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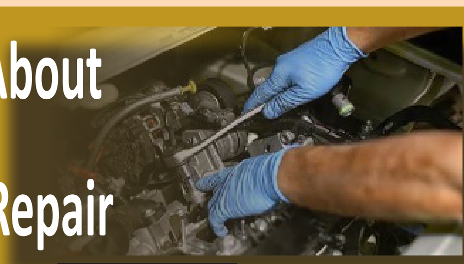

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Cost Pressures Mount as Inflation Doubles in Six Months

By Ibrahim Mansaray

Sierra Leone entered the first half of 2026 under intensifying inflationary pressure, with price growth accelerating sharply and eroding household welfare. Statistics Sierra Leone's June 2026 CPI just released shows a dramatic surge in annual inflation, rising from 6.38 percent in January to 14.77 percent in June—more than doubling in just six months.

This steep climb reflects escalating, broad based inflation, driven by mounting costs across essential sectors. Housing and transport prices rose aggressively, amplifying financial strain on families, while food inflation remained persistently high, tightening pressure on already vulnerable households.

Officials of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) recently met with the Trade Minister Mr Ibrahim Sesay (middle of photo) recently in Freetown. With them are some officials of the ministry

The data underscores a rapidly worsening cost of living environment, with inflation becoming increasingly entrenched and exerting deeper stress on purchasing power nationwide. The first quarter of 2026 reflected relatively moderate inflation followed by a noticeable acceleration in the second quarter. National year-on-year inflation increased from 6.38 percent in January to 8.05 percent in February,

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Tension As African Migrants Invade Spain

Ceuta — the tiny Spanish ruled peninsula pressed against Morocco's northern coast—has once again become the centre of a dramatic migration surge, exposing the deep political and humanitarian tensions that shape movement across Africa and into Europe.

Over the past several days, thousands of migrants — many of them young Africans seeking safety, opportunity, or simply a chance at a different life — forced their way into the enclave. Some scaled the fortified border fence separating Ceuta from Morocco, while others braved dangerous waters to swim onto Spanish shores.

Local authorities say at least 1,500 people entered the territory in recent days. But officials

on the ground believe the true number may be far higher, possibly in the tens of thousands, though this figure remains unconfirmed. Tragically, at least 18 migrants have died attempting the crossing.

The sheer scale of arrivals pushed Spain into emergency mode. By Thursday evening,

Continues on **PAGE 8**

UNICEF Flags Crisis in Child Welfare Financing

The United Nations Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has expressed dismay at the low budgetary allocation to child-related interventions in the country. UNICEF's Representative Mariko Kagoshima, express the position of the UN organ in Freetown in a reaction to disclosure that only 2.2 percent of government's total budgetary allocation is spent on child related matters.

Earlier, Mr Mathew Dingie, the financial secretary at the Ministry of Finance has disclosed that approximately 2.2 percent of government's total budget allocation targets child-related interventions across all agencies, including the flagship Free Quality School Education programme.

Africell Officials and students of the Milton Margai School for the Blind in Freetown, after the inauguration of Africell Telemarketing Centre for the visual impaired students in the school.

World Business Briefs

Global Growth Outlook Weakens

International institutions—including the UN, IMF, and PwC—report that global growth in 2026 is slowing amid geopolitical tensions, inflationary pressures, and subdued investment. UN DESA forecasts global GDP growth at 2.5–2.7%, below pre pandemic norms, while the IMF projects a slightly stronger 3.1–3.3% depending on conflict duration and AI-driven investment trends. Growth remains uneven across regions, with developing economies facing the sharpest headwinds.

Despite these challenges, pockets of resilience persist. Strong labor markets,

Inflation Resurgence Forces Tough Monetary

Global inflation has re accelerated due to rising energy prices, disrupted supply chains, and higher transport costs. UN DESA now expects global inflation to reach 3.9% in 2026, up from earlier projections. Developed economies are seeing inflation rise from 2.6% to 2.9%, while developing economies face sharper increases—from 4.2% to 5.2%—as higher import costs erode real incomes.

Central banks face a dilemma: raising interest rates risks deepening the slowdown, while holding steady risks allowing inflation to become entrenched. Bond yields have risen as inflation

oPED) fourth from
office in Freetown

Trade, Tariff Reshape Global Commerce

Trade tensions—particularly involving the United States, China, and other major economies—continue to influence global markets. Higher tariffs and shifting trade policies have disrupted supply chains, increased business uncertainty, and weighed on export performance in regions such as the EU and East Asia. Even with partial easing of some trade disputes, underlying frictions remain.

These tensions are prompting companies to diversify suppliers, adjust production strategies, and reassess market exposure. While some economies benefit from redirected trade flows, many face rising costs and reduced competitiveness.

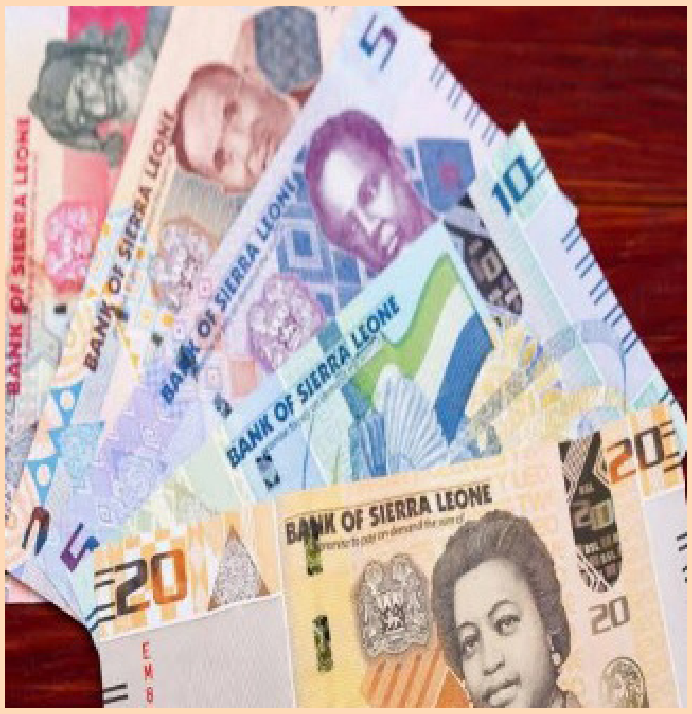
Housing Costs Ignite Explosive Inflation Surge in 2026

By Ibrahim Mansaray

Sierra Leone's inflation landscape shifted sharply in the first half of 2026 as housing costs emerged as the most forceful driver of rising prices, reshaping the country's cost of living profile and intensifying pressure on households. What began as a steady climb in consumer prices early in the year quickly evolved into a pronounced surge, with housing related expenses accelerating far beyond initial expectations.

Statistics Sierra Leone's June 2026 CPI data shows that inflation started the year on a relatively contained path, rising from 6.38 percent in January to 8.05 percent in February and 10.24 percent in March. During this period, housing costs were already edging upward, but their movement largely mirrored the broader inflation trend. The Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels index rose from 253.85 in January to 275.70 in February and 295.73 in March, signalling early pressure but not yet a destabilising shock.

That picture changed decisively in the second quarter. Housing inflation began to outpace all other categories, with the index jumping from 295.73 in March to 311.51 in April, then accelerating to 330.82 in May and reaching 355.24 in June. The more than 59 point increase over three months underscores how rapidly housing related costs intensified, transforming what had been a manageable trend into a dominant inflationary force.



By June, the structure of inflation had fundamentally shifted. Annual inflation for Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels soared to 81.33 percent, up from 65.46 percent in May—a dramatic 15.87 percentage point leap in just one month. This made housing the fastest rising major expenditure category in the CPI basket and the single most influential contributor to headline inflation.

Monthly inflation figures reinforced the severity of the pressure. Housing inflation rose from 6.20 percent in May to 7.38 percent in June, showing that even short term price movements remained strongly upward. In contrast, food and transport—two traditionally volatile categories—recorded slower monthly inflation in June, highlighting a growing divergence in price behaviour across the economy.

This divergence is central to understanding Sierra Leone's inflation dynamics in the first half of the year. While early year inflation was broad based, by mid year the economy had become increasingly unbalanced, with housing costs exerting disproportionate influence on overall price levels. Statistics Sierra Leone identifies housing, transport, food, furnishings and clothing as key contributors, but the magnitude of the housing surge placed it firmly at the centre of the inflation narrative.

