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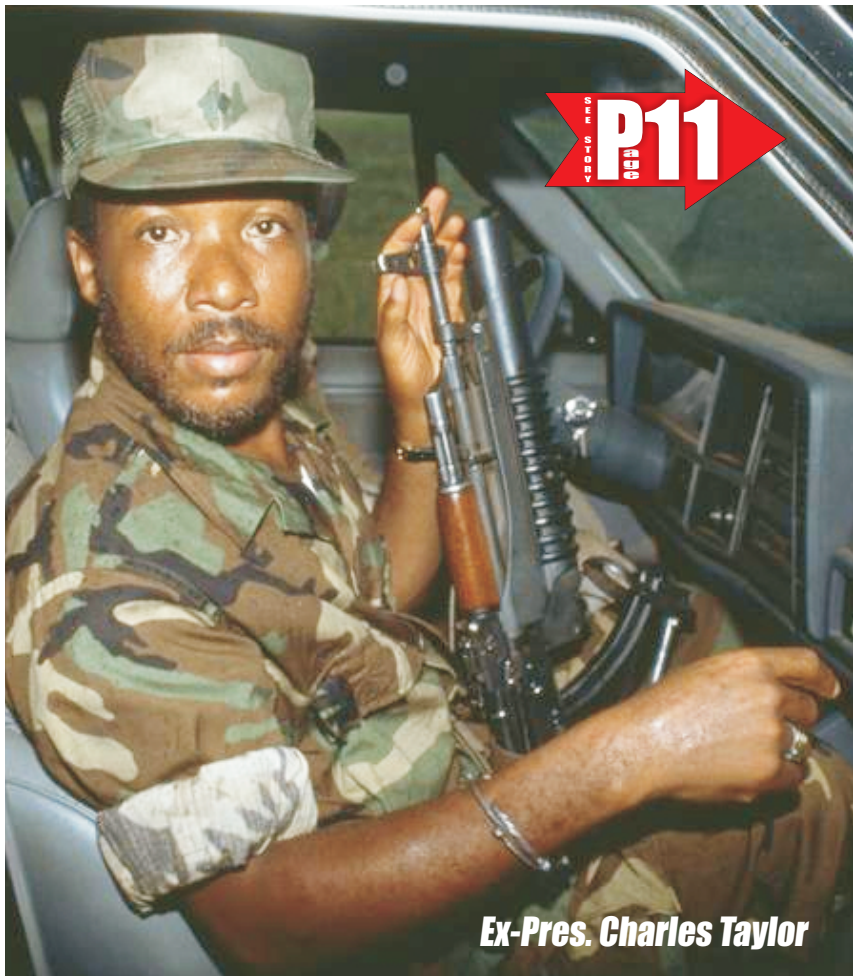
Public Service Announcement

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND ALL OUR CLIENTS & READERS THAT THE BUSINESS AND NEWSPAPER OFFICES OF THE NEW DAWN NEWSPAPER HAVE BEEN RELOCATED ON UN DRIVE OPPOSITE THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION (NIC), BEHIND PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY.

VOL.10 NO. 21

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020

PRICE LD\$40.00



Ex-Pres. Charles Taylor

P11

I did not buy arms for Charles Taylor

-Urey

RIA highway expansion to complete in 3 years



P11



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Continental News

Lesotho PM to be charged with murdering his wife

Lesotho's Prime Minister Thomas Thabane, 80, is to be charged with the murder of his estranged wife Lipolelo Thabane, police have said.

Mr Thabane announced he would be stepping down in July because of old age, without commenting about the case. His current wife Maesaiah Thabane has already been charged with the murder.

He would be the first African leader to be charged with a domestic murder while in office, in a case that has shocked the tiny mountain kingdom. Lipolelo, 58, was shot dead two days before Mr Thabane became prime minister in 2017.

At the time, he described her killing as "senseless" but police now accuse him of being involved in her killing.

"The prime minister is going to be charged with the



Thomas Thabane (centre) at his inauguration in 2017 with Maesaiah Thabane, while King Letsie III (right) looks on

murder," Deputy Commissioner of Police Paseka Mokete was quoted by Reuters news agency as saying.

"The police are preparing directives and he will probably

be charged tomorrow [Friday]," he added. What does the prime minister say?

Mr Thabane said on state radio that he had served the nation "diligently" and he

would retire at the end of July, Reuters reports.

"I've worked for a peaceful and stable Lesotho. Today... at my age, I have lost most of my energy," he was quoted as saying.

The ruling All Basotho Convention had given him a deadline of Thursday to resign. Lesotho's prime minister is not going down without a fight - his party, the All Basotho Convention (ABC) and its leadership, were expecting him to accept an ultimatum to step down ahead of the opening of parliament on Friday but he has refused.

But it now looks highly unlikely that he will be appearing at parliament on Friday as planned.

It's a desperate time for Mr Thabane, who has lost favour with his allies in this coalition

government. He is now seen as a sinking ship and they do not want to go down with him.

The prime minister is running out of time and room to manoeuvre - the country's police want him charged and hauled before a court, all by the end of this week.

His arrest will not only be a great humiliation to the prime minister but could also plunge the country in a constitutional crisis - it's not every day that a sitting leader is charged with a crime.

Lipolelo was gunned down at close range on the side of a dirt road while returning to her home in a small village on the outskirts of the capital, Maseru.

She was involved in bitter divorce proceedings with Mr Thabane when she was killed.

At the time, the prime

Pregnant behind bars with a 2-year-old kid

Elif Aydin, 31, is one of the educators arrested in Turkey over the past three years. She was two-months pregnant when she was sent to prison in the western province of Gebze on May 25, 2018. She also had two kids, 6 and 3 years old at that time.

She couldn't leave behind her younger child, Musab; thus, she brought him along to prison. They did not provide a separate bed for her son in the eight-person ward. The pregnant woman stayed by sharing the same

bed with his son in prison for months.

The pro-Kurdish People's Democratic Party (HDP) deputy Ömer Faruk Gergerlioglu, a prominent human rights activist, has been fighting for her release from prison.

Turkish law forbids the arrest of pregnant women; however, this ban has not been applied for suspects from the Gulen movement and of Kurdish origin.

Gergerlioglu filed a complaint on July 1, 2018, with the Supreme Council of Judges

and Prosecutors (HSYK) against the judge and prosecutor who gave the arrest decision for Elif Aydin. A response from HSYK to his complaint came 1.5 years later. They have not investigated it so far.

