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Becoming President Of Liberia:

IS CUMMINGS'
FUTURE
BRIGHT

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WEAH: CDC ON COURSE

-Ex Pres. Weah Remarks At CDC Hq Construction Site Visit



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DELAYS, CHALLENGES HAMPER
DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

-Officials Acknowledge During WB ED's Visit



NOT DETERRED BY
HEAVY DOWNPOUR



READ FULL
STORY ON
PAGE 09

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA		
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES LIBERIA DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR		
		
DATE April 27, 2026	BUYING L\$182.8946/1.00	SELLING L\$185.0104/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		

By Jamesetta D Williams

Senator Amara M. Konneh, fighting the public gallows that followed his statement comparing the strengths of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) and the Guinean army, which crossed into Liberia early March. His Senate Colleague, Nyan Twayen of Nimba County rebuked him for allegedly disclosing “classified information” to the public. As the debate continues unabated with some Liberians calling for disciplinary action against him, Senator Konneh is putting up resistance, denying allegations that he praised the Guinean military or disclosed classified national security information during recent Senate deliberations during the budget debate. In a detailed response, Konneh clarified that his remarks on March 19, 2026, were intended to commend President Joseph N. Boakai’s diplomatic efforts in managing the Liberia–Guinea border situation and to emphasize the importance of strengthening regional cooperation under the Mano River Union framework. He stated that at no point did he praise or endorse any foreign military force, adding that his references to the size and capacity of the Guinean armed forces during Senate debate were based on publicly

KONNEH FIGHTING THE GALLOWES

–Rejects Allegations, Reaffirms Support for AFL Funding



available information used to highlight the need for increased investment in Liberia’s own defense capabilities. “I have not praised the Guinea Army, nor have I disclosed any classified information,” Konneh stated, insisting that all figures and references he cited were drawn from open sources and public discussions on national security. The senator also dismissed claims that he revealed sensitive details from any closed-door meetings involving President

Joseph N. Boakai and members of the Senate, stressing that he has not been privy to classified military briefings. “The information I referenced on the Senate floor is unclassified and publicly accessible,” he maintained. Konneh further emphasized that the recent border developments with Guinea represent a serious test of Liberia’s sovereignty and regional security architecture, describing it as one of the most significant external security concerns in recent years. He noted that the situation highlights the need for stronger preparedness and coordination, particularly as global security institutions continue to face limitations in addressing regional conflicts. Despite the controversy, Senator Konneh expressed appreciation for colleagues in the Senate, including Senator Twayen Jr., for their commitment to national security and defense matters. He also welcomed the modest increase in funding for the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) in the recently approved supplemental budget. Konneh reiterated his support for continued increases in military funding, stating that future budgets should prioritize modernization of equipment, improved welfare for service members, and strategic expansion of the AFL to address emerging security challenges. He concluded by reaffirming his commitment to working with fellow lawmakers and the executive branch to strengthen Liberia’s defense capacity and safeguard national sovereignty.

COMMERCE MINISTER CHAIRS JCVF STEERING COMMITTEE

–Reaffirms Commitment to Transparency



By Stephanie M. Duncan

Commerce and Industry Minister, Magdalene Ellen Dagoseh, has reaffirmed the government’s commitment to transparency and accountability while presiding over the second Ministerial Steering Committee meeting of the Japanese Counterpart Value Fund (JCVF). Speaking during the session, Minister Dagoseh underscored the importance of proper management of the Japanese-donated rice program, describing it as a vital initiative aligned with Liberia’s development priorities and aimed at improving the livelihoods of citizens. She noted that the JCVF remains instrumental in addressing national needs, particularly in supporting food security efforts and ensuring that assistance programs are implemented efficiently and responsibly. “The effective management of this program is essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring that intended beneficiaries receive the

support they need,” she said. The Minister also commended stakeholders for their continued collaboration and dedication, highlighting that the success of the initiative depends on strong partnerships across government and implementing institutions. Dagoseh called for sustained cooperation among all actors involved, stressing that collective action is key to expanding the program’s impact in communities nationwide. The Japanese Counterpart Value Fund serves as a development financing mechanism that channels proceeds from donated commodities into priority sectors, contributing to Liberia’s broader socio-economic agenda. She concluded by reaffirming the government’s focus on responsible leadership, transparency, and sustainable development, noting that such principles are critical to achieving long-term national progress.

AFL DEFENDS RECRUITMENT PROCESS

By Stephanie M. Duncan

The Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) has responded to growing public criticism over its decision to broadcast parts of its ongoing recruitment process, stating that the move is intended to promote transparency and restore public confidence. Speaking on behalf of the military, Chief of Public Affairs Lieutenant Colonel Stephen T. Tarplah acknowledged that the AFL has received allegations from citizens claiming bias and irregularities in the recruitment exercise. “There have been concerns from the public suggesting that the process is not fair,” Tarplah said. “But going live is not meant to shame anyone—it is meant to demonstrate that the process is open, credible, and transparent.” He explained that the decision to make portions of the recruitment process public is part of broader efforts to counter misinformation and ensure that all applicants are assessed based on merit. Tarplah emphasized that the AFL maintains strict standards for enlistment, noting that recruits are expected to possess basic educational competencies and essential military skills. “Soldiers must be able to understand map reading and navigation, and they must communicate effectively,” he said. “Effective communication is critical in military operations.” He further clarified that literacy remains a key requirement for enlistment, stating that individuals who are unable to read and write will not



qualify for service in the AFL. According to him, these standards are necessary to build a professional and capable force that can effectively carry out its national security responsibilities. The AFL has urged the public to view the live recruitment coverage as a demonstration of accountability rather than an attempt to embarrass applicants. Officials say the initiative reflects the military’s commitment to fairness, professionalism, and equal opportunity. As the recruitment process continues, the AFL says it remains open to public scrutiny while encouraging qualified Liberians to apply and serve their country.

The *Light for all*
New Republic

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Editorial

WHOSE FAULT: CONCESSIONAIRES OR GOVERNMENT?

THE RECENT VISIT BY Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung to the operation site of Bea Mountain Mining Company (BMMC) in Grand Cape Mount County sparked acrimony among Liberians and also heightened long-held suspicions about concessionaires having too much unprecedented and unregulated leverages in the agreements that brought them to the fore as opposed to the general interest of the country, let alone the affected communities of their operations. The debate, criticism, emotional arousal, suspicion and mindset, of course, might not go away so easily. It could even take more deleterious dimensions if the satisfying, wished-for or appeasing responses do not come forth from concerned officials.

EQUALLY SO, FROM THE unfolding developments, the reactions of Liberians to this rather raw discovery of how the country’s gold is being shipped in an unimaginable manner and the huge accompanying financial benefits for the company, no amount of cemented placating comments can suffice. No one takes it lightly upon hearing about the irreparable harm done to his interest - be it children, business or close associates. The reason is shrouded in one reality. If what is extracted and benefits accrued are paired against the real conditions of the communities, anger is bound to rise to a near-kill level.

HOWEVER, AMID THESE CONCERNS is one protruding consideration which borders on the roles of those who negotiated these concessions and how they were approved and factored into the legal processes of the country. Mind us, it takes months, if not years, to negotiate some of these concessions, and, in most cases, the best minds are put at the front-burner of the negotiating table. Not only that, following these initial negotiations, the concessions are brought for scrutiny and ratification before the National Legislature - the Senate and House of Representatives. They are perused, reviewed and eventually approved before they are taken for presidential signature.

IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE that the BMMC Concession duly signed during the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf did not come into operation outside of all the national perimeters - the standards and criteria concessions are required to go through. While it hurts that the country’s gold endowments are being depleted as it result of huge gold being scooped and shipped out of the country - with little to show in the communities - the government takes the deuce in all of this. This is because, it is impossible for officials who have access to the Agreement to whisk off knowledge of some of the critical provisions. More so, there are always government representatives assigned to these concessions, with the mandate to ensure that the rules are not bent and flouted. In the case of BMMC, is that not the case? If so, why not?

IT IS IMPORTANT TO state that instead of scolding the company for what many see as concession nefariousness, the government should take the blame for neglecting its responsibilities of ensuring that concessionaires comply with the rules, the laws and the terms of the concessions. However, if it is proven that BMMC oversteps the rules, is left with the government to correct same. The issue should not be about kilograms of gold and the amount of money accrued by the company, it should be about reshaping focus. Of course, all may not be rosy in terms of the concessionaires’ contributions compared to what is being taken out, some of them are doing extremely well. What is required to upgrade what concessionaires need to do to reciprocate what is extracted. Be as it may, government bears greatest responsibility of the blame, not necessarily the concessionaires.

LETTER TO THE DEAD

Dear Great Ones In The Great Beyond:

Hello to you all from where your lives were cut short from sicknesses less expected of taking you away - curable sicknesses as simple as they are our hospitals can’t handle. This is the problem of the country from time to time, even when incoming ruling parties promise to be different from the ones deposed. It will surprise you all, hearing that plenty of your countrymen and women are dying, going to the great beyond for plenty reasons, including lack of trained medical doctors to treat their conditions, no medication for their health conditions, no money to underwrite their medical bills or to seek medical attention, lack of beds to admit even at the point of death, lack of attention by medical staff, as well as negligence. The whole hospital business in the country is looking pay as you call, because once you don’t have money, admission is not permissible. Great ones, plenty money is put in the budget for the Ministry of health but medical facilities at empty, no essential drugs and equipment to address simple medical problems. Small salary for trained doctors is also adding to the agonizing problem. Well, how are you guys doing behind the invisible curtains? We learn that you guys have the means to see us on the other side here, but we don’t. Of course, we would love to see you - as relatives, as friends - when you are gone from here, but it is hard. Anyway, we are hopeful it will get better, and that the gap will be bridged one day. We are also certain that as we are bridging the divide, all other things will fall in place, will be bridged.

By the way, what is the news from your end? We are sure our former President, William R. Tolbert, who joined you guys on April 12, 1980 is doing fine. Where is the other man who killed him? Is he there? He thought he would not go there, but he forgot to know that town trap is not for rat alone.

Well, please you guys should let him know that those on this side of the divide are indeed missing him because during his time as president, he tried to fix the country. Some of you are aware that for the short time he was president, a lot was changed. Come and take a stroll in Brewerville and see the gigantic Hotel Africa Complex he built in 1979 for the OAU Conference. It is destroyed and that is the end of story. As we write you guys, the sea has taken good parts of the huge structure which was seen as symbol of the country’s infrastructural renaissance or regeneration. But it is not only that, great ones! Also come and see the famous Unity Conference Center, another landmark structure that defined Liberia’s development progress. It is in ruins, and no one cares about rehabilitating it. In fact, it will surprise to learn that staff of the Ministry of State are assigned there, as part of their official functions as civil servants. They just go, sit around and at times make small cash from people who go there for wedding photos taking.

Not only that also, great ones! There are other important structures erected during his time in office but are no longer in good shape. This is how your people, governments elected to fix and maintain national assets treat them. But do you know that they put money in the budget to pay the people living within the vicinity of Hotel Africa, who they call squatters? According to them, they would use the money to pay for them so they can vacate the premises, but it is another story in reality. But do you think the money is in the budget or already expanded for quasi or ghost projects...

Great ones, it is not easy here. Your whole country is shaking once more for plenty reasons, including lawmakers expelling their colleague for “cussing” and “saying” the land problem Guinea and Liberia is not for Liberia. The expelled says your papay hand inside the whole expelling business. He said the papay will be expelled in 2029, too. So, let’s wait and see.

Well, it is not the main thing we want to say here. The main thing is that the lawmakers do not respect the constitution. For any time, they are doing something and the Supreme Court tells them to hold on, they do not listen. In fact, they always insist they are a separate branch of government, they have their own rules. Yet, they often rely on the same provisions of the very constitution to carry on some actions. The Supreme Court asked them to come for a conference after their colleague’s lawyers complained about the way they conducted the process to expel him. Yet, they went ahead with expelling him.

But do you also know that the President said something the other day that got some people vex and complaining.

The papay said “when you going somewhere and dog is barking at you, do waste your time to control and get at the dog. Doing so will delay you.” The whole statement claimed Liberian people attention, because they believed is an insult by the president. In short, they say he has referred to them as dogs because they are complaining of hardships and bad things in the country. The oldma not say swehn seh. He traveled to America for some kind of award. But some people said, something else, under it.

We want to stop here.

Thank you for your time

Talk to you next time.....

GOV'T TO REVIEWS PROGRESS ON CORRUPTION CASES

By Jamesetta D Williams

The Government of Liberia says it will soon engage the Asset Recovery and Property Retrieval Task Force to assess progress on ongoing corruption-related investigations and prosecutions. Deputy Government Spokesperson Daniel O. Sando made the announcement during the Ministry of Information's regular press briefing in Monrovia, noting that the review is part of efforts to strengthen accountability and improve transparency in public service. Sando disclosed that several corruption-related cases are currently being handled by the courts, with multiple indictments already issued in connection with ongoing investigations. He emphasized that the administration remains firmly committed to the fight against corruption, describing it as a key priority of government reform efforts aimed at restoring public trust and strengthening institutions. According to him, the government will continue to follow judicial proceedings



closely and ensure that the public is regularly informed about progress in high-profile cases. Sando added that periodic updates will be provided as part of efforts to keep citizens informed and reinforce accountability in the justice process.

ASSESSMENT REPORT CAPTURES VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- In Liberia's Electoral and Political Processes



By Jamesetta D Williams

A new assessment report on violence against women in elections and politics has revealed persistent barriers to women's full participation in Liberia's democratic processes, prompting renewed calls for stronger protections and greater inclusion. The survey, jointly conducted by the National Elections Commission of Liberia, UN Women, and the United Nations Development Programme through the Liberia Electoral Support Project, was presented Tuesday during an online event held at One UN House in Monrovia. Presenting the findings, Dr. Theresa de Langis and Ora Barclay outlined the challenges Liberian women continue to face in electoral and political spaces, including harassment, intimidation, and other forms of violence that undermine their participation and leadership. In a statement of solidarity, NEC Oversight Commissioner for Gender, Josephine Kou Gaye, expressed concern over the persistently low level of women's participation in politics, despite years of advocacy, public awareness campaigns, and policy interventions. She stressed that while progress has been made, much more remains to be done to create a political environment where women can participate freely, safely,

and meaningfully. Also speaking at the event, Katherine Green, Chief Technical Advisor of the UNDP Liberia Electoral Support Project, noted that although Liberia is a signatory to several international conventions and protocols aimed at protecting women's rights, the country currently ranks 161 out of 192 globally in ensuring equal rights for women's political representation. She warned that until violence against women in politics is effectively addressed, Liberia will continue to struggle to achieve full and equitable participation of women in its electoral and governance processes. The presentation brought together nearly 50 participants, the majority of them women, representing a broad range of institutions and organizations. These included NEC's Gender and Political Affairs Sections, the governments of Sweden and Ireland, the Women Legislative Caucus of Liberia, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia, LEON, and COPPWIL. The report is expected to inform future policies, advocacy efforts, and interventions aimed at addressing violence against women in politics and promoting more inclusive elections in Liberia. As Liberia continues to strengthen its democratic institutions, stakeholders say ensuring the safety, representation, and empowerment of women in politics remains essential to building a more inclusive and equitable society.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 30