EDITORIAL

Ceuta: A Warning African Countries Cannot Ignore

The events in Ceuta the week gone past demand a level of honesty and urgency that African policymakers can no longer postpone. When tens of thousands of young Moroccans moved toward the Spanish enclave in a single day, they were not simply testing a European border; they were signalling that the development models, governance structures, and economic promises of their own countries are no longer credible. For African governments, this was not a European crisis. It was a continental warning.

The scale and speed of the movement reveal a structural reality: Africa's youth are no longer waiting for incremental reforms or rhetorical commitments. They are voting with their feet. They are opting out of systems that have failed to generate jobs, protect rights, or offer pathways to upward mobility. This is not a migration problem; it is a governance and opportunity deficit. And unless African states confront this directly, Ceuta will be replicated elsewhere — with higher risks and deeper consequences.

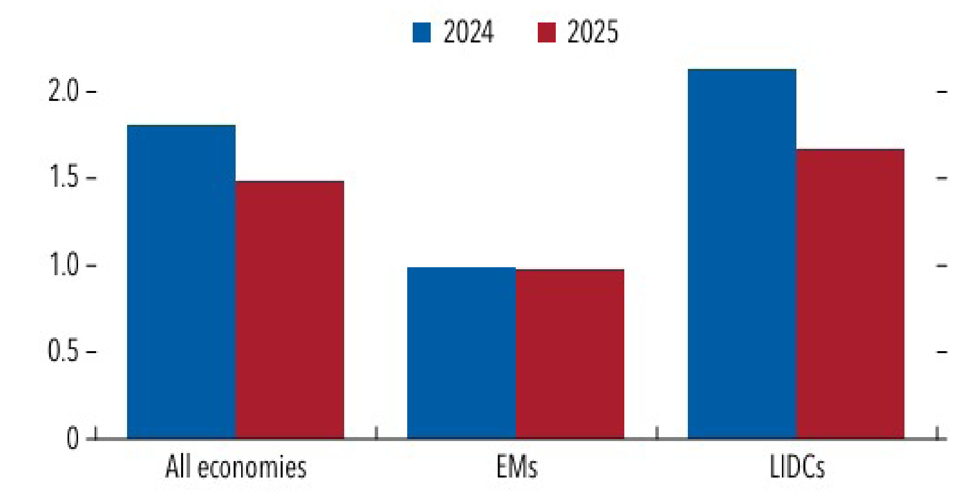
Europe's response will be predictable: tighter borders, accelerated repatriations, and a securitized framing of African mobility. Italy's temporary suspension of Schengen travel with Spain shows how quickly African migration can destabilize European political cohesion. But African leaders should resist the temptation to interpret Ceuta primarily through Europe's anxieties. The more important implications lie within Africa's borders. The crisis exposes the widening gap between demographic growth and economic absorption capacity. It highlights the fragility of social contracts built on patronage rather than performance. It underscores how corruption, exclusion, and weak institutions are eroding public trust faster than any development plan can rebuild it.

The lesson is clear: migration is now a diagnostic tool. It measures whether citizens believe their futures are viable at home. When thousands cross borders in desperation, it signals systemic failure — not isolated misfortune. African governments must therefore treat youth mobility as a strategic indicator of national health. Policy responses must shift from containment to transformation: large scale job creation, credible governance reforms, investment in skills and industries that anchor ambition, and regional cooperation that manages mobility rather than criminalizes it.

Ceuta also exposes the limits of Africa's engagement with globalization. The continent has integrated into global markets without securing global opportunities. Young Africans are connected to the world digitally but excluded from it economically. They see prosperity but cannot access it. This asymmetry fuels frustration and accelerates outward migration. African states must renegotiate their position in global value chains, strengthen domestic competitiveness, and build economies that reward talent rather than export it.

The policy implication is unambiguous: Africa cannot continue outsourcing its human crises to Europe. The continent's stability, growth, and legitimacy depend on its ability to retain and empower its young people. Ceuta is not an anomaly; it is a preview of what happens when a continent rich in youth but poor in opportunity collides with a world whose borders are tightening. African leaders must act decisively — not to stop migration, but to make staying a rational choice.

1. Total Flows of Official Development Assistance, 2024-25



Sources: IMF country desks; ODA survey; and IMF staff calculations.

Domestic Borrowing Costs Threaten Debt Stability

By Ibrahim Mansaray

Sierra Leone's debt trajectory hinges on a fragile equilibrium, while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects a manageable medium-term profile through 2030, elevated domestic borrowing costs at 16–17 percent have emerged as a critical vulnerability that could unravel fiscal gains if market conditions deteriorate.

The IMF's recent Freetown visit with Government Officials, delivered as part of the third review of the Extended Credit Facility, lays out the arithmetic of recovery that embeds a stark warning. The debt sustainability analysis (DSA) assumes concessional external financing—including zero-interest IMF support, debt relief under the Common Creditor Treatment Initiative, and planned disbursements from the European Union and African Development Bank, will anchor the fiscal outlook through the program period. Yet beneath those favourable terms sits a domestic borrowing environment where government securities command premiums that strain the budget and expose the economy to rollover risk as policy conditions shift.

Government authorities have already charted an ambitious debt management strategy for 2024–29, targeting a faster rotation toward longer-dated treasury bonds—aiming for over 40 percent of domestic securities held as T-bonds through reforms to auction procedures and institutional investment frameworks.

Global Energy Demand Growth Slows

Global energy demand grew by 1.3% in 2025, slightly below the previous decade's average, reflecting slower economic activity, milder cooling needs, and improved efficiency. Solar PV was the standout performer, contributing over 25% of all new demand, marking the first time a modern renewable source led global demand growth. Natural gas followed with 17%, while oil, gas, and coal all grew at slower rates than in 2024.

Electricity demand grew at more than twice the rate of overall energy demand, driven by buildings, industry, electric vehicles, and rapidly expanding data centres—especially in the United States, where data centres accounted for half of all electricity demand growth. China remained the largest contributor to global demand growth, though its rate slowed sharply due to rapid renewable deployment and efficiency gains.

The Newspaper

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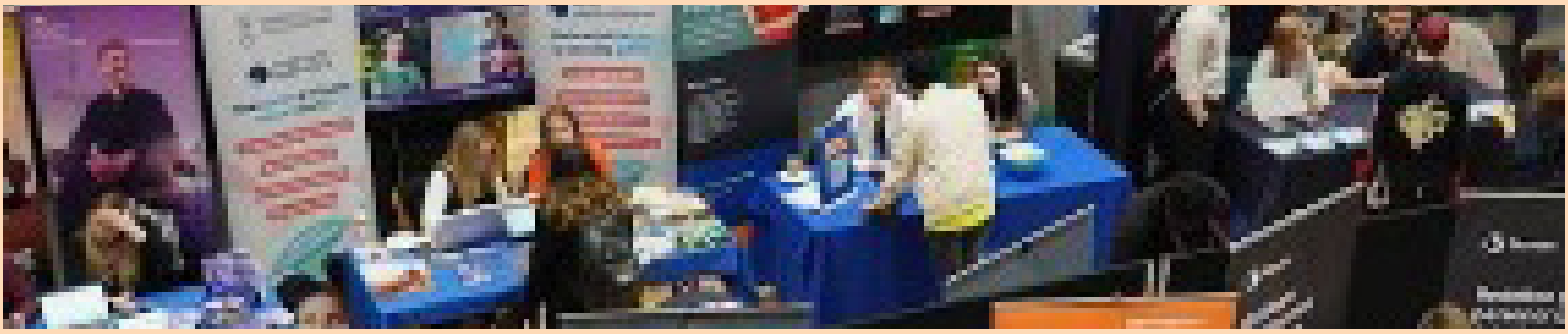


Interviews: **What To Do After**

We've all been there. You have an interview. You think it went well, but it's hard to tell. Then you're anxiously waiting to hear whether it's good news, or less good news.

Frustrating as it is, there are ways you can use this time productively, to boost your chances of being offered the role, and use your learnings for future opportunities. Wondering what to do after an interview? Here are our top six things.

1. Write everything down

Immediately after your interview, write down everything you can remember about it. Include the names of the interviewers and anyone else you met, your observations about them, the charity and the office environment (if you went there). Next write down all the questions you were asked. Make a note of how you responded and anything you feel you should have answered better. Include things you wish you'd said and identify any weak points. Also jot down any questions you'd like to ask or information you'd need if you were made an offer.