"By this decision, HSYK has become an accomplice to this crime," Gergerlioglu said.

Elif Aydin, on the other hand, is trying to be the voice of other arrested pregnant women by revealing what she had been through.

Aydin: "I fell downstairs twice"

"I was the director of a private student residence. That was the only accusation leveled against me. My husband had stayed in prison for a year over links to the Gulen movement. They arrested me nine months after he was released from jail. I left my older child behind and took Musab in prison with me. And I was pregnant with my third child. We all three were trying to sleep in the same bed.

"I fell downstairs twice and was taken to the hospital. My kid, Musab, also fell downstairs several times, and his face and eyes got hurt. The ward was an eight-person ward, but there were times also where nine people had been staying in our ward. The prison is tough for a

Ethiopian 18th Century crown returns home

An 18th Century Ethiopian crown has been returned home after being hidden in a Dutch flat for more than 20 years.

Ethiopian Sirak Asfaw, who fled to the Netherlands in the late 1970s, found the crown in 1998 in the suitcase of a visitor and realised it was stolen.

The management consultant protected it until he alerted a historian and Dutch police of his discovery last year.

Mr Sirak left his home country in 1978 to escape the political repression of the Communist government, or Derg, which had come to power in 1974. The regime unleashed a wave of violence known as the Red Terror, which killed hundreds of thousands and forced many to leave.

The former refugee used to host Ethiopians who had left the country in his Rotterdam flat throughout the 1980s and 1990s. "Friends, refugees,



The crown has depictions of Jesus Christ

On Thursday, Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed received the crown, thought to be one of just 20 in existence. The crown has depictions of Jesus Christ, God and the Holy Spirit, as well as Jesus' disciples, and was probably given to a church by the powerful warlord Welde Sellase hundreds of years ago.

In a tweet, Mr Abiy said he was grateful to Mr Sirak and the Dutch government for the return of the "precious

whoever," he said. It was one of these visitors staying at his home in 1998 who was carrying the crown in his bag.

"Most people don't really care about this cultural heritage. I'm loyal to Ethiopia," he told the BBC in an interview last year.

Mr Sirak confronted the man and insisted the crown was not leaving unless it could be returned to its home.



EDITORIAL

Our hearts bleed for Journalist Miller

LIBERIAN JOURNALISTS CURRENTLY mourn the sudden passing of one of their very best, Kobo Zenu Miller of OK FM 99.5 on Saturday, 14 February after an cruel encounter with state security forces during a national county sports meet in January at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville.

A PROFICIENT BROADCASTER, talk show host and sports commentator, the late Zenu had gone to commentate or cover the match between Grand Kru and Nimba counties when he reportedly encountered ruthless officers of the elite presidential guard, Executive Protective Service who beat him on 26 January 2020, leaving him to complain of chest pains up to his abrupt demise.

"I WAS ATTACKED tonight at the SKD ["Samuel Kanyon Doe" Stadium] by EPS [Executive Protective Service] officers in the full view of the EPS director. Gosh!!!", Zenu had posted subsequently on his Facebook page following the incident.

WHAT LEVEL OF investigation was conducted by the EPS following the alleged flogging is not clear but Zenu departed this world in pain, abandoning his loving family and relatives, friends and professional colleagues. He reportedly died at the ELWA Hospital in Paynesville.

THOUGH THE REAL cause of death may be established later, we demand a thorough investigation from the government, especially, authorities of the EPS to ascertain what transpired on 26 January that led to the brutal flogging of the deceased and his subsequent death.

NOTWITHSTANDING, THIS IS how much we know about security brutalities resulting to injuries and deaths under the Weah administration: On January 6, armed police dispersed peaceful protesters with teargas and water canisters, arresting at least 26 on the grounds of the Capitol where they had converged to demand answers from the government to earlier petitions, while on Tuesday, 15 October 2019 police teargassed protesting students in the streets of Monrovia, demanding their teachers to return to the classroom. Then on November 7, 2019 police shot and killed a teenager and wounded two others in Kingsville, Montserrado County while dispersing angry residents, who had erected a roadblock to demand the death of a juvenile. A year later, a police commander had chased a motorcyclist and shot him at point blank before shooting himself in his hand, portraying that he was attack. These are among some of the many excesses by state security forces against the civilian population over the period.

THAT THE LATE Journalist Miller wrote on his Facebook following his beating by EPS officers the incident happened in the presence of the director of the institution, Trokon Roberts, is of grave concern and should be investigated. How the EPS chief could allegedly allowed such inhumane behavior occurred in his presence without intervening?

EVEN AFTER THE incident, there was no official condemnation or comment because attacks against journalists in Liberia have become a norm. From time to time, journalists have been manhandled and their gadgets destroyed by state security officers without proper redress. This has to stop! These are patriotic citizens providing selfless contributions to the Motherland. They should be accorded due courtesies and respect.

ZENU DID NOT deserve to have died the way he departed - at the cruel hands of security officers protecting the President. This is why the authorities should conduct an investigation characterized by an autopsy to unearth nothing else but the whole truth.

THE JOURNALISM PROFESSION, the Press Union of Liberia and the entire country have lost one of the best species of ours while serving in the line of duty at the time he was needed more. Our hearts bleed for his early departure in a manner that is so despicable.

The New Dawn
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Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 /
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan
K. Browne www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

COMMENTARY

By Aryeh Neier

China's Great Leap into Epidemic

The COVID-19 outbreak in China is not the first public-health emergency enabled by the absence of freedom of speech in China, and it is far from the worst. Between 1958 and 1962, the inability to criticize bad policy led to a famine that killed an estimated 36 million Chinese.

NEW YORK - Before the world had any knowledge of the new coronavirus that has sparked a global panic a Wuhan-based ophthalmologist, Li Wenliang, noticed something strange in a few patients. They seemed to have contracted an unfamiliar virus that resembled severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), which hobbled China nearly a generation ago. A few days later, after Li had sent a warning message to several doctors in a group chat, the 34-year-old doctor was summoned by the police, who forced him to sign a letter confessing to "making false comments" that had "disrupted the social order." Li is now dead, a victim of the very virus - now called COVID-19 - about which he sounded the alarm.