EVENTS & HISTORY

- 0030 - Jesus of Nazareth was crucified.
- 0313 - Licinius unified the whole of the eastern empire under his own rule.
- 1250 - King Louis IX of France was ransomed for one million dollars.
- 1527 - Henry VIII and King Francis of France signed the treaty of Westminster.
- 1725 - Spain withdrew from Quadruple Alliance.
- 1789 - George Washington took office as first elected U.S. president.
- 1803 - The U.S. purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for \$15 million.
- 1812 - Louisiana admitted as the 18th U.S. state.
- 1849 - The republican patriot and guerrilla leader Giuseppe Garibaldi repulsed a French attack on Rome.
- 1864 - Work began on the Dams along the Red River. The work would allow Union General Nathaniel Banks' troops to sail over the rapids above Alexandria, Louisiana.
- 1889 - George Washington's inauguration became the first U.S. national holiday.
- 1900 - Hawaii was organized as an official U.S. territory.
- 1900 - Casey Jones was killed while trying to save the runaway train "Cannonball Express."
- 1930 - The Soviet Union proposed a military alliance with France and Great Britain.
- 1938 - Happy Rabbit appeared in the cartoon "Porky's Hare Hunt." This rabbit would later evolve into Bugs Bunny.
- 1939 - The first railroad car equipped with fluorescent lights was put into service. The train car was known as the "General Pershing Zephyr."
- 1939 - Lou Gehrig played his last game with the New York Yankees.
- 1940 - Belle Martell was licensed in California by state boxing officials. She was the first American woman, prizefight referee.
- 1943 - The British submarine HMS Seraph dropped 'the man who never was,' a dead man the British planted with false invasion plans, into the Mediterranean off the coast of Spain.
- 1945 - Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun committed suicide. They had been married for one day. One week later Germany surrendered unconditionally.
- 1945 - Arthur Godfrey began his CBS radio morning show "Arthur Godfrey Time." It ran until this day in 1972.
- 1947 - The name of Boulder Dam, in Nevada, was changed back to Hoover Dam.
- 1948 - The Organization of American States (OAS) held its first meeting in Bogota, Colombia. The institution's goal was to facilitate better relations between the member nations and to help prevent the spread of communism in the Western Hemisphere.
- 1952 - Mr. Potato Head became the first toy to be advertised on network television.
- 1953 - The British West Indian colonies agreed on the formation of the British Caribbean Federation that would eventually become a self-governing unit in the British Commonwealth.
- 1964 - The FCC ruled that all TV receivers should be equipped to receive both VHF and UHF channels.
- 1968 - U.S. Marines attacked a division of North Vietnamese in the village of Dai Do.
- 1970 - U.S. troops invaded Cambodia to disrupt North Vietnamese Army base areas. The announcement by U.S. President Nixon led to widespread protests.
- 1972 - The North Vietnamese launched an invasion of the South.

\$200M RICE IMPORTS DRIVE LAUNCHED



By Stephanie M. Duncan

The Government of Liberia, in partnership with stakeholders from California, has launched an ambitious initiative aimed at eliminating the country’s estimated \$200 million annual rice import bill while transforming its agricultural sector. The announcement followed a high-level strategy meeting held on April 24, 2026, in Sacramento, where Liberian officials engaged agricultural experts, investors, and

academics from the U.S. state. The joint effort seeks to position Liberia for food self-sufficiency and long-term economic growth. In a communiqué issued at the end of the deliberations, both parties described the initiative as a “turning point” for Liberia’s agriculture. The partnership aims to combine Liberia’s fertile land and workforce with California’s expertise in agricultural innovation and investment to boost productivity and create jobs. Currently, Liberia imports about

61 percent of its rice needs. Under the new plan, stakeholders have agreed on a rapid-action strategy to transition the country to full self-sufficiency, with the long-term goal of becoming a regional exporter. Central to the initiative is the development of 50,000 hectares of lowland for rice cultivation. The program will adopt a nucleus estate and out-grower model, linking smallholder farmers to large-scale processors. This structure is expected to improve access to markets, financing, and modern farming equipment. The plan also targets key challenges affecting Liberia’s agriculture, including limited irrigation systems, inadequate access to improved seeds and fertilizers, post-harvest losses, and lack of affordable credit for farmers. As part of the collaboration, the University of California will spearhead research and technology transfer. Experts from the institution are expected to provide support in irrigation techniques, soil health, plant breeding, and livestock nutrition. Innovative solutions under consideration include the use of nitrogen-fixing cereals to reduce fertilizer costs and black soldier fly

protein systems to support livestock feed production. Digital tools for farm management and optimization are also expected to be deployed. California representatives have further pledged to mobilize private investors and agribusiness firms to support Liberia’s agricultural transformation agenda. Meanwhile, an international investment forum is scheduled to be held in Liberia by August 2026 in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization. The event will highlight investment opportunities in the country’s agriculture sector to global stakeholders. A detailed implementation roadmap, including timelines and priority crops, is expected within two weeks. Technical teams from California are anticipated to arrive in Liberia shortly thereafter to begin pilot projects. Beyond rice production, the initiative will explore opportunities in cassava, maize, vegetables, coffee, cocoa, livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture—leveraging Liberia’s regional strengths to diversify agricultural output. Officials say the partnership represents a major step toward reducing Liberia’s dependence on imports while strengthening food security and rural livelihoods.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PUSHED AT TYSMUN 2026



By Jamesetta D Williams

The Government of Liberia has reaffirmed its commitment to youth empowerment, peacebuilding, and climate security at the opening of the Thinkers’ Youth Simulation Model United Nations (TYSMUN) 2026, held at the American International School on Old Road. The annual youth-led program brings together students from across Liberia to simulate United Nations

proceedings, equipping them with practical skills in diplomacy, negotiation, leadership, and policy analysis aimed at preparing them for national and global decision-making roles. Delivering the keynote address on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sara Beysolow Nyanti, Assistant Minister for Public Affairs Saywhar N. Gbaa described TYSMUN as more than an academic exercise, calling it a

critical platform for shaping future leaders. She emphasized that young people are not just future stakeholders in peace but active contributors in the present, stressing that their voices, ideas, and leadership are essential to national and global development. A key highlight of her remarks was Liberia’s recent election to the United Nations Security Council for the 2026–2027 term. She described the development as both a major achievement and a significant responsibility, noting that Liberia will be expected to advocate for peace, represent African interests, and elevate the voices of youth, climate-vulnerable nations, and post-conflict states in global discussions. Reflecting on Liberia’s own history, she praised young people for their role in rebuilding communities after years of conflict, highlighting their resilience, commitment to dialogue, and contribution to national recovery. She cautioned, however, that peace and stability cannot be sustained without the meaningful inclusion of