This is all useful learning. It will really help if you're called for a second interview, especially as sometimes you get asked similar questions (particularly if there are different interviewers) so you can build on, rather than just repeat your first answer. Do this as soon as you can after your interview, as you'd be surprised how quickly you'll start to forget things. If nothing else, this information will help you to improve for future interviews.

2. Send a post-interview thank you email

It can feel a bit cringey, but it's important to send a post-interview thank you email. It's polite to thank the interviewers and it also shows that you're still interested in the role. Hopefully you'll have asked for the contact details of the panel at the end of the interview, but if someone from HR did the organising, then you can send your message to them to forward on. Ideally do this within 24 hours, but don't wait longer than two to three days.

Thank the interviewers for their time and restate your interest, but try to personalise your message. You could reference something that happened in the interview—perhaps a project they mentioned that you'd like to work on—or ask a question you didn't think of at the time. If you feel confident to, you could include a link to a relevant piece of work you've done, or to something current that links with your discussion in the interview. This shows that you keep up to date with industry events and that you understand what's important to the charity. It also keeps you at the forefront of the interviewers' minds.

You could also connect with the interview panel on LinkedIn and send your post-interview thank you email that way. Even if you don't get the job, they could be useful contacts for the future.

3. Prepare for a job offer

We know you don't have an offer yet and you don't want to jinx it by being presumptuous, BUT you also don't want to be on the back foot if you do receive good news. Wondering how to prepare for a job offer? It's about deciding what your dealbreakers are, working out the minimum salary you'd accept and thinking about how you'd want to negotiate.

You could also be asked to provide references, so it's a good idea to start getting your ducks in a row here by deciding who your most appropriate contacts are for this role and asking them to be ready, just in case.

4. Prepare for a rejection email

Knowing what to do after an interview involves preparing for all eventualities, so, just as you should be prepared for an offer, you should also prepare for a rejection email. And by this we mean continue browsing and applying for jobs, and going to interviews. Having more irons in the fire is good for a number of reasons: less disappointment if you don't get a role, more practice at applying and interviewing and a better understanding of what you really want from your next role.

5. Don't doubt yourself

You haven't heard back in the timescale you were given—so you definitely haven't got the job, right? Wrong. There may be other things going on within the organisation that have delayed the hiring manager getting back to you, or being able to get the sign-off they need to make you an offer. Or they may have had to prioritise something else and recruitment has slipped down the list. But remember that even if you don't get the role, it doesn't mean that you're not capable enough, you messed up the interview or you won't get the next one. You don't know who the other candidates were, or exactly what the interviewers were looking for in terms of fit with their team. Don't make the mistake of doubting your abilities during this waiting period. Try to be positive about either outcome.

6. Know when to follow up after an interview

How long after an interview should you follow up? It's always tricky to know when's the right time—there's a fine line between keen and pushy. Always ask about the timescale the recruiter is working towards and when you should expect to hear from them. Wait until a day or two after that date before getting back in touch. Then send a polite email to enquire if there's been any update, to show you're still interested. But keep it brief and then be patient and wait for a response before emailing again.

It's all about balance

What to do after an interview is all about balance. Let the recruiter know that you're still interested but keep applying for other roles. Be proactive

NEWS

Regional Inflation Gap Widens Nationwide

Regional inflation trends during the first half of 2026 reveal an increasingly uneven economic landscape across Sierra Leone, with the Western Area pulling further away from the rest of the country as inflation accelerated between January and June.

Latest release on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) shows that while every region experienced rising prices during the six-month period, the pace of inflation differed considerably, highlighting growing regional disparities in the cost of living.

National inflation more than doubled during the first half of the year, rising steadily from 6.38 percent in January to 14.77 percent in June. The Western Area followed an even steeper path, climbing from 8.63 percent in January to 9.61 percent in February, before accelerating sharply to 14.63 percent in March, 15.94 percent in April, 18.64 percent in May and finally 21.38 percent in June. The data shows that inflationary pressures intensified month after month, with the Western Area consistently recording rates above the national average throughout the period.

By contrast, the Eastern, Southern and North-west regions maintained considerably lower inflation throughout June. The Eastern Region ended the period at 8.74 percent, narrowly ahead of the Southern Region at 8.48 percent, while the North-west Region remained the country's most stable inflation environment at just 2.51 percent. The Northern Region, however, emerged as the second-most inflationary region, reaching 16.29 percent, reflecting mounting cost pressures in the northern economy.

The report also highlights that national non-food inflation climbed from 18.63 percent in May to 21.03 percent in June, outpacing food inflation and signalling that price increases are becoming more broadly distributed across the economy. Meanwhile, headline inflation reached 14.77 percent, its highest level of the year, extending the country's run of double-digit inflation and underscoring persistent pressure on household purchasing power.

The first six months of 2026 point to an economy where inflation risks are becoming increasingly regional. The Western Area continues to dominate the national inflation profile because of its large 46.4 percent weighting in the CPI basket, while the Northern Region is emerging as a second inflation hotspot.

As inflation becomes more concentrated geographically, businesses may face varying operating conditions across regions, making location-specific pricing and investment strategies increasingly important during the second half of the year.

Healthcare Professionals Honoured in Lungi

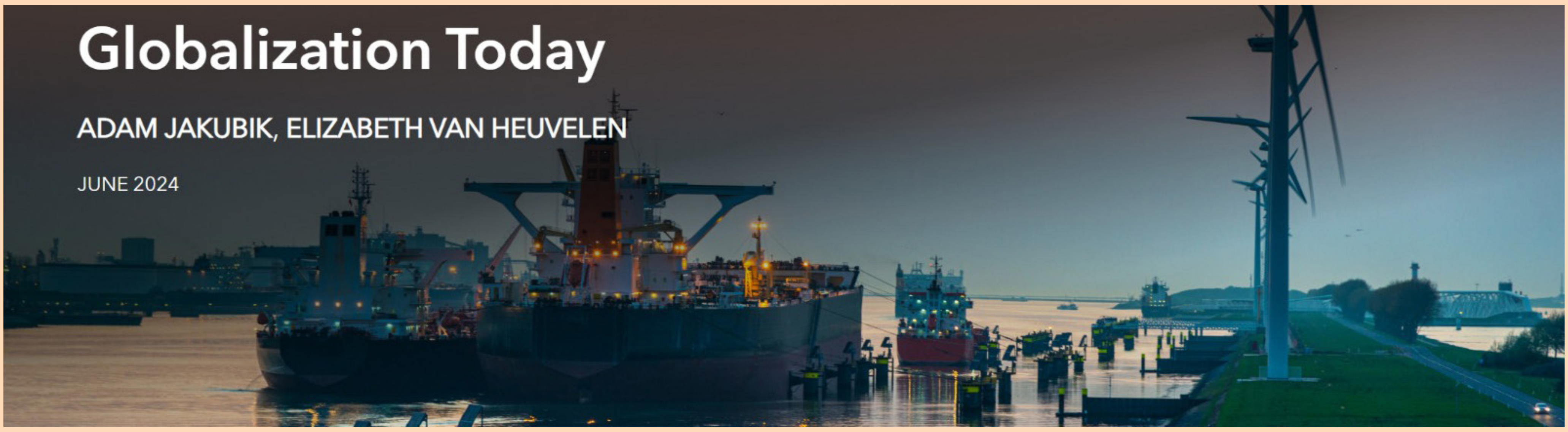
Healthcare professionals comprising doctors, nurses, pharmacists, laboratory technicians, and ambulance drivers have been recognised and honoured by the government in Lungi. Presented with certificates of appreciation, the healthcare professionals were recognised for their contribution to the successful hosting of the just concluded 69th ECOWAS Heads of State and Government Summit in the country.

Addressing them, Dr Austin Demby, the Minister of Health acknowledged their efforts and noted the ministry's technical preparedness to position healthcare delivery as a viable revenue stream and as an institutional asset. Ms Nanah Fofanah, Director of the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme, received the Ministry's "Hero of the Week" award for implementing infection prevention protocols across summit venues.

At a recent workshop on framework for children welfare at the Ministry of Finance headquarter in Freetown. Financial Secretary Matthew Dingie is seen in the middle. To his left is UNICEF Representative in Freetown Ms Mariko Kagoshima.