Li's death - together with further revelations of China's efforts to silence COVID-19 whistleblowers - has sparked global outrage, and rightly so. Had the government been more concerned about protecting public health than suppressing unflattering information, it may have been able to prevent the virus from spreading. So far, COVID-19 has infected more than 74,000 in China alone, with over 2,000 dead.

And yet this is not the first time that the denial of freedom of speech has been linked to a deadly public health emergency in China. When the SARS epidemic began in 2002, the Chinese authorities also initially attempted to cover it up.

Fortunately, Hu Shuli - the founder and managing editor of Caijing, a business weekly - exposed officials' machinations relatively quickly. After learning that patients in Beijing had mysterious fevers, she sent journalists to hospitals to interview physicians. Caijing's reporting helped force China's leaders to acknowledge SARS publicly - the first step toward bringing the virus under control. Still, by the time SARS was contained, the virus had spread to more than 8,000 people worldwide and killed almost 800.

But repression of free speech in China has an even more disturbing public-health pedigree. It also played a significant role in enabling the devastation caused by Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward - the greatest calamity China has faced since the Communist Party took power in 1949.

In 1958, Mao decided that, in order to achieve rapid industrialization, villagers should be forcibly herded into communes, where they would perform industrial tasks that elsewhere would have relied on machines and factories. For example, millions were tasked with producing steel in small backyard furnaces, often by melting down farming implements.

By diverting labor into highly inefficient small-scale industry, the Great Leap Forward gutted agricultural production, resulting in severe food shortages, which persisted even after the initiative was ended in 1960. According to the Chinese journalist Yang Jisheng - whose

authoritative account of the resulting famine, based on two decades of research, was published in Hong Kong in 2008 - no fewer than 36 million Chinese starved to death between 1958 and 1962.

As with COVID-19, vital information about the calamitous consequences of the Great Leap Forward was suppressed from the very beginning. At first, the central government authorities were largely unaware of the disaster unfolding in the countryside, owing to local officials' reluctance to relay information that might be deemed critical of Mao.

But even when China's top leaders learned of the famine, they kept the matter quiet, rather than appealing for outside assistance. Protecting Mao's reputation was the top priority, and, given China's extreme international isolation at the time, the outside world would not find out unless the Chinese told them.

Suppression of the truth about the Great Leap Forward persists to this day, with party officials preferring to downplay the tragedy by portraying it as the result of bad weather conditions. Yang's book still cannot be published in mainland China.

The link between famine and freedom of speech is not limited to China. As the Indian philosopher and Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen noted some two decades ago, "no famine has ever taken place in the history of the world in a functioning democracy." Leaders who depend on the support of voters with the freedom to criticize public policies are generally unlikely to uphold policies that cause those voters to starve.

This has not been the case in, say, Zimbabwe, where about half the population - some 7.7 million people - currently face food insecurity, according to the World Food Program. Unprecedented levels of malnutrition beset eight of Zimbabwe's 59 districts.

Zimbabwe has long been known as "the breadbasket of Africa," thanks to its relatively mild climate. But climate change is taking its toll. Making matters worse, decades of economic mismanagement by Robert Mugabe - who dispensed with democratic accountability during his 37-year-long rule, which ended when the military forced him to resign in 2017 - have produced runaway inflation, high unemployment, fuel shortages, and prolonged power outages. All of this has worsened Zimbabweans' plight significantly.

Freedom of expression is about far more than direct political dissent or tolerance of ideas, acts, or images that we find offensive. As Sen wrote in 1990, "one set of freedoms - to criticize, to publish, to vote - are causally linked with other types of freedoms," such as "the freedom to escape starvation and famine mortality." To that list we should add "the freedom to avoid death by COVID-19."



Lord, they identify with the good and dissociate themselves from the bad

Dear Father:

You know, come to think of it since the Country Giant and his people took over this village there has been nothing that has gone wrong I can lay my hands on that they have really taken responsibility for.

Trust me Father, there is not one bad thing the Country Giant and his followers has taken blame for rather they take credit for every good thing that happens to the village, while the bad ones are blamed on the Old Lady who barely spends time in this village (even though she deserves some as well) or her predecessors.

You know, it's like Jude said in the Good Old Book-he said these are "filthy dreamers". And for their followers, they speak evil of dignitaries of those things they know not. As for them what they know naturally like brute beast, in those things they corrupt themselves.

And believe you me Father, this has become the routine in our village-the failure to men up and take responsibility has long disappeared in our village as our meager resources are being plunder while the villagers groan in abject poverty.

Oh, yes Father. When the prices of the village stable goes up, they either blame the Old Lady or the founders of our village; when thieves at the village power house negligently cause power failure, they blamed the Old Lady or her predecessors; when some aggrieved persons get on our dusty roads to complain about the way things are going in the village they blamed people from the Old Lady's camp who are still in their midst as the cause of the problem or undermines.

Oh and don't be an outsider that try to speak the truth to power-soon they will call you an enemy of the state. Where are we really headed as a village, I wonder?

Again you know, it's like the common saying, when you have a problem and refused to acknowledge that you are your own nightmare but rather think other people are the cause of your problem then you have a complex.

My son, where are you going with all of these today? Father, just the other day there was no black gold in our village. I mean, this created a huge problem for all the villagers except for the big, big people.

The first thing instead of taking responsibility, the people began to lie from one end to another trading blames at each other as usual till they roped in the Old Lady-chey. Am very certain that when the rainy season starts and everywhere gets flooded, they will start the blame game from the days of the old fray light skin Old Man to the Old Lady. So why are they there?

Father that is a very good question. The thing is the last time I checked, they told us they were coming to change the way things have been done in the past. But trust me, they keep blaming the past till sometimes I wonder when they will ever tackle the present before I even mention the future.

And as if that was not enough, one road design which the Old Lady and her people made few years ago is now being paraded as if they were the ones that made the design-complete hypocrisy-identifying with the good and dissociating with the bad from the same regime. How ironic. I wonder those posting those pictures know the origin-just wondering.



USAID | LIBERIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and her donor partners procure and supply more than 60% of program drugs for Liberia and support the warehousing and distribution of the drugs and other medical commodities to public health facilities all over Liberia, in support of the Ministry of Health. To optimize the commodity supply chain and enhance the Government of Liberia's ability to efficiently store and distribute health commodities to thirty six (36) hospitals, thirteen county(13) depots and nearly two hundred (200) health facilities in Montserrado and Margibi Counties around the country where they are most needed, this Request for Information (RFI) is published to enable USAID access the market for companies capable and interested in providing sundry logistics services defined in the "Description of Services," enclosed.

