Olushago Olu, Country Representative of the WHO to Liberia, disclosed that the package is valued at approximately US\$600,000. He explained that, in addition to the ambulances, the donation includes essential life-saving equipment such as infant ventilators, neonatal incubators, and resuscitation tools designed to support critical care for newborns. Health authorities say the new equipment will be deployed to priority areas to improve access to emergency obstetric care and reduce preventable deaths among mothers and infants. The latest intervention highlights ongoing efforts by the Liberian government and its partners to strengthen the health system and ensure safer childbirth outcomes nationwide.



AMB. YORLAY ENGAGES HAROPA PORT

-On Sister Port Partnership with Liberia’s NPA

By Jamesetta D Williams

Liberia’s Ambassador to France, Teeko Tozay Yorlay Sr., has held a strategic meeting with officials of HAROPA PORT aimed at establishing a sister port relationship with the National Port Authority (NPA). The meeting, held on March 31, 2026, at the Embassy of Liberia near Paris, brought together Ambassador Yorlay and Mr. Cédric Virciglio, Director for International Relations, European Affairs and Strategic Foresight at HAROPA PORT. Discussions focused on strengthening institutional cooperation between Liberia and France within the maritime and logistics sectors, with both sides exploring avenues for long-term partnership. Ambassador Yorlay used the occasion to express appreciation to HAROPA PORT for engaging in dialogue, noting that the initiative aligns with the Government of Liberia’s broader efforts to deepen bilateral relations with France through institutional collaboration and exchange. He also highlighted the development priorities of Joseph Nyuma Boakai,

particularly under the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development, which emphasizes international partnerships as a driver of national growth. For his part, Mr. Virciglio welcomed the proposed partnership and provided an overview of HAROPA PORT, describing it as a major European logistics hub formed through the integration of the ports of Le Havre, Rouen, and Paris. He explained that the port system operates as a comprehensive network linking maritime transport, inland waterways, rail systems, and logistics services to support both domestic and international trade. Both parties agreed in principle to pursue a sister port arrangement between HAROPA PORT and the National Port Authority of Liberia, with plans to formalize the cooperation through a Memorandum of Understanding. The proposed agreement is expected to cover areas such as capacity building, professional training, technical exchange, port development, and operational support. As part of the next steps, Mr. Virciglio indicated that a draft Memorandum of Understanding will be submitted within two weeks for review by the Liberian side, particularly the NPA. He also expressed readiness to host a technical delegation from Liberia and share a proposed program for a working visit, while welcoming a preliminary visit by Ambassador Yorlay and his team for further engagement. The meeting ended with both sides reaffirming their commitment to sustained dialogue aimed at formalizing the partnership and advancing cooperation in the maritime sector.



PROBE ORDERED INTO NURSING, MIDWIFERY BOARD FINANCES

By Stephanie M. Duncan

provide clarification on a range of financial and administrative matters. Key among the issues discussed were reports of subsidies allegedly received outside of the National Budget, prompting lawmakers to call for a more thorough examination of the Board’s financial activities. As part of the mandate, the Public Accounts Committee has been instructed to review the institution’s revenue sources, expenditures, and overall compliance with public financial management regulations. The Committee is expected to present its findings and recommendations to Plenary upon completion of its work. In a related development, the House leadership also addressed concerns surrounding Barshell University, particularly in relation to its accreditation status with the Nursing and Midwifery Board. Lawmakers have directed the administration of the university to reapply to the Board for proper assessment and accreditation, in line with established standards and procedures. The Board has, in turn, been instructed to carry out a comprehensive evaluation of the institution and grant licensure only if all regulatory requirements are fully met. Additionally, the House has given the Board a two-week deadline to complete the assessment process and submit a detailed report outlining its findings and actions taken regarding the university’s compliance. The move is seen as part of broader efforts by the House of Representatives to strengthen oversight, promote accountability, and ensure that regulatory bodies within the health sector operate in line with national standards. House leadership reaffirmed its commitment to upholding transparency and maintaining public trust, especially in institutions responsible for professional training and certification in the country.