Her recognition highlights the commercial viability of disease prevention as a service offering – a competitive differentiator for Sierra Leone in attracting future high-profile events where health security protocols directly influence participant confidence and attendance rates.

The Ministry's active public health surveillance and point-of-entry monitoring during the summit functioned as both a safety mechanism and a demonstration of institutional capability. Treating nearly 200 summit participants while maintaining epidemiological monitoring created measurable operational data that strengthens the country's positioning for future international engagements and validates investment in healthcare infrastructure as fundamentally linked to national economic competitiveness.



Updated rules for international trade, coupled with stronger domestic policies, could make globalization more inclusive and sustainable

For at least 150 years, global economic forces have by turns pulled countries closer together and pushed them farther apart. Ever since the industrial revolution and emergence of the first truly global economy in the 19th century, countries have at times sought more economic integration and at other times more isolation, depending on geopolitics, ideology, technology, and other factors. Today we may be at another turning point in globalization's history. So what is this powerful force that does so much to influence the world economy? How is it changing? And can it be improved?

Globalization refers to the process of connecting the world economy more closely through the flow of goods, services, investment, technology, data, ideas, and workers. It began around 1870 and took off in the decades after World War II as countries started reducing restrictions on capital and trade flows in anticipation of benefits to growth and welfare.

This process started within geopolitical and regional blocs and later broadened after the fall of the Berlin Wall, financial deregulation, and the rounds of trade liberalization that led to the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995. It received a further boost from technological developments that reduced the costs of trade and financial transactions. Sea and air transportation became cheaper with innovations such as container shipping, deepwater ports, and jet engines.

Organizational and transactional costs further declined as a result of widespread adoption of information and communication technology—from the introduction of fax machines, to personal computers and mobile devices, to the continuing global rollout of internet connectivity. The world seemed smaller as a result, and doing business across borders became easier.

Upsides and downsides

These developments unlocked a vast latent potential for value creation in the world economy. Production activities were unbundled into multiple stages, allowing each stage of production to take place where it could be done more efficiently. This reorganization of production meant that the same resources could produce more output than before. At the same time, foreign competition prompted companies to become more productive. Consumers, for their part, were able to access a greater variety of goods at more affordable prices.

Most economists think that globalization—and trade reforms in particular—had a positive overall impact on growth, especially for countries that were previously less integrated. Developing economies in particular benefited from contributing to global value chains—sprawling production networks that span the world—because they did not have to develop entirely new domestic industries to export more sophisticated products. During the period of expanding globalization, world income levels converged, and poverty rates decreased from 47 percent in 1980 to 16 percent in 2010.

But globalization had its downsides. Within countries, the shift to a new production structure was sometimes difficult, as workers and capital had to move from one industry to another. Domestic policies, such as labor market support and social insurance programs intended to facilitate this adjustment, differ vastly. Some countries have managed the process better than others. In a number of places and industries, workers—especially those with lower skills—lost their jobs or saw their wages decline. These negative consequences have been concentrated, sometimes harsh, and often prolonged.

Some economists reckon that globalization of finance made the world economy more volatile and crisis-prone. Stronger macroeconomic governance and institutions could help prevent this, they say. Globalization may also have contributed to rising income inequality over the past four decades, but differences in countries' approaches to taxation and redistribution arguably played a greater role, as did technological advances that benefited high-skilled workers and investors.

Measuring globalization

Traditionally, globalization has been measured by statistics such as trade openness, which is the total value of imports and exports as a share of GDP, or openness to foreign direct investment and policies such as tariffs and capital account restrictions. Other dimensions of globalization are captured by the value of daily cross-border financial transactions or the number of visas for foreign students and workers. Looking at these statistics in aggregate shows that globalization expanded rapidly from the 1980s until the global financial crisis, after which it plateaued. However, this story is overly simplistic given changes to the global economy.

Newer metrics that look at participation in global value chains and trade in services, particularly digital services, show that globalization has actually accelerated in some areas. Traded products increasingly contain value added originating in a variety of upstream countries and sectors. Accounting for this embedded value added is crucial to assessing trade integration and to correctly identifying each country's sectors of relative strength and weakness. A global increase in the foreign value-added content of exports from about 19 percent in the mid-1990s to 28 percent in 2022 points to continued deepening of trade integration.

Meanwhile, services are able to flow more easily across borders thanks to the rise of digital technology. Digitally delivered services, including accounting, design, and media services, already account for 54 percent of services trade, following growth of 8 percent annually over the past two decades.

ADAM JAKUBIK, Economist Strategy, Policy, and Review Department International Monetary Fund (IMF)

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BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

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A cross section of Healthcare Professionals from the Ministry of Health were recently presented with certificates after the ECOWAS summit in Lungi.

Fresh Moves to Modernize E Transaction Laws

The government has launched an ambitious effort to overhaul outdated electronic transaction laws that have long constrained the country's digital commerce potential. The Ministry of Communication, Technology and Innovation (MoCTI), in partnership with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, convened a landmark public private dialogue with the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to dismantle regulatory barriers slowing the nation's digital economy.

The dialogue brought together chief executives, regulators, and digital entrepreneurs to confront a central challenge: Sierra Leone lacks a modern legal and regulatory framework governing electronic transactions. Existing laws—drafted before the rise of mobile money and online marketplaces—have forced many businesses into informal channels and discouraged foreign investment.

Trade Minister Ibrahim Alpha Sesay acknowledged that the country's outdated legislation now actively restricts sector growth, leaving digital commerce stuck at less than two percent of retail transactions despite rising mobile internet penetration. Stakeholders examined implementation failures, mapped regulatory gaps, and agreed on priority reforms needed to position Sierra Leone as a regional e commerce hub within two years.

Inflation Doubles in Six Months

Continued from **PAGE 1**

reaching 10.24 percent in March. The upward trend continued to 10.83 percent in April, 12.69 percent in May, before jumping sharply to 14.77 percent in June, representing a 2.08 percentage-point increase in just one month. The CPI index itself rose from 251.94 in January to 276.70 in June, highlighting persistent upward pressure on consumer prices across the economy.

This suggests that inflationary pressures intensified as the year progressed rather than stabilizing. Between January and March, annual inflation increased by 3.86 percentage points, but during the following three months it accelerated by an additional 4.53 percentage points, indicating stronger price pressures in the second quarter. Although monthly inflation eased slightly from 1.73 percent in May to 1.57 percent in June, annual inflation continued to climb as prices remained substantially higher than the same period last year. This reflects an economy where inflation is becoming increasingly embedded despite a modest slowdown in month-to-month price growth.

Food prices remained one of the biggest concerns for households throughout the period. Food and non-alcoholic beverages, which account for 40.3 percent of the national CPI basket, recorded annual inflation of 6.79 percent in June, up from 5.17 percent in May. While monthly food inflation eased slightly from 1.14 percent to 0.82 percent, the sector continued to exert significant pressure on household budgets due of its large weighting in consumer spending. Statistics Sierra Leone noted that food inflation increased mainly due to rising food prices, while non-alcoholic beverages also registered stronger price growth.

Africell Unveils Telemarketing Hub for Visually Impaired

The Africell Impact Foundation, have launched a significant initiative for individuals with visual impairments at the Milton Margai School for the Blind.

Under the theme: "Inclusion Begins with Opportunity," the foundation recently inaugurated a dedicated Telemarketing Centre in the school.

According to the telecommunication firm, the initiative underscores a broader commitment to expanding opportunities for persons with disabilities and fostering a more equitable society, urging other entities to mirror this dedication to equal opportunities throughout Sierra Leone. Beyond the symbolic gestures, the establishment of the telemarketing centre represents a concrete investment in skills development and economic participation, aiming to equip individuals with visual impairments for sustainable employment.

The Africell Telemarketing Centre stands as one of the company's concrete commitments aiming at bridging the employment gap that leaves an estimated 80 percent of working-age persons with disabilities jobless across Sierra Leone's formal economy.

Migrants Invade Spain

Continued from **PAGE 1**

Madrid had deployed military platoons to reinforce border police, increased air and naval surveillance, and dispatched diving teams to patrol the coastline. The European Union also offered support through Frontex, its border and coast guard agency.

Juan Jesús Vivas, Ceuta's regional president, described the situation as a "total humanitarian and social emergency." Local officials say the influx has overwhelmed shelters, strained public services, and left residents deeply anxious.