DISCLAIMER

This is a request For Information Only. It is not a Request for Proposal, Request for Quotation, an Invitation for Bids, a Solicitation or an indication that USAID/Liberia will contract for the services. The RFI is an attempt to reach out to the market to determine the scope of industry capabilities and interest and will be treated as information only. In accordance with FAR 15.201 (e), responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government of the United States to form a binding contract. Responses are strictly voluntary, and USAID will not pay respondents for information provided. Responses will not be returned, and respondents will not be notified of the result of the review. If request for proposal (RFP) is issued, it will be sent to a selective set of companies at a later date, and all interested parties must respond to that solicitation separately from any response to this notice. The RFI does not restrict the Government's acquisition approach on a future solicitation.

INSTRUCTIONS

To respond to this RFI, interested sources must provide not more than ten (10) pages in Microsoft Word or PDF format by Friday, March 6, 2020, 12:00 PM, Liberian time. USAID will host a market event at a date, time, and place to be provided to qualified firms who respond to this RFI. The purpose of this market day event is to provide more details about the RFI and answer questions from interested parties. Interested parties wishing to attend the market day event should send their request and business registration documents to Edward S. Lamin at elamin@usaid.gov with copy to Thomatta Cooper at tcooper@usaid.gov no later than Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at the precise hour of 5:00 PM. **Please note that only parties responded to by USAID will be allowed to attend the market day event.** Interested parties may also send questions prior to the market event by email. Please submit questions for the market Event and response to the RFI to Edward Lamin at elamin@usaid.gov and Thomatta Cooper at tcooper@usaid.gov. Interested sources must provide a capability statement expressing interest and documenting ability to meet the requirements in the Description of Services enclosed. They must also provide Full Name, Address, Contact Person and their Title.

Sincerely


Judy J. Webb
Supervisory Contracting Officer

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The purpose of the Description of Services is to provide concise details of each service area for which USAID wishes to identify relevant private sector actors. It is also intended to inform parties who may be interested in the RFI as to what quality of capability the RFI seeks to identify in the Supply Chain Industry.

- 1. Warehouse Co-Management** – The RFI seeks to identify firms capable of providing modern warehouse mentoring service to existing warehouse management team while co-managing the Central Medicine Store (CMS) for at least two years, after which they should have trained and enabled the current management team to independently and efficiently manage the Central Medicine Store (CMS). The CMS, located in Caldwell, Montserrado County is a 55M X 68M, 12M high government owned fully equipped multi-million-dollar modern health commodity warehouse manned by a staff of fifty (50). It has at least eight (8) management and operations offices, three (3) cold rooms and storage racks totaling two thousand five hundred and fifty-three (2553) units. It is fitted with two forklifts (2019 Cat 14 1.4tons and 2018 Jungeinrich 1.2 tons). Commodities are managed through an electronic data management system, mSupply.
- 2. Equipment Maintenance Services** – The RFI seeks to identify firms capable of providing regular maintenance for a fleets of nine (9) trucks, five (5) Toyota Land Cruiser, two Toyota Hilux, one (1) 36-seated bus and two (2) 250KVA generators under a one year, renewable, service contract. Interested firms must show evidence of similar services performed and client reference.
- 3. Health Commodity Distribution/haulage** – The RFI seeks to identify logistics firms capable of providing transportation services with at least 5% cold chain to thirty-six (36) public and faith base hospitals around the country, thirteen (13) county depots and more than two hundred health facilities in Montserrado and Margibi counties, four times a year. Firms must proffer innovative approaches for getting health commodities to hard-to-reach areas in the South Eastern and Northern flanks of the country where difficult geography and bad terrains constrain movement of commodities, especially during the rainy season. The RFI seeks firms that have their own fleet, can show evidence of previous or on-going large distribution activities with references; and willing to enter a two year, renewable, commitment.



SOLICITATION NUMBER: VA-669-20-00004

ISSUANCE DATE: 02/19/2020
 CLOSING DATE/TIME: 03/09/2020 (17:30 local time)

SUBJECT: Solicitation for the AID Financial Management/Budget Analyst, Cooperating Country National Personal Service Contractor (CCNPSC)

Dear Prospective Offerors:

The United States Government, represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is seeking offers from qualified persons to provide personal services under contract as described in this solicitation.

Offers must be in accordance with Attachment 1, Sections I through III of this solicitation. Incomplete or unsigned offers will not be considered. Offerors should retain copies of all offer materials for their records.

This solicitation in no way obligates USAID to award a PSC contract, nor does it commit USAID to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of the offers.

Any questions must be directed in writing to the Point of Contact specified in the attached information.

Sincerely,

/s/

Robert W. Appiah
 Supervisory Executive Officer

ATTACHMENT 1**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

SOLICITATION NO: VA-669-20-00004

1. **ISSUANCE DATE:** 02/19/2020
2. **CLOSING DATE/TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** 03/09/2020 at 17:30 Monrovia time
3. **POSITION TITLE:** Financial Management/Budget Analyst
4. **MARKET VALUE:** 35,104.00 to USD 56,160.00 equivalent to CCN-10 in accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of the US Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia. Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value.
5. **PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** Initial two years with possibility of extension depending on need, performance, and availability of funding. This is considered a permanent position.

Employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of series of sequential contract; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.
6. **PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia with possible travel as stated in the statement of duties.
7. **SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility and computer access
8. **STATEMENT OF DUTIES**

A. BASIC FUNCTION OF THE POSITION

This Health Program Management Specialist (HPMS) will provide operational support to ensure that the Health Team is responsive to all Agency programming/budgeting requirements by maintaining oversight of programming cycles, initiating data gathering, analysis and preparing Health Office fiscal/financial reports in a timely manner. The Health Program Management Specialist, (HPMS) will be in charge of coordinating all health program procurements working closely with the Office of Acquisition and Assistance (OAA) office. The HPMS will additionally provide advisory support by staying abreast of Agency and Office of Financial Management (OFM) programming/budgeting protocols, and alerting/assisting the Health Team (including AORs/CORs) in the operational budget planning process, GLAAS actions, and preparation of all budgetary reporting. In an advisory capacity, the HPMS will additionally take the lead in periodically monitoring Health Office and GOL compliance with the fiscal terms and conditions of Implementation Letters (ILs), and assist the Health Team in mitigating any corrective actions that should be addressed, particularly related to public financial management. The HPMS will be specifically responsible for periodic monitoring of implementation instruments and performance to ensure that health portfolio activities adhere to Agency environmental compliance requirements.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, PROCUREMENT and BUDGETING (85%)**