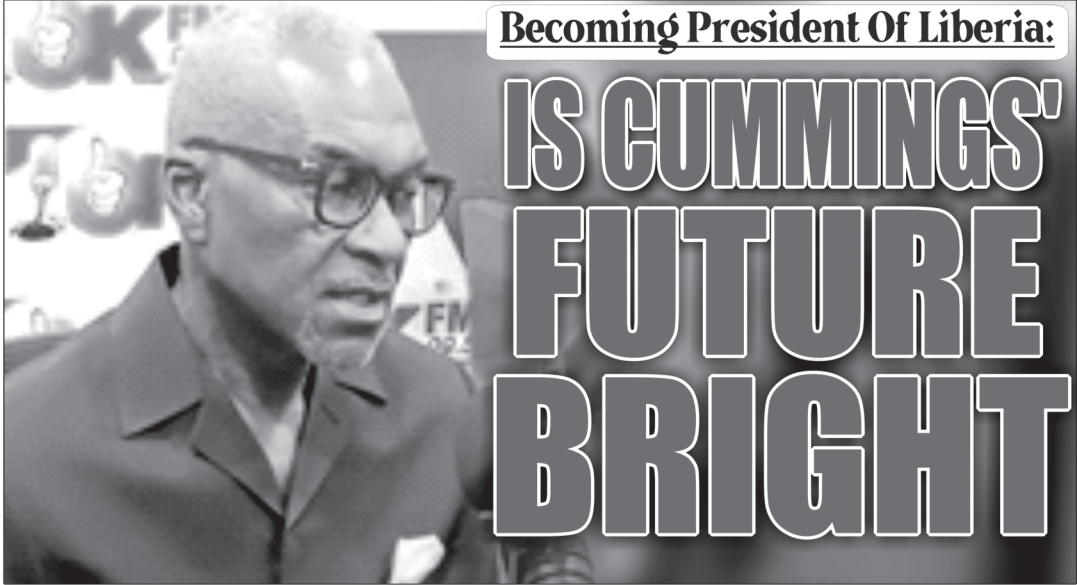
youth in decision-making processes. According to her, lasting security must be built on opportunity, inclusion, and dignity rather than military strength alone. The Assistant Minister also drew attention to climate change as a growing security concern, warning that environmental challenges have direct links to instability. She noted that food shortages, failing agriculture, and displacement can all contribute to heightened tensions and conflict. “The greatest threat to global peace is not only conflict, but indifference,” she stated, urging young people to take active roles in climate action, policy innovation, and global advocacy. She encouraged participants to view TYSMUN 2026 as a serious training ground for future leadership, describing it as an investment in Liberia’s and the world’s future. Organizers of TYSMUN reaffirmed that the initiative continues to serve as a respected platform for fostering civic engagement, critical thinking, and global citizenship among young Liberians, preparing them to contribute meaningfully to diplomacy and governance in the years ahead.

ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development - AAID

Pillar	Strategic Policy	Program	Intervention	Outcome	Output	KPIs	Link to SDG	Baseline	Targets by 2029
Human Capital Development	Education	Teacher Capacity	Undertaking teachers' continuous professional development	Professional competency of teachers improved	Teachers achieving certification or qualification through CPD programs	Number of teachers achieving certification or qualification through CPD programs	4.c.1 Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level	TBD	Provide in-service training to 15,800 teachers (continuous professional development –CPD)
			Provision of incentives to attract and support the deployment of qualified teachers in underserved areas	Improved teacher retention rates in underserved areas	Motivational packages for teachers rolled out	Number of teachers in underserved areas receiving financial, housing, or other incentives			Provide incentive payment to 1,400 teachers in rural hard-to-reach and hard-to-stay areas
			Provision of training for TVET instructors	Improved Certification and accreditation of TVET instructors		Number of TVET instructors who have undertaken training , including those for both pre-service and in-service		TBD	Provide National Trade Test certificate to 1,500TVET trainers
			Provision of incentives to professional education volunteers across the sector	Improved volunteers participation in the education sector	Volunteer-led education initiatives improved	Number of Institutions benefiting from volunteer-led education initiatives		TBD	200 underserved schools covered by education volunteer programs
Human Capital Development	Education	Teacher Capacity	Development and rolling out a system for teacher licensing	National procedures and policy for licensing and accreditation developed	Center of Excellence for Education Administration, Certification (Licensing) and Accreditation (CEEACA) established and functional	Number of teachers accredited or licensed by CEEACA	4.c.1 Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level	TBD	Professionalize 2,000 teachers through certification and licensing

ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development - AAID

Pillar	Strategic Policy	Program	Intervention	Outcome	Output	KPIs	Link to SDG	Baseline	Targets by 2029
Human Capital Development	Education	School Facilities	Building, renovating or expanding inclusive and climate-resilient school infrastructure	Learning environment improved	School infrastructure constructed and renovated	Number of child-friendly, inclusive, gender-sensitive public school infrastructure constructed and renovated		18	Improve 2,134 educational infrastructure at all levels
Human Capital Development	Education	School Facilities	Supporting WASH and menstrual hygiene interventions in Schools	Health and well-being in schools improved	Lower incidence of sanitary-related illnesses in schools	Number of schools with improved WASH services		TBD	Support WASH interventions in 3,542 schools
Human Capital Development	Education	School Facilities	Expansion and acquisition of instructional materials for PWDs	Increased access and participation of PWDs in education	School resource centers provided with PWDs learning materials	Percentage of Schools Equipped with instructional materials for PWDs	4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated	TBD	Equip 10% of schools with PWD-instructional Materials
Human Capital Development	Education	School Facilities	Supporting children with learning disabilities	Reduction in the dropout rate among children with learning disability	PWD Learners supported in schools	Number of PWD Learners benefiting from school fees exemptions		TBD	Exempt 1,000 PWD learners from school fees and provide school uniforms and bags



By Stephanie M. Duncan

With Liberia gradually gravitating toward another epochal elections in 2029, who is best suited or has a future in becoming president is not a going-away discussion amongst Liberians. Could it be sitting President Joseph Boakai retained, or that Liberians will muster the courage to look into another directions, to put their fate in one of the many would-be candidates including Mr. Alexander B. Cummings are the concerns weighing them under their consciences. While others would-be candidates may be studying the existing political climate – reading into the current state of affairs and how they can align their interest with that of the ‘suffering masses’, the leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC’s) is not mute, speaking his mind and how he believes the country should be run to engender holistic growth and inclusion. Mr. Cummings’ assessment of the government’s performance is viewed with mixed-reactions – one point in time he hails the government, pats the president on the back even when others think otherwise about such appreciation of the administration. His supporters see him as a pragmatic character – someone who sees reality and acknowledges, and also offers critical assessment or condemnation when the situation is wobbly.

But expert believe Liberian politics is not about he who critiques a sitting government gets the largest shares of votes at the polls, rather one who Liberians endeared to, loved, and trusted.