Basics About Starter Motor Repair

Introduction

As the name suggests, your starter motor plays an essential role in starting your car's engine. If it fails, your car won't start. Getting your start motor repaired can be time-consuming and pricey. To help you avoid big bills down the line, this guide will answer some key questions about starter motor maintenance and repair.

What is a starter motor?

A starter motor is an electric motor that initiates the engine. When you turn the key or press the start button, the starter motor engages the engine's flywheel and starts the combustion process. Small yet powerful, this little motor is essential for getting your vehicle running.

What causes the starter motor to need a repair?

Several factors can cause the starter motor to fail, and leave you needing a repair or replacement:

Wear and tear: Over time, the starter motor's components can wear out due to regular use.

Electrical issues: Faulty wiring, blown fuses, or a weak battery can lead to starter motor problems. Poor connections can prevent the motor from receiving enough power.

Mechanical failures: Problems with the starter solenoid, which engages the motor, or issues with the flywheel can cause the starter motor to fail.

Environmental factors: Exposure to extreme temperatures and moisture can damage the starter motor and its connections.

Regular maintenance and checks can help correct many of these issues before they become a problem.

What are the signs of a faulty starter motor?

Recognising the signs of a failing starter motor can help you address problems early:

Clicking noise: Hearing a clicking sound when you turn the key can indicate a problem.

Engine not turning over: If the engine doesn't crank, the starter motor might be faulty.

Intermittent starting issues: Occasional failure to start, especially after the car has been running, can signal a starter motor issue.

Grinding noise: A grinding sound can happen if the starter gear doesn't engage properly with the flywheel.

Smoke or burning smell: Overheating after trying to start the car several times can cause smoke or a burning odour.

If you notice these symptoms, it is crucial to get your starter motor checked by a professional.

How to test a starter motor

Working out the problem with a starter motor involves a few tests:

Visual inspection: Check for visible signs of damage, such as corrosion, frayed wires, or loose connections.

Battery check: Make sure the battery is fully charged and in good condition. A weak battery can mimic starter motor problems.

Voltage test: Use a multimetre to measure the voltage at the starter motor terminals. The voltage should be close to the battery voltage.

Starter solenoid test: Listen for a clicking sound from the solenoid. If there is no sound, the solenoid might be faulty.

Current draw test: Measure the current draw when starting the engine. High or low current draw can indicate issues with the starter motor.

While it's possible to inspect a starter motor yourself, for accurate results your best bet is to take your vehicle to a professional mechanic.

How long does a starter motor last?

The lifespan of a starter motor depends on several factors:

Usage: Frequent short trips can reduce the starter motor's lifespan due to repeated starting.

Maintenance: Regular upkeep and timely repairs can extend the motor's life.

Quality: High-quality starter motors typically last longer than cheaper alternatives.

On average, a starter motor lasts between 100,000 to 150,000 miles.

How much does a starter motor repair cost?

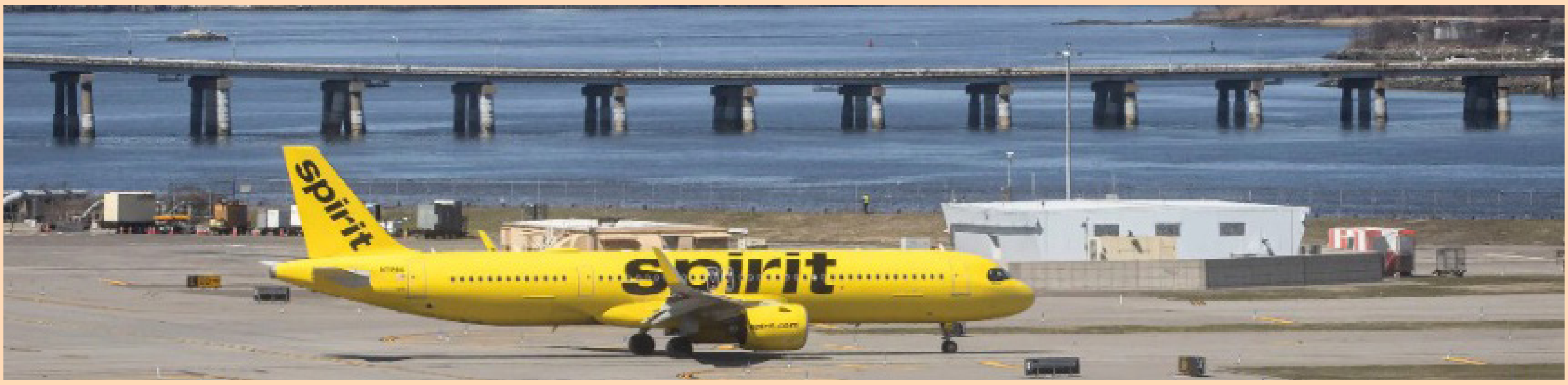
The cost of repairing or replacing a starter motor will depend on a few different factors:

Repair costs: Minor repairs, like replacing a solenoid or fixing wiring issues, will be cheaper than a full replacement.

Replacement costs: Replacing a starter motor tends to range from £250 to £600, including parts and labour. The price depends on the car's make and model and the type of starter motor.

Make sure you get detailed quotes from multiple mechanics to find the best deal.

Fixing starter motor issues as soon as you're aware of them is essential for maintaining your vehicle's reliability. If you notice signs of a failing starter motor, find a professional you trust to diagnose and fix the problem. If your vehicle won't start and getting to a garage is a challenge, mobile mechanics offer convenient repair services, bringing the garage to you.



The Queues, the Prices, the Anxiety: Can Air Travel Get Any Worse?

Travelers are waiting hours at security checkpoints, paying top dollar for tickets and worrying about safety after a deadly crash at LaGuardia.

War is raging in the Middle East, passengers are waiting in four-hour security lines, airfares are spiking and, now, a deadly runway collision at LaGuardia Airport has renewed questions about the safety of U.S. air traffic control.

All this comes at one of the busiest travel periods of the year. If airline passengers anticipated a relaxing spring break, the uncertainty has left them reeling instead.

“We’re seeing a perfect storm of travel disruption right now,” said Sally French, a travel expert at the personal finance website NerdWallet. “In a lot of ways, travelers are having to grapple with that ‘Should I travel now?’ question on a level not seen since the Covid-19 pandemic.”

U.S. airlines expect more than 170 million passengers to fly in March and April, a new high. More than two million travelers have passed through security checkpoints almost every day this month. At the same time, Transportation Security Administration officers, working without pay during the five-week-old partial government shutdown, have called out at record rates, and more than 450 have quit.

This has created an unpredictable experience at airports, with wait times varying wildly by city and day. Travelers have complained about missing flights while stuck in line and sleeping at airports because of flight disruptions. Many have said they are considering canceling upcoming trips.

“This type of dysfunction is not sustainable,” said Geoff Freeman, the president and chief executive of the U.S. Travel Association. “These are signs of an extraordinarily dysfunctional government. It will lead to people pulling back in travel, and I think we’re seeing some of that now.”

In recent days, travelers said they had endured unnerving scenes at airports around the country: crowds that resembled mobs; lines that snaked around, even outside, terminals; armed immigration officers in bulletproof vests observing passengers.

On Sunday, Andre Mullen, 50, of Rockville Centre, N.Y., headed to

Kennedy International Airport about two and half hours ahead of his 8 a.m. JetBlue flight to Atlanta. He expected to see a long line. Instead, it was “just a sea of people” with “no lines, no order, no nothing,” he said.

While waiting, he called JetBlue customer service to be rebooked on an afternoon departure, knowing that he’d miss his morning flight. Ultimately, it took him six hours to get to the gate.

“Getting out of New York is on a whole new level,” Mr. Mullen said. “It really was a tinderbox.”

Later that night, an Air Canada Express jet and a fire truck collided on a runway at LaGuardia Airport, killing both pilots, injuring dozens and shutting down the airport for hours. Since reopening on Monday afternoon, LaGuardia has been operating with one runway, leading to hundreds of cancellations and flight delays on top of the long security waits.

Nina Tichava, 52, slept on a bench at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston after spending five hours in a security line only to miss her plane on Sunday. On Monday, as she waited for her rebooked flight home to New Mexico, she wandered around the airport. She said she spotted several clusters of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents standing around, many sipping coffee.