- Liaises with the Office of Financial Management and Democracy, Rights and Governance Office on topics related to public financial management within GOL systems, particularly related to USAID's government-to-government activities, for the purposes of ensuring accountability for USAID funding as well as building capacity within the Liberian system.
- As the Health Team's budget specialist, s/he in close coordination with the Program Office helps assure effective budget management operations in the Health team. S/he coordinates and maintains health annual budgets, prepares and maintains accurate and up-to-date health procurement/financial plans, and prepares various health budget reports. S/he is responsible for the tracking of health program budget, procurement actions (log-book), financial plan (current obligations, reservations, sub-obligations, pipeline accruals, and future funding/program actions). S/he serves as focal point for all procurement requests/GLAAS for the technical office. S/he works with Health Team members to address any adverse pipeline issues.
- Assists program management staff in setting up meetings with host government counterparts, and in negotiating the clearance of project documents through host government channels.
- Works closely with AORs, CORs, and other requestors to ensure that GLAAS actions are correctly executed.
- In conjunction with Phoenix, maintains financial spreadsheets on Health Office activities for each grant/contract, including obligations, earmarks, commitments, disbursements, pipelines, etc., and produces reports on the financial status of activities as required by the Health Team Leader and/or Mission management. Provides inputs for the Congressional Presentation and Annual Budget submissions.
- Assists AORs/CORs in monitoring financial performance of contractors/grantees and maintains a financial report tracking system. Reviews and clear invoices/vouchers to assure compliance with the terms of contract/grants agreements. Recommends administrative approvals or brings to the notice of the AOR/CORs any discrepancy which does not appear appropriate. Prepares reports on funding availability and recommends funding utilization by budget code.
- Coordinates budget, reporting and other needed implementation documentation tasks with the Program Office and provides financial quality control for the Health Team.
- Takes the initiative to coordinate with the OAA, AOR/CORs to process all procurement functions.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE (15%)

- Advises the Health Office on environmental compliance issues and the impact of programmatic decisions as they pertain to USAID environmental regulatory compliance.
- Ensures that all activities in the health portfolio, particularly G2G activities, comply with USAID compliance rules.
- Provides support to USAID partners on environmental mitigation and monitoring, implementation of the Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, and environmental monitoring and reporting.
- Represents the Health Office on the Environmental Compliance Team and builds capacity in the Mission for environmental compliance. Improves environmental compliance monitoring throughout the Mission, and ensures best environmental practices are being followed.
- Works closely with Health Office AORs/CORs to ensure that all health portfolio activities have required and proper environmental compliance documents in place.

9. POSITION ELEMENTS:

- a. **Supervision Received:** This position reports directly to the Health Office Director.
- b. **Supervision Exercised:** None.
- c. **Available Guidelines:** The incumbent is provided with programmatic guidance on overall objectives, priorities, and deadlines; relevant operational guidance from AFR/SD and USAID/Liberia; and USAID regulations and policies. The incumbent must interpret the guidance for application to specific situations
- d. **Exercise of Judgment:** The use of good judgment as well as the financial and environmental compliance advice offered by the incumbent has a significant impact on successful implementation of project activities and achievement of program results. The incumbent must be able to exercise independent judgment in prioritizing assigned tasks and implementation issues.
- e. **Authority to Make Commitments:** The employee will have no independent authority to make resource commitments on behalf of the US Government, USAID, or the Mission's Health Office.
- f. **Nature, Level, and Purpose of Contacts:** Contacts will primarily be within the USG, and predominately within the USAID Health Office, but will include Mission leadership as it relates to financial management and oversight.
- g. **Time Expected to Reach Full Performance Level:** One year.

10. AREA OF CONSIDERATION: Open to All Interested CCNs (Cooperating Country Nationals).

AIDAR, Appendix J. 1 (b) Definitions:

- (6) "Cooperating country" means the country in which the employing USAID Mission is located.
- (7) "Cooperating country national" ("CCN") means an individual who is a cooperating country citizen, or a non-cooperating country citizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the cooperating country.

11. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

12. POINT OF CONTACT:

All application packages are to be submitted:

Financial Management/Budget Analyst

USAID/Liberia, C/O American Embassy Service Entrance,
 Gibson Street, Mamba Point, Monrovia
 Or by email to: Agatha W. Mangou, Human Resources Assistant, email: amangou@usaid.gov and Sylvester Browne, Human Resources Specialist, email: sbrowne@usaid.gov

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- a. **Education:** A university degree in finance & budgeting, sociology/social sciences, economics, business, accounting or another management-related field.
- b. **Prior Work Experience:** A minimum of five years of progressively responsible positions in public financial management, accounting and or budget management required.
- c. **Post Entry Training:** The incumbent will receive 1-3 weeks of training in USAID procedures and systems as required during the first year in the position. This will include GLAAS training, financial management training and training in internal controls.
- d. **Language Proficiency (List both English and host country language(s) proficiency requirements by level (I, II, III) and specialization (sp/read):** Level IV, fluent written and oral proficiency in English is required.
- e. **Job Knowledge:** A thorough knowledge and understanding of professional accounting principles, theories, practices and terminology as well as the principles and accepted practices of governmental and business financial accounting budgeting and reporting are required. S/he must have a good understanding and knowledge of environmental compliance and its impact on project implementation. Must be a self-starter with little or no supervision required in the areas specified above.
- f. **Skills and Abilities:** S/he must possess practical and analytical skills necessary to translate data or information into concrete actions for sustained development impact and results, excellent command of computer skills including knowledge on major software.

III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS**A. Education—10 points**

USAID will assess educational qualifications that increase the candidate's competitiveness for the position.

B. Relevant Work Experience – 20 Points

USAID will assess relevant work experience that increases the candidate's competitiveness for the position.

C. Knowledge, Skills and Abilities – 50 Points

Must possess strong analytical, communication and interpersonal skills. H/she must have strong command of the English language as well as strong computer, writing and speaking skills, typing skills. Incumbent must possess highly developed organizational and task prioritization/tracking skills.