Cummings on OK FM

In an apparent move to reconnect with the Liberian people and begin to explain his vision for the country, the ANC political leader took the nation by storm Wednesday during an interview on OK FM, emphasizing that leadership should be centered on collaboration with citizens and targeted investments in key sectors.

“The presidency is not the end; it is the means to achieve that change,” he said, stressing his commitment to working alongside Liberians to improve the country’s future.

Cummings he used the platform regarded as the most listened-to in Liberia to outline priority areas he would focus on if elected, including healthcare, agriculture, housing, and tourism.

Mr. Cummings hold the belief that these sectors are critical for job creation and sustainable economic growth, while referencing countries such as The Gambia and Ghana as examples of how strategic investment in these sectors can drive national development.

He also raised concerns about the pace of infrastructure development in Liberia, particularly in the energy sector. “Why are we not investing in electricity?” he questioned, underscoring the importance of reliable power supply for economic expansion.

Drawing comparisons with Côte d’Ivoire, Cummings noted that despite having roughly three times Liberia’s population, the country operates a national budget exceeding \$33 billion. He argued that Liberia’s current budget, estimated at about \$1.2 billion, could surpass \$2 billion with sound economic policies and effective governance.

Central to his vision, Cummings highlighted the importance of investing in human capital, particularly education. He stressed the need to strengthen science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs as a pathway to solving real-world problems and

preparing young people for future opportunities.

“We must invest in the education system. If you invest in people, you solve real problems,” he said.

The ANC political leader also called for decentralization and the adoption of digital governance systems, describing technology as a key driver of national transformation. He said such reforms would improve service delivery, enhance transparency, and bring government closer to the people.

On public spending, Cummings criticized what he described as excessive waste within government institutions, particularly the Legislature. He argued that resources should be redirected toward development priorities and creating an enabling environment for private sector growth.

“There is too much waste in the system,” he said, adding that government should not position itself as the primary employer but instead support business expansion and job creation.

In a notable pledge, Cummings said he would forgo his presidential salary if elected, committing to redirect the funds toward education initiatives, particularly in STEM. His comments come amid ongoing national debate on governance, economic reform, and strategies to address Liberia’s development challenges.

Has he a bright future for the presidency?

For Mr. Cummings, though seen as a lone opposition voice against societal and governmental ills, the question now centers on whether Liberians have changed their perspectives about him and his quest to become president, that he has a clear path in becoming president when his past efforts, his undiluted investments, are paired against the outcomes of two successive elections – 2017 and 2023.

The former Coco Cola executive performed dismally in the two past elections, mainly the last one, sparking concerns amongst his supporters and ordinary Liberians about his presidential suitability.

The results, according to political pundits, did not match the time, energy and financial investments made to win – though it is widely believed that the electorates are no longer carried away by financial and material inducements, rather their conviction in one’s ability based on his agenda to lead the country.

The ANC standard-bearer only managed 1.61% out of the accumulative votes of 29,613, according to the National Elections Commission (NEC) website – far below then politically incognito Edward Appleton.

Before the elections, he was regarded as top challenger of then President Weah, but the outcome proved otherwise and further dampened perception about him.

Political scientists find it hard to pinpoint exact reasons little attention is given Mr. Cummings, who has, overtime, shown commitment to statehood by remaining engaged with the power-that-be regardless of his poor shows at the polls.

Those who are closed to him see him as a nice character, someone who is altruistic and accommodating of everyone regardless of status.

However, pundits continue to point to two important factors they believe may be in the way of his ascendancy to the helm of power in Liberia. They insist that while Mr. Cummings is by far one of Liberia’s educated and successful personalities – someone with

strong connections to make Liberia’s case and land in topnotch investors into the country if elected president – Congo man and gay perceptions remain undissolving with most Liberians.

Mr. Cummings, on many occasions, debunked gay allegations leveled against him, yet most Liberians are said to be hanging onto it, However, as the only first-class politician yet to taste the president, and with the current state of

CDC ON COURSE

By Jamesetta D Williams

Former President George Manneh Weah’s Tuesday visit to the construction site of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) national headquarters in Congo Town was not only for sightseeing, but to reassure both workers and partisans far and near that the party was still on course with its political objectives and determination to make a comeback to power in 2029.

Though seems difficult considering that it lost to an opposition party while in power, Weah and its millions of CDC partisans and supporters have not lost hope in the party’s future, especially the ensuing 2029 electoral showdown.

The former head of state expressed optimism about the party’s progress and future political prospects.

During the visit, Weah toured sections of the construction site, engaging with workers and commending them for what he described as their commitment and steady progress on the project.

He took time to observe the development work underway and encouraged those involved to maintain their pace and dedication.

Addressing a gathering of CDC supporters at

DELAYS, CHALLENGES

Delays and other challenges have been identified as major impediments to Liberia’s infrastructure development portfolio during the visit of World Bank Group Executive Director for Liberia, Mr. Zarau Wendeline Kibwe.

While in Liberia, Mr. Kibwe held high-level discussions in Monrovia aimed at strengthening development cooperation, assessing ongoing projects, and identifying new investment opportunities aligned with Liberia’s national priorities.

He also with the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, along with senior government officials and representatives from key institutions.

The visit focused on reviewing the performance of World Bank-supported projects and addressing implementation challenges affecting delivery and disbursement rates.

Discussions centered on evaluating how World Bank-funded initiatives are improving the livelihoods of ordinary Liberians, while also identifying bottlenecks that have slowed project execution.

Officials acknowledged persistent challenges, including delays in implementation and inefficiencies in project coordination.

In response, the Government of Liberia disclosed plans to undertake a comprehensive portfolio review aimed at improving efficiency, accelerating delivery, and ensuring better utilization of development resources.

Priority sectors identified for enhanced attention include infrastructure development, public works, and water service delivery areas considered critical to national growth and service improvement.

Speaking at the start of the meeting, Minister Ngafuan underscored the importance of Liberia’s partnership with the World Bank, describing it as a key pillar of the country’s development strategy.

He noted that Liberia continues to face external economic shocks and fiscal pressures

affairs and insinuations about the availability of sitting President Boakai to be on the ballot in 2029, and owing to the fact that former President Weah is no longer new to Liberians, Cummings may have a future, some believed. But as it stands, whether the ANC political has a future in becoming president in 2029, some said, depends on what happens in the years ahead, and he remains engaged, selling himself and his ideas/agenda.

the site, the former president voiced confidence in the party’s political strength, stating that the CDC remains focused and “on course for victory” in the 2029 general elections.

Weah also acknowledged the support of party members in the diaspora, highlighting a financial contribution of US\$3,000 toward the construction of the party’s new headquarters.

He described such contributions as important to the continued development and strengthening of the party’s infrastructure.

The visit drew a lively response from supporters present, many of whom sang, danced, and celebrated what they viewed as Weah’s ongoing commitment to the CDC’s growth and organizational foundation ahead of the next election cycle.

Construction of the CDC national headquarters continues in Congo Town as the party prepares for future political activities and mobilization efforts.

CDCians are not moved by the size and space of their home, but united for a just cause – to reignite the fighting spirits of 2005, 2011 and 2017 against all odds.

amid global geopolitical and macroeconomic challenges, but reaffirmed government commitment to maintaining stability and reform momentum.

“Our partnership with the World Bank remains strong and impactful,” he stated, highlighting the institution’s role in supporting Liberia through periods of economic uncertainty and resilience-building efforts.