FOREST CONSERVATION BASELINE STUDIES VALIDATED

By Jamesetta D Williams

Key stakeholders, including government officials, local communities, and conservation partners, have validated two major baseline studies aimed at strengthening forest conservation and sustainable livelihoods in Liberia. The validation exercise, held in Monrovia, forms part of the European Union-funded LEH GO GREEN Project being implemented by the United Nations Development Programme in collaboration with the Forestry Development Authority and other partners. The studies are expected to guide interventions in the Gola and Grebo-Krahn landscapes, widely recognized as two of Liberia’s most biologically diverse regions. These areas are critical to the country’s environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation efforts. According to project stakeholders, the baseline studies will provide essential data to inform evidence-based decision-making and targeted programming. The initiative aims to strike a balance between environmental protection and improving the livelihoods of communities living within and around forest areas. Speaking during the validation process, Salimatu Gilayeneh, Inclusive Green Growth Team Lead at UNDP Liberia, emphasized the importance of reliable data in driving sustainable development outcomes. “Accurate data is the foundation of sustainable development,” she noted, highlighting the role of the studies in shaping impactful and inclusive interventions. Under the LEH GO GREEN Project, communities will benefit from a range of climate-smart initiatives, including sustainable agriculture practices and alternative livelihood opportunities such as snail and cane rat farming. These approaches are designed to reduce pressure on forest resources while enhancing income generation for local populations. The project underscores a broader commitment by partners to promote sustainable forest management, strengthen community resilience, and support Liberia’s climate and environmental goals. Stakeholders expressed optimism that the validated studies will serve as a roadmap for effective implementation, ensuring that conservation efforts are both community-driven and environmentally sustainable. The LEH GO GREEN Project continues to position community engagement and data-driven planning at the center of Liberia’s journey toward a greener and more resilient future.



MIXED REACTIONS MAR REP. TAYLOR’S MARKET PROJECT

By Èmmanuel Tobotinho Quiah

Residents of Gbalaken Town, formerly known as Free Town, in Dorrobo Clan are celebrating a major milestone following the completion of a long-awaited market hall by Maryland County Electoral District 3 Representative, Austin B. Taylor. The newly constructed facility, located in Karluway Statutory District, is expected to significantly ease trade challenges and improve livelihoods, particularly for rural women who have long borne the burden of traveling extended distances to access market space. For years, traders from Gbalaken and nearby communities walked for over an hour to reach Karloken, the district’s main market hub. The absence of a local market not only limited trading opportunities but also exposed residents, especially women to harsh weather conditions and physical strain. The project, which was officially broken ground in November 2025, was fully funded by Rep. Taylor. Construction materials including cement, sand, and other supplies were transported from Pleebo to the site, underscoring the logistical challenges involved in executing development initiatives in remote parts of the county. While the total cost of the project has not yet been disclosed, authorities say it will be made public during the official dedication ceremony, expected to take place upon the lawmaker’s return to the county during the legislative recess. The construction of the market hall stems from a long-standing demand by citizens. The issue was prominently raised during a NAYMOTE Liberia Maryland County Accountability and Advocacy Team (CAAT) engagement held on November 13, 2023, where residents emphasized the urgent need for a local market structure. Community members had repeatedly appealed to Rep. Taylor to address the situation. Traditional Youth President of Gbalaken, Mr. Q. Williamson Nyantee, previously recalled those appeals, expressing appreciation for the project’s completion. Health concerns also played a role in advocating for the facility. Community Health Assistant Alfred Nyantee highlighted the risks associated with long-distance travel, while Women Leader Madam Eliza Dioh stressed the economic losses caused by the lack of a proper market, particularly the spoilage of farm produce. The new market is expected to benefit at least six surrounding towns within Dorrobo Clan. It is also anticipated to attract traders from Pleebo and Harper, who are likely to purchase agricultural goods in bulk for resale in urban centers. Key products expected to dominate trade at the facility include plantain, banana, eddoes, pepper, cocoa, and yam. Over the weekend, Rep. Taylor announced the completion of the project via his official Facebook page, describing it as a transformative development for the district. “This project is more than just a structure; it represents opportunity, growth, and stronger farming activities that will boost the local economy,” he stated. “It will empower our market women and men, improve trade, and bring new life to the district.” Despite widespread appreciation, the project has drawn some criticism. Observers have pointed out that the structure lacks certain modern features such as built-in selling tables, electricity, and other amenities typically associated with contemporary market facilities. Nevertheless, many residents have welcomed the development as a historic breakthrough. For some, the market represents the first of its kind in decades. “Since the 90s, no market hall has been in the whole of Dorrobo Clan, and this is just the first of its kind. We are grateful to our representative,” said Martha Tarsue, a local businesswoman, during a weekend radio interview. The completed structure includes a designated selling area and a toilet facility. Authorities say it will be officially turned over to the community in the coming weeks, marking what many see as a new chapter in local commerce and rural development in Maryland County.