D. Communication and Computer Skills – 20 Points

Applicant skills in oral and written communication in the English language, including the ability to obtain, evaluate, and interpret reports, and to effectively communicate organizational mission and policies to staff and partners will be evaluated. USAID will evaluate the applicant's computer skills, including ease and skill in using MS-Office, and in using the internet to solve problems.

Total possible points = 100**ADDITIONAL SELECTION CRITERIA**

Management will consider potential nepotism/conflict of interest, and visa status when determining successful candidacy.

SELECTION PROCESS

After initial screening of applications, only short-listed applicants will be contacted and invited for an interview and a written exercise. Applicants selected for interview will also be evaluated on their reference checks.

HOW TO APPLY

- Applications shall be submitted no later than the closing date specified, and should include the following:
1. A clearly typed application cover letter that briefly summarizes why you believe you are qualified for this position.
 2. Resume or CV.
 3. The names and contact details of three references that can attest to your financial management experience.
 4. Documentation (e.g. copies of certificates or degrees) that address the minimum requirements of the position.
 5. One to two-page writing sample broadly related to financial management in Liberia.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Mission provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NaFAA to deploy Seafarers on international Fishing Fleets

For the first time in a long while, (since 1989) the government of Liberia through the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority in collaboration with the Liberia Maritime Authority, the first batch of

EU in 2016, unfortunately, there have been no Liberian Seafarers deployed on any of the 33 EU fishing vessels including other international vessels licensed and flagged by Liberia because of the lack of capacity and required skills. However, under the astute leadership of His

has emphasized that such decision be implemented as a mandatory requirement for fishing vessels licensed by NaFaa as well as a mandatory provision in future bilateral or private Fisheries Access Agreement. This effort is aimed at providing Liberians



Flash Back: Seafarers Post with President Weah NaFAA DG Glassco and Dr. James Kollie

trained and certified international seafarers are to shortly be deployed on Liberia's licensed EU fishing vessels and Liberian flagged tuna vessels.

Although Liberia signed the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement with

Excellency, Dr. George Manneh Weah, President of Liberia, all efforts have been made through the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) to have the internationally trained Liberian Seafarers deploy on the EU vessels and other international vessels. He

seafarers job and networking opportunities as well as international exposure with other international seafarers.

The nine Liberian Seafarers are expected to work on board three (9%) European Union fishing

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 07

UNDP/OHCHR Launch Rehabilitation Programme at Monrovia Central Prison

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has launched a rehabilitation project at the Monrovia Central Prison (MCP).

Under the UNDP/OHCHR Joint Rule of Law programme,

the project is funded by the Governments of Sweden and Ireland and has procured 44 pieces of tailoring machines and other assorted materials for soap making expected to be used to train 133 inmates and 11 correction officers as instructors.

The launching ceremony was performed Wednesday 19

February 2020 by the Minister of Justice, Counselor Musa Dean, who urged the inmates to take advantage of the opportunity to learn new skills that will be beneficial to them.

Counselor Dean described rehabilitation as a challenging enterprise with limited resources adding that, punishment for a crime requires one to serve a jail term where rehabilitation becomes a necessity.

"Tracking the impact of such program encourages investment in employing or empowering the ex-convicts with seed money," Justice Minister added.

The Minister acknowledged the congestion of the Monrovia prison which holds 1,260 inmates against its holding capacity of 324 inmates.

He recognized the work of the fast track court at the prison and the continued support from UNDP and donor partners in the operationalization of specialized courts in parts of the Country.



RIA highway expansion

Starts from page 11

government will dedicate the road.

"This project has a duration of three years, and it's expected to be completed and dedicated like we indicated on July 26, 2023," he says.

Mr. Nyenpan indicates that mobilization of financing for this project was initiated and concluded by President Weah's government.

"We like to make it known that mobilization of financing for this project was initiated and concluded by His Excellency, the President of our Republic Dr. George Manneh Weah," Minister Nyenpan asserts.

He continues that there has been no funding anywhere, anyplace that was either reserved by past governments

or that is being kept in some escrow accounts, adding that the financing of the road was initiated and concluded by President Weah.

"... When completed, the RIA road will be transformed into an ultra - modern four - lane highway with all requisite lighting and road safety facilities and features," he says, adding that the cost of the project is about US\$95m.

He adds that the initial funding is being provided through negotiations by the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development and also from private sector capital.

Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor and members of the diplomatic corps and Liberia's partners were in attendance for the ceremony.

PROMOTION

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Justice Minister Dean appealed for assistance from development partners to assist in constructing of a new corrections facility at a 40-acre land which the Bureau of corrections and rehabilitation owns

The idea behind the construction is engage inmates in farming activities where they can produce their own food.

The Swedish government representative Ms. Elizabeth Harleman emphasized that the programme was critical and encouraged its establishment in all facilities nation-wide.

She pledged Sweden's commitment to increasing access to justice.

Harleman welcomed the government's commitment to reduce the rate of pre-trial detention from 63% to 20% which according to her, is a good target.

She noted that many people are on pre-trial detention and have stayed for long periods without facing trial.

"This continues to undermine justice, and, in some instances, there are no

separate rooms for male and female inmates," she reiterated.

Elizabeth Harleman further acknowledged the efforts being made by civil society organizations in reducing pre-trial detainees.

AT the same time, Ireland's Representative in Liberia, Ms. Rachel Fitzpatrick in her remarks said, that her government is engaged in supporting rehabilitation programme in prisons as a new area of focus.

She noted that it provides a greater opportunity for inmates to be self-sufficient upon release.

Earlier, the Chief Technical Advisor for the UNDP/OHCHR Rule of Law Joint programme Rowland Cole, noted that Correction institutions worldwide are normally forgotten in terms of funding and this puts a lot of pressure on the entire criminal justice chain.

Cole added that rehabilitation of inmates is most critical in reducing the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MCA-L and Public Works Ministry Commit to improving Liberia's road network through maintenance support

The Millennium Challenge Account-Liberia (MCA-L) and the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) have committed to coordinating their efforts to strengthen Liberia's capacity to provide routine maintenance of paved and unpaved primary roads.

The two entities signed an Implementing Entity Agreement, providing for the MCA-L and the U.S.-based Volpe National Transportation Systems Center to fund necessary support to strengthen MPW's capacity to sustainably manage its road maintenance programs through effective use of a US\$1 million proposed Road Asset Management System (RAMS).