Despite implementation challenges, the Minister pointed to recent improvements, including increased disbursement rates, better project execution, and an expanding pipeline of development projects.

He noted that these efforts are already producing visible results, particularly in road connectivity and access to essential services.

For his part, Mr. Kibwe reaffirmed the World Bank’s commitment to Liberia, emphasizing that the country remains an important partner and shareholder within the institution.

He commended Liberia’s relative macroeconomic stability despite global pressures, noting that its performance compares favorably within the region and reflects prudent fiscal management.

However, he stressed the need for continued reforms to improve the business environment, attract investment, and generate employment opportunities. According to him, these priorities remain central to the World Bank’s engagement in Liberia.

The meeting brought together key officials, including World Bank Country Manager for Liberia Georgia Wallen, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director Dr. Plingloh Emmanuel Munyeneh, Central Bank Governor Henry Saamoi, Minister of Public Works Roland Giddings, and Forestry Development Authority Managing Director Rudolph J. Merab, Sr., among others.

NOT DETERRED BY HEAVY DOWNPOUR



By Jamesetta D Williams

Ongoing recruitment exercise by the Armed Forces of Liberia remains largely unhindered despite a heavy morning downpour, as hundreds of Liberians turned out in Monrovia on Wednesday in their numbers as a demonstration of strong determination to join the national army. At various recruitment points across the city, applicants both men and women were seen standing in long queues, soaked by rain, while trying to protect themselves with plastic sheets, cardboard pieces, and other makeshift coverings. In some cases, applicants had no shelter at all as they waited to complete the screening process. Many of the hopeful recruits reportedly arrived as early as 4:00 AM, while others said they had spent days at the recruitment centers in anticipation of being processed. The Armed Forces of Liberia launched the nationwide recruitment exercise this month as part of its broader force restructuring and expansion program. Monrovia has recorded one of the

highest turnouts, reflecting both strong interest in military service and the economic realities facing many young people. For many applicants, the decision to join the AFL is driven by a combination of unemployment challenges and a sense of patriotism. “We can’t afford to miss this chance because of rain,” one applicant said while wringing water from his shirt. “Jobs are hard. This is our opportunity to serve and to earn.” Exercise Continues Despite Weather Conditions Despite the heavy rainfall, the recruitment exercise continued without interruption. Military personnel were observed processing documents and conducting physical screening under temporary tents set up at the recruitment sites. As of press time, recruitment officials had not issued any formal statement indicating whether the weather conditions would affect the day’s schedule or overall screening process. The exercise remains ongoing as authorities continue to manage large crowds of applicants seeking to join the national defense force.

'NEW MONEY COULD BE USED

in the amount of over seventy billion Liberian dollars. Authorities of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), appearing before the Liberian Senate to justify the necessity of new banknotes, defended the printing of new money as a move aimed at replacing mutilated bank notes in circulation. However, Mr. Freeman has provided a contrast to the government’s justification while speaking at the Center for Intellectual Exchange in Monrovia. He claimed the reported plan to print L\$79 billion, along with the introduction of a new L\$2,000 banknote, is politically driven rather than economically necessary. “The timing of the move raises concerns as the country gradually approaches the next electoral cycle,” he propounded, and alleged that the initiative could be used to fund campaign activities, warning that it may undermine economic stability and

public trust. “The election is getting closer, and the President wants to print new money to run his campaign,” Freeman stated. He further argued that the introduction of a high-denomination L\$2,000 banknote could increase the risk of corruption within the public sector. “The L\$2,000 note will make stealing very easy for public officials,” he claimed. Freeman, who is also an economist, used the occasion to advocate for broader financial reforms, urging the government to accelerate the transition to electronic financial systems. He said reducing reliance on physical cash could help curb corruption and improve transparency in public financial management. According to him, strengthening digital payment systems would enhance accountability and reduce opportunities for the misuse of public funds, while aligning Liberia with global financial trends.

REAFFIRMS SUPPORT

Liberia’s ongoing economic reform agenda received renewed international backing following an official visit by World Bank Group Executive Director Dr. Zarau Wendeline Kibwe, who has reaffirmed the institution’s commitment to supporting the country’s financial sector transformation. Dr. Kibwe’s visit comes at a time when Liberia is intensifying macroeconomic reforms aimed at strengthening fiscal discipline, improving confidence in the banking system, expanding access to finance, and modernizing key regulatory and public financial institutions. During her stay in Monrovia, Dr. Kibwe held a series of high-level meetings with senior government officials, representatives of financial authorities, and development partners. The discussions focused on assessing progress under ongoing reform programs and identifying additional areas of support to further strengthen Liberia’s financial governance framework. Key issues highlighted during the engagements included improving financial transparency, deepening digital payment systems, strengthening public financial management structures, and enhancing the resilience of the banking sector to better support private sector growth and investment. Dr. Kibwe reaffirmed that Liberia remains a valued partner of the World Bank Group, stressing the institution’s continued readiness to support the country’s reform efforts. She underscored that a strong and inclusive financial system is essential for economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction. She noted that financial reform goes beyond institutional restructuring, emphasizing its broader impact on citizens and the economy. “Financial sector reform is not only about institutions; it is about building trust, expanding opportunity, and ensuring that citizens can fully participate in the economy,” she reportedly stated during consultations in Monrovia. Officials familiar with the discussions disclosed that the World Bank delegation

commended Liberia’s recent progress in strengthening governance within public financial institutions. However, they also encouraged authorities to accelerate the implementation of policy measures aimed at improving accountability and expanding financial inclusion. Liberia’s reform program continues to prioritize the modernization of the Central Bank of Liberia, enhanced supervision of commercial banks, increased access to credit for small and medium-sized enterprises, and the expansion of digital financial services, particularly in underserved communities. Government officials welcomed the visit, describing it as a strong signal of continued international confidence in Liberia’s reform direction. They further emphasized that World Bank support remains critical to the country’s efforts to recover from economic challenges, close infrastructure gaps, and strengthen institutions that support sustainable development. Observers say Dr. Kibwe’s visit also sends a positive message to global investors and development partners, reinforcing Liberia’s visibility within the international financial community as it works to rebuild economic credibility and attract long-term development financing. Beyond the financial sector, her mission is expected to deepen cooperation between Liberia and the World Bank in key areas such as public sector governance, infrastructure development, social protection, and private sector competitiveness. Her reaffirmation of support is widely viewed as an important endorsement of Liberia’s reform journey, signaling continued backing from one of the world’s leading development finance institutions as the country works toward long-term economic stability and institutional strengthening.

'OPERATE WITHIN PREMISES'

it has observed with growing concern the widespread practice of displaying goods on sidewalks, roadways, and other unauthorized public spaces. These activities, the Ministry noted, contribute significantly to congestion, increase safety risks, and create general disorder in commercial districts. “In line with our statutory mandate to regulate commerce and trade activities, no goods or merchandise shall be displayed or stored outside business premises,” the Ministry emphasized in its official communication. The Ministry further disclosed that beginning May 4, 2026, it will collaborate with relevant enforcement agencies to ensure full compliance with the new regulation. Under the enforcement measures, businesses found in violation will face a range of penalties, including the immediate removal and confiscation of goods displayed outside their premises. Offenders will also be required to pay prescribed fines and administrative penalties. Additionally, the Ministry warned that persistent non-compliance could lead to the temporary or permanent closure of business establishments, as well as possible legal action in accordance with



Liberia’s regulatory framework. Despite the strict measures, MoCI clarified that the directive is not intended to disrupt economic activities but rather to create a more organized, safe, and business-friendly environment. The announcement is expected to impact hundreds of small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in densely populated commercial areas, where roadside trading has long been a common practice.