In a recent open letter to Congress, the chief executives of America’s major airlines called for T.S.A. officers to be paid, complaining that air travel was once again being used as a “political football amid another government shutdown.” They said airlines were taking all possible actions — holding flights for passengers and rebooking them on new ones — to mitigate disruption, adding that the obstacles came at a pivotal time for the travel industry.

“With spring break travel in full swing, FIFA World Cup 2026 right around the corner and celebrations for America’s 250th birthday throughout the year, the stakes are especially high,” they wrote.

Travelers say they are feeling apprehensive about upcoming trips, citing reasons including onerous security waits, airfare pushed higher by soaring oil prices, and safety concerns as the war rages in the Middle East. On Sunday, the State Department advised all Americans abroad to exercise caution.

Leigh-Anne Lehrman, a 57-year-old from California, was supposed to be on vacation with her husband in London this week, but as their travel date approached, she said she became consumed by feelings of anxiety and dread. She canceled the trip at the last minute.

“At first I felt embarrassed to be traveling as

Continued from **PAGE 14**

Book Review

Zero to One: Notes on Startups, or How to Build the Future

Authors: Peter Thiel, Blake Masters
Format: 195 pages, Hardcover
Published: September 16, 2014
Publisher: Crown Currency
ISBN: 9780804139298 (ISBN10: 0804139296)
ASIN: 0804139296
Language: English

Zero to One: Notes on Startups, or How to Build the Future is a provocative, contrarian meditation on innovation, value creation, and the discipline of building companies that matter. Peter Thiel's central argument is disarmingly simple: progress comes from doing new things, not from copying what already exists. In his framing, moving from "zero to one" represents true innovation—creating something singular—while "one to n" represents incremental improvement. This distinction sets the tone for a book that consistently challenges conventional startup wisdom.

Thiel positions technology as the engine of vertical progress, contrasting it with globalization, which he sees as horizontal expansion. He argues that societies obsessed with competition and imitation stagnate, while societies that cultivate original thinking advance. This philosophical foundation is one of the book's strengths; it forces readers to reconsider the assumptions that underpin modern business culture, especially the fetishization of competition.

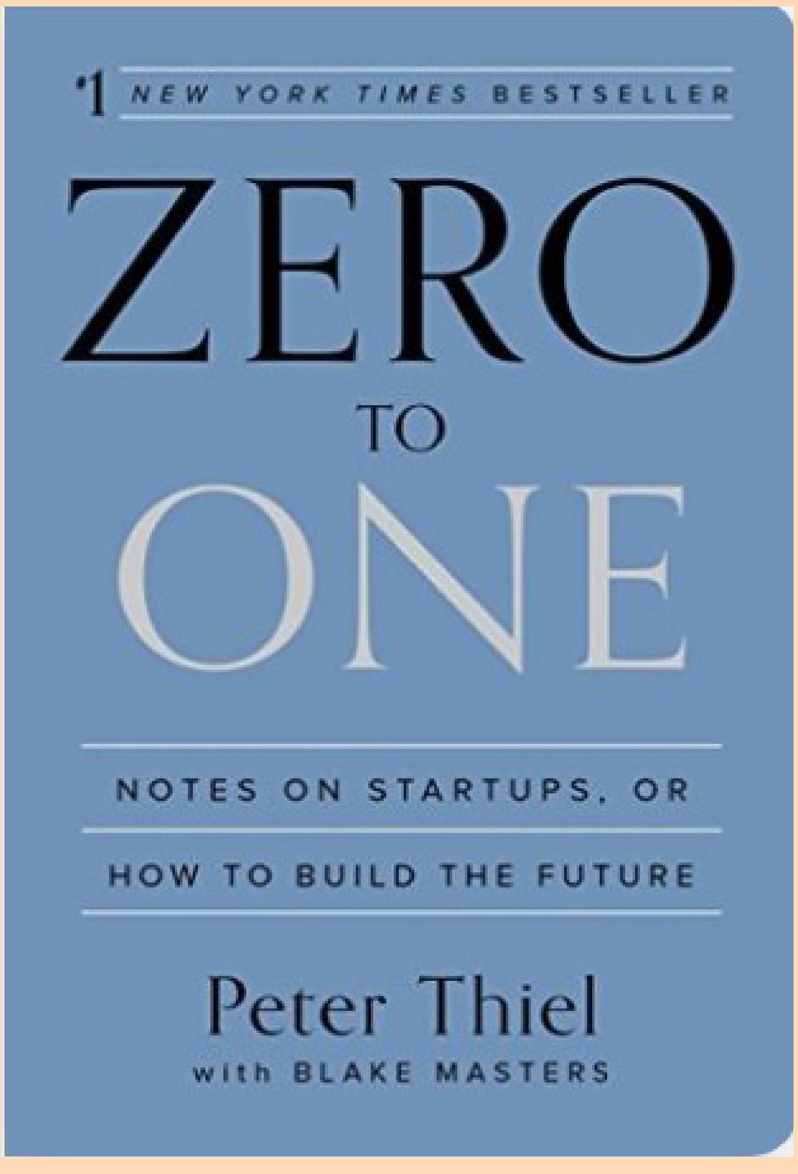
A recurring theme is Thiel's disdain for competitive markets. He insists that great businesses are built on monopolies, not rivalry. For Thiel, monopoly is not a dirty word but a description of companies that create unique value and can sustain it. He uses examples like Google to illustrate how monopolies innovate precisely because they are freed from the pressures of survival. This argument is deliberately provocative, but it is also intellectually stimulating, pushing readers to rethink the moral and strategic framing of market dominance.

The book also explores the psychology of founders. Thiel elevates the idea of the "definite optimist"—someone who believes the future can be shaped and has a plan to do so. He contrasts this with indefinite optimism, which assumes progress will happen without intentional design. This distinction becomes a critique of contemporary Western culture, which Thiel believes has lost its appetite for bold, long-term planning. His call for intentionality resonates strongly in an era of short-termism.

Thiel's reflections on startups themselves are crisp and practical. He emphasizes the importance of strong founding teams, arguing that the earliest hires determine a company's culture and trajectory. He is particularly insistent on the value of trust and cohesion, even suggesting that a startup should resemble a "cult" in its early days—an idea that is both intriguing and unsettling. His point, however, is clear: alignment is a competitive advantage.

The book's treatment of technology and innovation is refreshingly philosophical. Thiel argues that true innovation requires not just technical skill but deep thinking. He criticizes the tendency to chase trends—whether in social media, mobile apps, or AI—without asking whether these pursuits actually solve meaningful problems. His insistence on substance over hype is one of the book's most enduring lessons.

Thiel also challenges the myth of the lone genius. While he celebrates visionary founders, he stresses that successful companies are built through disciplined execution, not just inspiration. He critiques the romanticism of Silicon Valley and insists that building the future requires both imagination and operational rigor. This balanced view helps ground the book's more ambitious claims.



One of the more controversial sections deals with secrets—Thiel's belief that great businesses are built on discovering truths that others overlook. He encourages readers to ask what valuable idea they believe that few others agree with. This question, borrowed from his interview style, becomes a philosophical anchor for the book. It is a powerful prompt, though some may find it abstract or overly idealistic.

POETRY CORNER

Exiled Inheritance

By Ibrahim Mansaray

What debt remains when kinship turns to tollgate?
When the crimson soil where ancestors sleep
Is tilled by hands that hoard, that lie, that cheat,
And brothers weigh your worth in hoarded keep?
You, child of the ancient baobab's shade,
When kinfolk's fingers, sharp as obsidian's gleam,
Pluck your purse bare, does homeland's drum still persuade
Your feet to dance, or echo a broken dream?

The leopard, true, may not desert its spots,
But the wary hunter knows each rustling leaf.
Across the waters, you're cast to outside lots,
A stranger's tongue, a prayer met with disbelief.
Yet here, deception wears no subtle guise,
It flaunts its spoils with brazen, hollow grace.
The faraway cold is honest in its ice;
The homeland warmth, a viper's hiding place.
Which betrayal stings? The stranger's distant stare,
Or the cousin's grin, a plot to strip you bare?

When a serpent swallows its own tail, is that healing?
You gather your fragments, your hopes in sealed cases,
Abandon graves that taught you to mistrust.
The diaspora, a fractured mirror's faces,
Reflecting and mirroring, what? A spirit made of dust?
You send your bounty to rebuild those walls
That never shielded you from their design.
You feed the mouths that gnawed your legacy's calls,
And label this paradox "the divine."