Prior to this agreement, MCA-L and Volpe had already provided support to MPW for data collection activities (traffic counts, road inventory, and condition surveys) and trained 15 staff (including 4 females) from MPW and the National Road Fund (NRF) to use a data-driven computer software for road maintenance, known as HDM-4.

Some of these individuals became trainers and led the team that developed the country's five-year Road Maintenance Plan, which is updated every fiscal year for collaboration with their NRF counterparts to prepare the



Annual Road Maintenance Expenditure Programs in strict accordance with the National Road Fund Act of 2016.

Through this new agreement, RAMS will integrate with HDM-4 and the various software systems currently used by MPW to provide a user-friendly database for data collection, planning, execution, and other maintenance-related functions for managing Liberia's entire road network.

As part of the support, MCA-L will also provide institutional strengthening and capacity building, including new Gender and Social Inclusion and Monitoring and Evaluation units at MPW, as well as a consultant for NRF to study the Road User Charges that generate revenues for the Road Fund.

MPW will dedicate staff

(trained in HDM-4) to support MCA-L with the procurement and implementation of RAMS, and be solely responsible for administering and maintaining the system to ensure sustainability well beyond the end of the compact in 2021.

MCA-L CEO MonieCaptan said his organization would remain fully engaged with the Government of Liberia to achieve MCA-L's goal of stimulating economic growth through poverty reduction by improving the country's road network.

"The compact support is helping Liberia build a data-driven system to inform road maintenance in the country," he said.

"Routine maintenance of Liberia's roadways produce better roads, which can have

far-reaching dividends for Liberians and the Liberian economy. With better roads, drivers will reduce travel time, the cost for transport, and vehicle repair. With better roads, farmers can get their products to the market quickly, students can get to

school on time, patients can get to health posts on time, and police can arrive at crime scenes on time."

Improving Liberia's road infrastructure is one of the two key projects of the Millennium Challenge Corporation compact between the U.S. and Liberian governments because improved roads will stimulate trade and commerce, which will help businesses grow with sustainable increases in their profit margins.

About MCA-L: In October 2015, the Government of the United States of America, through its development agency, Millennium Challenge Corporation, provided a grant of US\$257 million to Liberia. MCA-L is an independent, legal, and autonomous agency of the Government of Liberia created by the legislature to administer the compact projects, which address the lack of access to reliable and affordable electricity and inadequate road infrastructure.

NaFAA to deploy

Starts from page 6

vessels licensed under the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) signed 2016 to fish in Africa including the Liberian Exclusive Economy Zone (EEZ) and other parts of the world.

According to a NaFAA press release, which quoted the Director General of NaFAA Mrs. Emma Metieh Glasscothere has been a demand from nafa, that the three European fishing vessel carrying Liberian trained Seafarers dock at designated ports where the nine Seafarers will be given the opportunity to board.

The nine Liberian Seafarers expected to board the three European Union vessels include: Wilson Blamo, Stanley Warjolo, Barfee Kieh, and Lawrence Lamah. Others are Janron Toe, Joseph Z. Cooper,

Samuel Clinton, Ansukonneh and Paul Jackson.

The Nine (9) Liberian Seafarers are drawn from the list of fifty (50) Seafarers who underwent international seafarers training sponsored by NaFAA and facilitated by Experts from the Regional Maritime University in Ghana. The 50 Seafarers were certificated in 2018 by President George Weah.

The 50 Seafarers underwent training in Basic Firefighting Designated Security Duties and Awareness (ISPS) Personal survivors' Techniques, Personal Safety and Social Responsibility and First Aid among others.

Press release

Licosess College graduates 45 teachers in Maryland

The Licosess Mobile Teacher's Training college branch in Pleebo District, Maryland County, southeast Liberia graduates 45 teachers in general education.

Sixteen of the graduates were awarded "B" Certificates while the rest received "C" Certificates during the ceremony which is the fourth graduation program of the institution since it was

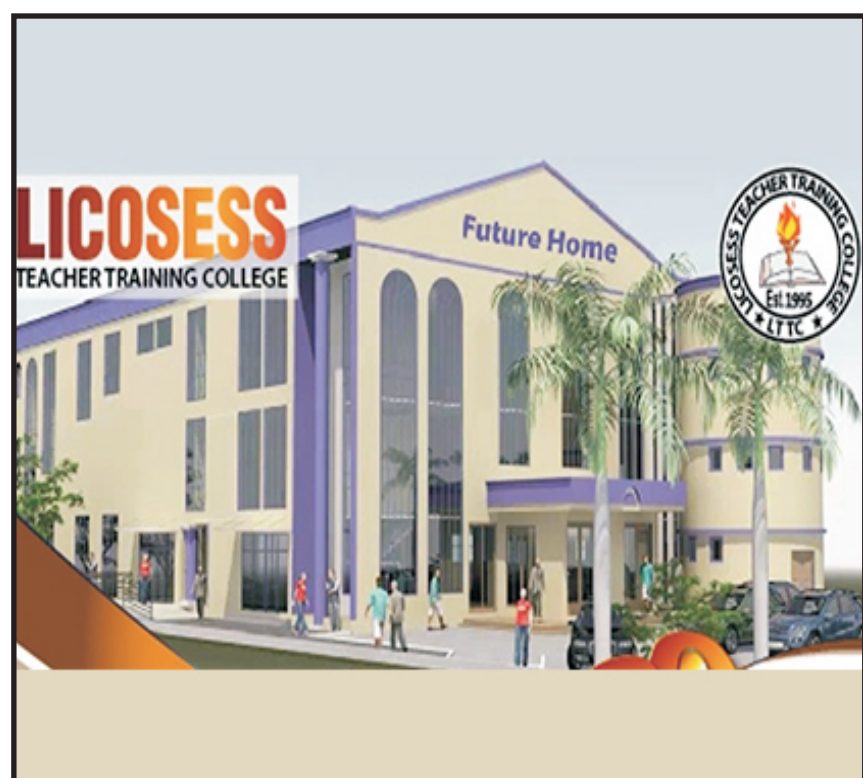
established in 2015. Licosess College is the only privately-run teacher's college in Liberia, providing general education discipline to the public.

The county coordinator of Licosess, Tuomo Y. Hoto says, the institution has graduated over 250 teachers since 2015, who are now contributing to the education sector in both public and private schools across the country, including River Gee and Grand Kru counties, respectively.