MARYLANDERS FURIOUS OVER UNRELIABLE ELECTRICITY



By: Emmanuel Tobotinho Quiah

Unstable and unreliable electric power supply in Maryland County has caused fury amongst citizens as tensions flared Monday at a public tariff assessment hearing in Pleebo City.

Residents of Maryland County sharply criticized LIB Energy over persistent irregular electricity supply, prompting the company’s local manager to issue a public apology for what he described as “worrisome and embarrassing” service failures.

The hearing, organized by the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) at Pleebo City Hall, brought together local government officials, utility representatives, and concerned citizens to assess electricity tariffs and review the performance of LIB Energy, the power provider that has operated in the county since 2023.

Among those in attendance were Maryland County Superintendent Henry B. Cole, Pleebo City Mayor Larry Geekor, LERC commissioners, representatives of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), youth leaders, elders, and dozens of residents.

During the hearing, citizens voiced frustration over what they described as unstable and unreliable electricity supply, noting that the situation has not significantly improved since LIB Energy assumed operations.

Many residents complained that despite paying tariffs as high as US\$0.25 per kilowatt-hour, they are still forced to purchase electrical materials themselves, including wires, conductors, transformers, and cables to connect their communities to the grid.

“We are paying for current, buying our own materials, and still suffering from unstable electricity,” one resident lamented. “There is no justification for extending this company’s operations if things continue this way.”

Several speakers also highlighted the damaging impact of frequent outages, stating that inconsistent power supply has destroyed household appliances and disrupted businesses, schools, and healthcare services across the county.

Frustrated residents called on LERC to deny any extension of LIB Energy’s operational mandate, with some urging regulators to consider replacing the company’s management if performance does not improve.

They argued that the company has yet to deliver meaningful development in the electricity sector despite nearly two years of operation.

Responding to the criticism, LIB Energy’s Maryland Grid Manager,

Henry Hodge, publicly apologized and acknowledged the seriousness of the situation.

“We strongly apologize for the irregularities and challenges our customers are facing,” Hodge said. “It is worrisome and, frankly, embarrassing.”

He explained that the company’s challenges are linked to operational constraints, including infrastructure limitations, high operational costs, and its role as a contractor working under the Liberia Electricity Corporation.

Despite the difficulties, Hodge outlined long-term plans to improve electricity access and reliability, including expansion initiatives projected for 2027 and 2029, contingent on continued operations and support.

“We have bigger plans moving forward, but we need the chance and support to execute them,” he added.

Maryland County Superintendent Henry B. Cole echoed the concerns raised by citizens and urged regulators to take immediate action.

He recommended that the electricity tariff be reduced from US\$0.25 to US\$0.20 per kilowatt-hour, arguing that such a move would ease public frustration while service improvements are being pursued.

“The people’s concerns are legitimate and must be addressed,” Cole stated. “If service remains poor, the tariff burden should not remain this high.”

While acknowledging the concerns raised, LERC officials assured residents that a comprehensive assessment is underway.

A commissioner at the hearing noted that the decision on tariff adjustment and LIB Energy’s continued operation will be based on service performance, affordability, and contractual obligations.

However, the Commission has not announced a specific timeline for its final determination. Officials indicated that a decision is expected in the coming weeks following a thorough review of the issues presented.

Prior to LIB Energy’s takeover in 2023, electricity access in parts of Maryland County was limited and inconsistent, raising expectations that the company’s intervention would significantly improve supply. However, residents say those expectations remain largely unmet.

Monday’s heated hearing underscores growing public dissatisfaction and places increasing pressure on regulators to take decisive action on both tariff rates and the future of electricity service provision in the county.

'TAKE TAXATION AS NATIONAL DUTY'

-Liberian Students Urged to Embrace Tax Responsibility



By Stephanie M. Duncan

Liberian students have been called upon by the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) in consonance with the Ministry of Education to take taxation seriously as a civic duty, during the observance of National Student Tax Day.

National Student Tax Day held under the theme “Building Responsible Citizens: Understanding Taxes and Your Role in National Development,” formed part of activities marking Taxpayer Appreciation Month 2026. The annual campaign is aimed at promoting tax awareness, encouraging voluntary compliance, and recognizing the role of taxpayers in national development.

The event brought together students, educators, government officials, and LRA staff for a day of educational engagement. Activities included presentations on taxation and an inter-school quiz competition designed to deepen students’ understanding of how taxes support national growth.

Delivering the keynote address, Education Minister Jarso Jallah underscored the importance of tax payment, describing it as a fundamental responsibility of citizenship. She noted that taxes provide essential funding for public services, including education, healthcare, road infrastructure, security, and sanitation.

“No nation can achieve meaningful progress when citizens fail to contribute their fair share,” Minister Jallah said, urging students to view tax compliance not as a burden but as a shared national obligation.

She emphasized the need for early civic education, encouraging young people to understand the role taxation plays in shaping Liberia’s future. According to her, instilling such values at a young age is critical

to building a responsible and accountable citizenry.

Also speaking at the program, LRA Commissioner General James Dorbor Jallah called on students to see taxation as an act of patriotism and commitment to country. He urged them to reject negative perceptions that portray taxes as punitive, instead highlighting their role in driving development and economic stability.

“Domestic revenue mobilization remains one of the strongest foundations for national growth and self-reliance,” he said, while reaffirming the LRA’s commitment to integrity, transparency, and fairness in tax administration.

A major highlight of the celebration was the inter-school tax quiz competition, which tested students’ knowledge of taxation, citizenship, and national development. William V.S. Tubman High School emerged as the winner after defeating Boatswain High School in the grand finale.

Organizers said the competition was intended to make learning about taxes more engaging and practical for students, while reinforcing the importance of civic responsibility.

The LRA noted that early engagement with students is key to nurturing a generation that values tax compliance and actively contributes to national development. National Student Tax Day, officials added, remains one of the flagship initiatives under the LRA’s Taxpayer Appreciation Program, aimed at strengthening public trust and encouraging greater participation in revenue generation.

By: Emmanuel Tobotinho Quiah

Dwindling hopes have been revived in Maryland County, particularly thousands of marketers at the Pleebo General Market following the commissioning of a US\$46,000 solar electrification and renovation project by Maryland County District #2 Representative, Anthony F. Williams.

[The project was officially dedicated Tuesday morning by the lawmaker’s home-office coordinator, Standford Y. Neufville, in a ceremony that brought together marketers, local authorities, members of the Pleebo District Development Council, and other key community stakeholders.

[Speaking to team of reporters, Representative Williams said the initiative was prompted by persistent challenges faced by marketers, particularly unreliable electricity and deteriorating infrastructure.

“For years, our people have struggled with electricity in this market. Each time LEC power goes, business slows down. [This project is intended to provide a reliable alternative and create a better environment for our people to trade safely,” Williams said.

[Since the market’s construction during the administration of former President George Weah, access to stable electricity has remained a major concern. The installation of a modern solar power system is now expected to provide consistent lighting, significantly improving security and extending trading hours.