Does the river ever forgive the stones that force its course?
Here is the riddle that gnaws the exile's bone:
If home is where the heart finds honest ground,
And hearts are shattered by those who share your tone,
What sanctuary has your wandering found?
The proverb speaks of wells and thirsty kin,
But when the well itself is poisoned at the source,
Is it treason to seek purer streams within?
To chart a course unburdened by remorse?

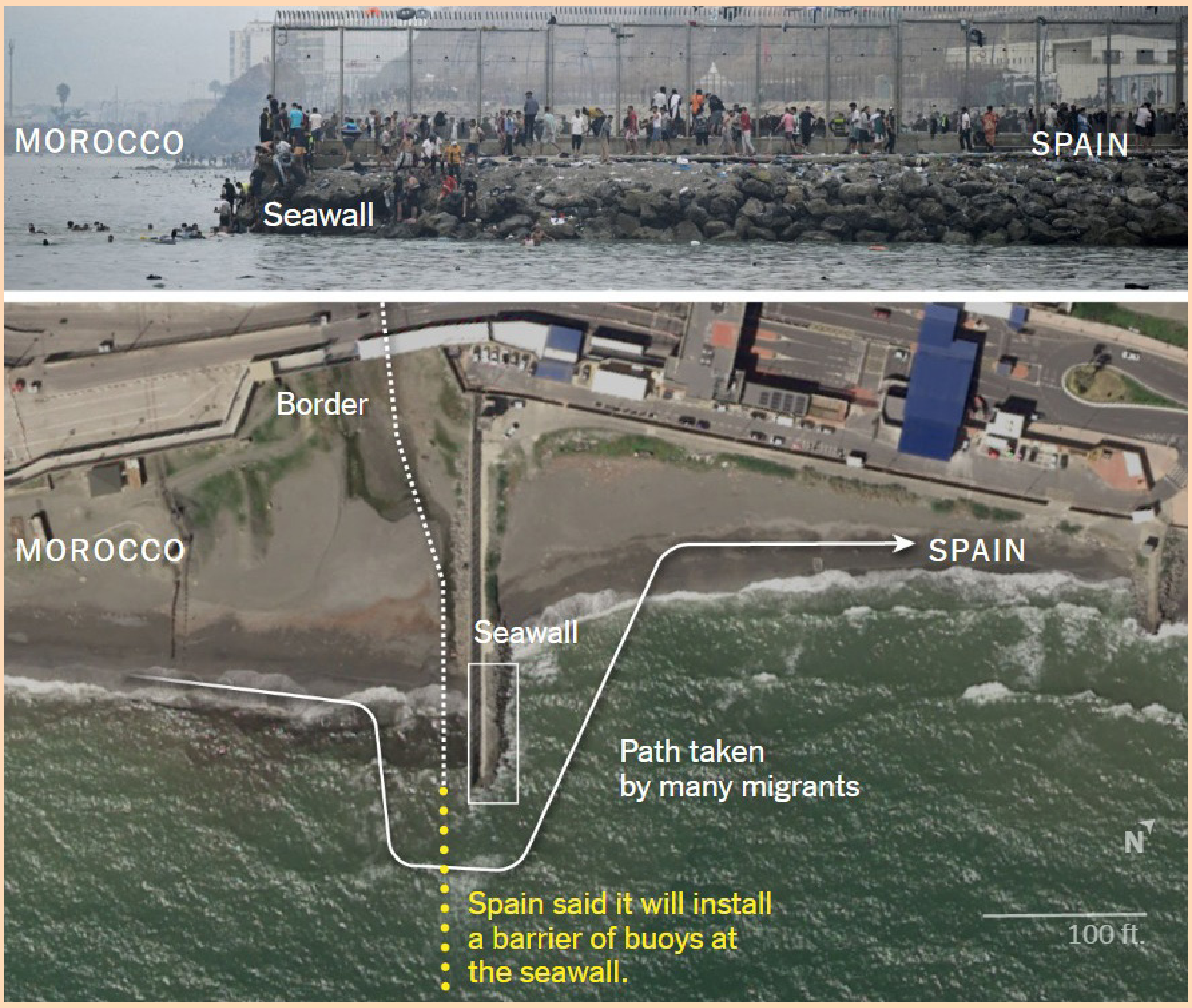
A bird forsakes its nest not out of spite,
But when the tree itself begins to fall.
In this mosaic of kingdoms, you're bought and dight,
Neither here nor there, answering no one's call.
Yet in this limbo, clarity shines bright:
Kinship is not geography, but grace.
The foreign soil, though alien, offers light;
The homeland dust, though known, betrays your face.
Sometimes the truest homeland is the end,
The journey's end where dignity can mend.

Fellow sojourner of the shifting shores:
When the mask of home reveals the skull beneath,
Is exile a wound, a trauma or the cure it restores?
When the heart's true compass seeks outsiders peace,
Does the soul betray its origin, or find release?
The child of red earth becomes a wandering root,
Carrying the baobab within an exile's pouch,
Nourished not by soil, but by the brutal fruit
Of knowing when the home fires turn to ash.
This migration is not from love, but from the lie;
The distance, not abandonment, but sight,
To see at last with unclouded eye
That home is where the soul finds its rightful light.

Day of Rage as Migrants Surge into Spain

They swam across a narrow channel to arrive in the tiny Spanish territory of Ceuta. They jumped over a border wall. They were mostly men, mostly Moroccan. Their underlying motives were familiar, but what prompted them to pour into Ceuta over a two-day period remained unclear, beyond the encouragement of a crowd.

“You ask why everyone came — because there’s no work in Morocco,” said Ajoub el-Arrot, 24, a Moroccan man wearing a beat-up Gucci cap and standing among thousands who were wandering on a beach in Ceuta Friday.



An estimated 50,000 to 60,000 migrants entered a small Spanish territory alongside Morocco on Thursday and Friday, according to Spanish authorities. Although at least 48,300 had returned to Morocco by Friday afternoon, the mass crossing prompted an immediate backlash from far-right politicians in Europe that seemed poised to linger.

Scenes of chaos in Ceuta (pronounced say-YOU-tah), the North African exclave that Spain has held for centuries, splashed across news networks and social media. Juan Jesús Vivas, the head of Ceuta’s government called the situation “absolutely unsustainable” in a territory with about 83,000 residents. At least 60 people died trying to enter the area, according to local officials.

Local authorities said they would not feed or shelter migrants who remained in Ceuta. Many said they hadn’t eaten in nearly two days.

By evening, some calm had returned to Ceuta. A few residents stepped out of their homes after remaining indoors for most of the day. A few groups of migrants lingered with empty water bottles.

The surge was quickly seized upon by Europe’s right-wing political parties as well as by members of the Trump administration. The most drastic response came from Italy, whose interior minister said the country would subject non-European Union citizens entering Italy from Spain to additional scrutiny during the month of August.

The lightning rod for much of the criticism was Spain’s prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, who has cast himself as a pro-immigration liberal and whose government announced a law allowing more than a million unauthorized migrants who had already been in Spain to apply to formalize their status. That provision does not apply to newcomers.

After mobilizing the Spanish military on Thursday, Mr. Sánchez arrived in Ceuta on Friday, where he condemned the mass crossings as an attack on Spain’s territorial integrity. He said his government would deploy buoys at a sea wall where many of the migrants had crossed.

Ceuta and another Spanish exclave in Morocco, Melilla, are part of both the European Union and the Schengen Area, which allows freedom of movement among member states. But the two cities operate under a special exemption that restricts onward travel to mainland Spain and the rest of the bloc. So far, no onward movements have taken place from Ceuta to mainland Spain or other E.U. member states, a senior E.U. official said on Friday afternoon.

Migrants began crossing into Ceuta in large numbers on Thursday. They climbed over border fences or swam, sometimes for hours, to its shores.

Several people said they had been encouraged to enter Ceuta by the Moroccan authorities. “They just kept saying, ‘Go that way, go that way,’” said Youssef Alaoui, 26, referring to police officers who he said pointed them in the right direction. He swam across the maritime border, he said, and saw several dead bodies in the water.

In recent years, as Morocco became a key staging ground for migrants seeking to reach Europe, Spain has depended on Moroccan border guards to prevent arrivals. Morocco’s government does not recognize Spain’s sovereignty over Ceuta and Melilla.

Tensions grew in the past when Morocco appeared to let more migrants move toward Ceuta, as a way to exert political pressure on Spain. In 2021, more than 10,000 people crossed into Ceuta in two days.