[The solar system includes 22 high-capacity panels (650 watts each), three industrial-grade batteries, a three-phase inverter system, 50 breaker panel boxes, more than 200 lighting bulbs, and extensive electrical wiring.

[Beyond electrification, the project also addressed key structural issues within the

US\$46,000 SOLAR PROJECT REVIVES HOPES

-Eases Pleebo Marketers' Struggles



market. Renovation works included the reroofing of annexes, expansion of sections of the market toward the main road, and the construction of drainage systems to prevent flooding, particularly during the rainy season.

[The annexes, initially constructed shortly after Representative Williams took office in March 2024 with support from Senatorial aspirant Tiah Nagbe in 2023, had deteriorated over time, leaving traders exposed to harsh weather conditions and forcing many, including wheelbarrow pushers, to operate outside.

[Marketers welcomed the intervention, describing it as both timely and

transformative.

[Madam Angerline Hinneh, head of women selling in the upstairs section, said the project has significantly improved their daily operations.

“We are so grateful this morning. Before, when LEC current went, we were always in darkness. We depended on flashlights that didn’t last, and the zinc was leaking badly. But now, everything has changed. We can sit and sell comfortably,” she said.

[Madam Eletha Kieh, Chairlady of the “Happy Corner” women, praised the lawmaker for responding to their concerns.

“We were suffering under damaged zinc, but when we called on our representative,

he listened. Today, we are proud. I call him ‘Development Azibo’ for Pleebo Sodoken District because he continues to come to our aid,” she noted.

[Another marketer echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing the relief brought by the new roofing.

“Rain used to beat us here because the roof was spoiled. But now, we are protected. May God bless him, we will always remember this,” she said.

[Providing an overview of the transformation, Market Superintendent Madam Cecelia Wilson highlighted the significance of the improvements.

“This market used to be very difficult, especially during the rainy season. Now we have full lighting, proper drainage, and new roofing. We are prepared and comfortable. We are truly grateful,” she stated.

[As one of the busiest commercial centers in Maryland County, the Pleebo General Market serves thousands of traders daily.

[The completion of the solar and renovation project is expected to boost economic activity, enhance safety, and improve livelihoods across Pleebo and surrounding communities.

[For many, the intervention represents more than infrastructure, it marks a shift from years of hardship to a more secure, productive, and dignified trading environment.

GOV'T COMBATS 'MISINFORMATION'

By Jamesetta D Williams

The Liberian government is stepping up efforts to strengthen public trust in the digital space as part of a broader strategy to accelerate national development and combat the spread of misinformation.

Speaking Wednesday at the Liberia Internet Governance Forum 2026, held at the Liberia Learning Center, Deputy Minister for Administration at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism, Johnny Tarkpah, said building trust online has become essential in an era where digital platforms increasingly shape public discourse and citizen engagement.

Tarkpah noted that digital technologies are transforming the way Liberians access information, interact with government, and participate in national conversations. However, he cautioned that these same platforms also present significant challenges, particularly the rapid spread of false information and the erosion of public confidence in credible sources.

He highlighted Executive Order No.



163, issued by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, as a key instrument in the government’s effort to promote accountability, transparency, and effective oversight across public institutions, including in the digital sphere.

“The government understands that trust must be earned through clear and consistent actions,” Tarkpah

said, emphasizing the Ministry’s commitment to providing accurate, timely, and reliable information to the public.

As part of this effort, he outlined plans to strengthen fact-checking mechanisms, accelerate the dissemination of official information, and deepen collaboration with media institutions, civil society organizations,

and technology stakeholders.

These measures, he said, are intended to ensure that citizens have access to credible information and are better equipped to identify and reject misinformation.

Tarkpah also called on media practitioners to uphold professional standards by thoroughly verifying information before publication and avoiding the spread of rumors or unsubstantiated claims.

He further announced that the government will expand its use of digital platforms to foster real-time communication and engagement with citizens, making governance more accessible, responsive, and transparent.

The Liberia Internet Governance Forum serves as an important platform for dialogue on the future of the country’s digital landscape, bringing together policymakers, technology experts, civil society, and media professionals to address emerging opportunities and challenges in the digital age.

As Liberia continues to embrace digital transformation, government officials say building trust, promoting transparency, and safeguarding the integrity of information will remain central to the country’s development agenda.

'NEW MONEY COULD BE USED TO FINANCE UP 2029 CAMPAIGN'

-MPC Political Leader Contrasts Government's justifications

By Stephanie M. Duncan

The President Joseph Boakai's planned printing of new Liberian banknotes is shrouded in a hidden agenda, according to Movement for Progressive Change (MPC) Political Leader, Simeon Freeman, to facilitate and finance his anticipated 2029 reelection campaign. The administration, through the national legislature, recently approved the printing of new banknotes



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WB'S ED REAFFIRMS SUPPORT

-For Financial Sector Reforms



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SENATOR KPEHE DETESTS LTA MOVE

-Over LTA /TIA Contract

Senator Johnny Kpehe of Bong County has strongly detested any new company taking over from TIA(Telecommunication International Alliance.) Rather, there should be a review of the existing contract if there are irregularities. He made the statement on Wednesday on capitol Hill to journalists. He said, if it is true that LTA is bent on coming with a new company to take over, they should think twice. This will not send a good signal to the outside world about Liberia's business climate. His call comes against the backdrop of a plan by the LTA to cancel an existing agreement it has with the Telecommunication International Alliance (TIA) due to irregularities. His statement was in line with that of the Vice president of Liberia, Hon. Jeremiah K. Koung when he appeared on state radio on Monday. The Vice president said the cancellation of any contract by a government sends a negative signal to the business community. He said, "this is not a good practice for any serious government. I think the best thing to do is to renegotiate where the country will benefit. The joint committee has made its recommendations already to the president and we are waiting," he said. Currently, the LTA is said to be working behind the scene to bring into the market another company - NUM Tel Gatekeeper to replace TIA, when the later contract is still pending. Both TIA and LTA officials are yet to comment, but industry sources disclosed. Several companies with which government signed agreements are under the radar due to what officials considered "irregularities" in those agreements. For instance, the government of Liberia last year issued an Executive Order, ordering the suspension of the-Telecommunication International Alliance-TIA/LTA deal. Senator Kpehe said that the best way forward is to renegotiate the contract and do the needful required as required by law. According to Senator Kpehe, the joint committee of both houses recommended for its renegotiation, but the LTA has decided to bring a new company into the market to replace it. Also, Minister of Justice, Cllr Oswald Tweh expressed his opposition to the cancelation of the contract. In the same vein, the vice president in his remarks, this week, when he spoke generally on contracts, said there is a need to revisit various contracts which might have some issues. He added, Liberia is obliged to have these deals in place because anything contrary will have negative impact, and will scare investors, as doing so would put the country in an awkward position of being unreliable.





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'OPERATE WITHIN PREMISES'

-MoCI Warns Businesses of Strict Enforcement

By Stephanie M. Duncan

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI) has announced a new directive requiring all business owners, operators, and marketers across Liberia to conduct their commercial activities strictly within their stores and shops, effective May 1, 2026. A statement from the Ministry said the measure is part of ongoing efforts to restore order in commercial areas, improve public safety, and ensure the free movement of pedestrians in busy marketplaces and urban centers. MoCI said