What Caused The Surge

When tens of thousands

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Adri Salido/Getty Images

A global approach to climate change requires private sector financial firepower

The world's poorest countries, especially those in Africa, are struggling to pay for a climate crisis they cannot afford.

More public debt is not the answer: climate investment needs exceed the lending capacity of multilateral finance institutions, and many African countries are already in a funding squeeze. What's needed are novel solutions—chiefly stepped-up private sector investment for climate action in poor countries. And these efforts cannot be simply country-based. They must be geared to achieve global goals for net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

The stakes in Africa are heightened because the continent will contribute the most to human population growth in coming decades. This will increase the need for funds to mitigate climate-warming emissions. At the same time, a greater share of the region's agriculture will be exposed to climate-linked productivity losses. Millions of families in Mali, Niger, and Senegal understand from experience the horror of desertification, which is set to worsen without climate action. On the other hand, Africa's large coastal cities—including Lagos, its most populous metropolis—have no meaningful defense against rising oceans.

Based on the size of their economies, African countries face a disproportionate burden to avoid the worst of climate change. For example, while China needs to raise its annual climate mitigation spending by 2 percent of GDP through 2030, Cameroon needs to increase spending by 9 percent of GDP, according to the World Bank's 2023 Country Climate and Development Reports. The five countries of the West African Sahel—Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger—some of the poorest in the world, need to increase spending by about 8 percent of GDP on average.

The continent's required climate funding comes on top of the existing need for development financing, in addition to resources for COVID crisis recovery. Inadequate and missing public services in health, transportation, and education in many African countries hold back economic growth—and some have resorted to debt to address development financing gaps.

Additional borrowing to pay for climate mitigation is not a good option, for at least three reasons.

First, poor countries have limited ability to borrow. They must either pay above-market rates to borrow in international debt markets (Olabisi and Stein 2015) or must accept burdensome conditions from multilateral and development lending institutions. With rising debt, the ratios of service payments to revenues are troubling for many governments. Among the continent's largest economies, South Africa's had debt of nearly 70 percent of GDP in 2021; Nigeria's was about 40 percent. The pressure to spend and governments' inability to do so have the makings of a crisis that is not entirely of the countries' making.

Second, investment needs are beyond the capacity of the world's multilateral lending and development institutions. The global need for investment to address the worst of climate change exceeds $1.3 trillion a year for the next decade. This amount will not address all climate issues; it will only avoid the worst effects. The African Development Bank estimates that Africa needs to spend $3 trillion by 2030. For context, all sub-Saharan Africa combined had a GDP of $2 trillion in 2022. Even if you added the entire $1 trillion lending capacity of the IMF to the $400 billion lending portfolio of the World Bank, it is clear that the global financial institutions do not have the lending capacity to address climate change at the speed and scale needed. If the lending capacity of the regional development banks is added to the mix, we would come close to the scale of financing needed. But in that case banks would do little else over the next decades but finance the green transition and urgently needed climate adaptation.

MICHAEL OLABISI, Assistant Professor, Michigan State University

Third, public debt may not be the most effective financing mechanism for some of the most promising climate interventions. Debt may not always work as a means to deploy relatively recent technologies at scale, often in settings where such technologies are untested. Some of the principal technologies for climate mitigation or adaptation—such as solar- or wind-powered irrigation for farmland or retrofitting residences and industrial sites—do not fit the mold of typical debt-funded public projects. Much of the necessary climate funding is to prevent severe human and economic losses. The auxiliary goal of climate financing is to boost the adaptive capacity of local economies. Neither boosting adaptive capacity nor avoiding asset losses looks, in principle, like a bankable venture that can produce a steady cashflow stream.

Climate-friendly finance

In exploring new ideas, one possibility is the supplementation of debt with other financing arrangements that meet the challenge of climate change.

Africa is a prime location to create opportunity from this crisis. The need for energy fits with the abundant renewable energy potential of the continent. Africa's solar potential greatly exceeds its fossil fuel resources. If high-income countries are looking for markets, Africa is poised to have 2 billion consumers of food, energy, and water by 2050. If the need is for labor and new ideas, the youthful population of the region is seeking opportunities for work. The world can choose to leapfrog the impending multiple crises of climate and development financing by setting the conditions for a rapid transition to sustainable energy and responsible natural resource consumption for the region, while it is still a continent of 1.2 billion.

This challenge calls for novel approaches to financing. Spending to address climate change is not optional, given the severe human and economic losses that accompany unmitigated greenhouse gas emissions. For many African countries, there is no fiscal policy wiggle room for structural adjustment.

MISCELLANEOUS

Officials of the National Development-Induced Resettlement (NDIR) Steering Committee at a recent meeting on enforcement agenda at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED) Office in Freetown.

NatCA Steps Up Cybersecurity Crackdown

The National Communications Authority (NatCA) has intensified efforts to strengthen Sierra Leone's digital defences amid what officials describe as rapidly evolving cybersecurity threats. The regulator has launched an extensive monitoring exercise and stepped up coordination with government institutions, law enforcement agencies, licensed telecommunications operators, and other critical stakeholders to curb rising cyber risks.

In a notice to the industry, NatCA directed all communications service providers and digital platforms to reinforce their cybersecurity systems, report breaches without delay, and comply strictly with established security standards. By placing clear responsibility on private sector operators who manage access to essential digital infrastructure, the Authority signalled a firmer regulatory posture in safeguarding national networks.

NatCA reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring the security, resilience, and integrity of Sierra Leone's electronic communications ecosystem. It warned that cyber incidents carry significant financial and operational consequences, capable of crippling businesses, undermining consumer trust, and threatening national security.

Beyond regulatory directives, the Authority urged citizens to adopt safer digital habits. Residents were advised to avoid suspicious links and messages, protect personal data, and use multi factor authentication wherever possible to strengthen account security. NatCA stressed that cybersecurity is a shared responsibility and that public vigilance is essential.

The Authority also highlighted the broader economic stakes. Sierra Leone's digital economy, it noted, cannot thrive if foundational security weaknesses persist. Foreign investors assessing market opportunities will weigh cyber risks heavily, while multinational firms handling local transactions may demand stronger assurances or shift sensitive operations to countries with more robust cyber protections.

Migrants Surge into Spain

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of migrants began crossing on Thursday into Spanish territory in Africa, leading to chaotic scenes and political infighting across Europe, there was one major question that sparked wildly different explanations. How did this happen?

Among the theories:

- The European far right joined the White House in accusing Spain's prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, of inspiring the crossings with his migrant-friendly policies.
- Mr. Sánchez blamed human-trafficking networks for misleading migrants about the ease with which they could remain on Spanish territory.
- Migrants said in interviews that the Moroccan authorities had encouraged their crossing.

In reality, said Krzysztof Borowski, a spokesman for the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, "It's too early to give a real account of why this surge happened, or how it moved so fast."

Here's why the surge prompted such speculation.

The Queues, the Prices, the Anxiety

Continued from **PAGE 10**

an American overseas because of our political situation," Ms. Lehrman said.

"Then there was the cancellation of Global Entry and T.S.A. delays, and now with the war, I quite frankly feel unsafe."

ENERGY UPDATE

Governments Activate Emergency Energy Measures

Energy security has re-emerged as a top global priority as governments navigate successive shocks—from post pandemic supply chain disruptions to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and new conflicts in the Middle East. By 2026, 60 countries had legally established emergency oil reserves, and gas stockholding requirements expanded significantly after 2022. These measures reflect a

Geopolitical Tensions Dominate Energy Agenda

The Atlantic Council's 2026 Global Energy Agenda highlights how geopolitical uncertainty—rather than affordability debates—has become the dominant force shaping global energy systems. Conflicts in the Middle East, US–Venezuela tensions, and broader geopolitical rivalry have pushed energy security to the forefront of policymaking. Nearly half of surveyed experts identified conflict as the single greatest driver of energy disruption in 2025.

World Energy Council Warns of Strain

The 2026 World Energy Issues Monitor shows that global energy systems are transforming faster than their foundations can support. Even before the Middle East conflict escalated, leaders identified geopolitical threats as the defining feature of the energy landscape. Energy transitions are bending, stalling, and accelerating unpredictably, with investment and cooperation increasingly constrained by geopolitical pressures.

STATISTICAL SIERRA LEONE