The college had been offering "C" Certificate for the past three years, but has been encouraged by the government to include 'A' and 'B' certificate programs.

Meanwhile, the graduates commend the administration of Licosess for the knowledge impacted in them and promise to make use of the knowledge acquired during their studies the institution.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Pregnant behind

Starts from page 2

woman with a child. It was summer, fortunately, when I was jailed, so we could spend most of our time in the yard. When it became colder, we had to stay inside."

"There was no hygiene in prison. Musab's eyes caught an infection. He hit his head on the bunk beds many times. He fell off the bunk bed, and he hurt his head and mouth. I was pregnant and was seeing all these (Musab had been through) so, I grew depressed.

"Many pregnant women were arrested like me. And,

this is still going on. There are no special arrangements or facilities in place for pregnant women and children in prison. Life is quite hard in prison."

Thousands of educators arrested

Turkish President Erdogan's regime mainly targeted well-educated people. About 1,400 Gulen-affiliated schools, kindergartens, student residences, and universities were shut down. Thirty thousand teachers were dismissed, and their licenses were revoked. Thousands of teachers were arrested.

Français

Les principaux acteurs du secteur pétrolier du Libéria réunis autour d'une table ronde

L' Autorité de Régulation du pétrole du Liberia (LPRA) et la Compagnie Pétrolière Nationale du Liberia (NOCAL) ont initié une table ronde sur les réglementations et les stratégies d'appels d'offre dans le secteur pétrolier. L'atelier qui doit durer trois jours a réuni autour d'une table des représentants du gouvernement, des parties prenantes et du pouvoir législatif.

Le directeur général de la LPRA, Archie N. Donmoe, a déclaré que le prochain appel d'offres est prévu pour avril 2020. Il s'est dit excité par l'idée de veiller à ce que le Libéria bénéficie de ses potentielles ressources pétrolières et gazières, mais encore faut-il que le gouvernement accorde des permis d'exploration aux entreprises internationales et locales pour découvrir du pétrole.

Le directeur Donmoe a indiqué qu'on ne peut prétendre devenir un pays exploitateur de pétrole quand on n'accorde pas des permis d'exploration à des entreprises expertes, même

quand on dispose de 33 blocs pétroliers non explorés comme c'est le cas du Libéria, dont la surface offshore n'a fait l'objet d'exploration depuis plus de cinq (5) ans.

Selon lui, tous les cadres institutionnels, réglementaires et politiques ont été conçus, d'où la nécessité, en tant que pays, de saisir l'opportunité et accorder des permis d'exploration pétrolière et gazière, car c'est un impératif

quand on veut faire des découvertes commerciales ou géologiques.

« J'aimerais vous rassurer que la LPRA fonctionnera conformément à la loi et selon le principe de l'opportunité pour promouvoir les actifs non découverts du Libéria. Ces consultations démontrent notre volonté de fonctionner de manière inclusive, transparente et responsable,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



« Je m'exprime mieux en Kpelleh que Weahen Kru », l'opposant Benoni Urey

L'opposant Benoni Urey a déclaré aux journalistes locaux qu'il s'exprime mieux en kpelleh que le président George Weahen kru. Le kru et le kpelleh sont deux langues nationales vernaculaires, la première étant parlée au sud-

est du Libéria d'où est originaire le président Weah et la seconde dans le comté de Bong et au centre du pays, d'où est originaire l'opposant Urey.

Le leader politique du Parti de tous les Libériens se prononçait sur la fracture

sociale que l'on constate entre les indigènes et les descendants des esclaves affranchis arrivés des Etats-Unis il y a près de deux cents ans.

Pour Urey, qui est lui-même descendant des américano-libériens, aucun Libérien n'est plus indigène que son frère Libérien. Selon lui, avant 1822, des chefs traditionnels puissants capturaient leurs propres frères pour les vendre comme des esclaves. Les ancêtres des américano-libériens étaient donc revenus en Afrique sur les terres de leurs ancêtres d'où ils avaient été vendus par les siens et déportés comme des esclaves. Ils sont donc des indigènes. « Personne ne peut donc se vanter d'être plus indigène que l'autre », a-t-il insisté.

M. Urey pense qu'il n'y a pas de pure tribu dans le pays. « Nous sommes tous interconnectés », a-t-il déclaré. Il regrette cependant le fait que les esclaves

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



« On n'a pas besoin d'être président avant de servir et défendre sa patrie », l'opposant Urey

On n'est pas obligé d'être président de la république pour servir son pays, a déclaré l'opposant Benoni Urey, le leader politique de l'ALP (All Liberians Party), au cours d'une conférence de presse.

L'homme d'affaire reconverti à la politique, qui dirige la CPP (Collaboration des partis politiques de l'opposition) porte son choix sur l'ancien vice-président Joseph Boakaicar, selon lui, il est le plus âgé, le plus expérimenté et le plus qualifié pour diriger la coalition des quatre partis contre le président George Weah à la présidentielle de 2023. Il a toutefois indiqué que le candidat de la coalition sera officiellement choisi au cours d'un congrès national de l'alliance qui sera organisé quand le temps sera venu.

S'exprimant lors de sa

retrouvé entre son parti, le Liberty Party (LP), l'ancien parti au pouvoir (UP) et le Le Congrès national alternatif (ANC) est permanent.

Il a admis qu'il y a certes eu des différences de point de vue entre les responsables des partis, toutefois, l'alliance reste ferme, malgré les informations faisant état d'intérêts concurrents.

M. Urey, qui préside actuellement la CPP, a fait savoir que les partis amis ont atteint un stade très avancé dans les démarches pour former cette alliance qui fait couler beaucoup d'encre et de salive. Il est à ce stade question de l'élaboration du statut et des règlements qui énonceront les principes qui régiront l'alliance.

Selon lui, l'objectif principal des quatre partis est d'instaurer des réformes



conférence de presse annuelle le mercredi 19 février, M. Urey s'est dit prêt à faire tout ce qui est de son pouvoir pour servir son peuple. C'est pourquoi, d'après lui, il avait choisi de briguer la présidence. Pour lui, l'on n'est pas obligé de devenir président avant de pouvoir servir son pays. « Il y a d'autres choses que les gens peuvent faire pour servir son pays sans se présenter à la présidence. Je ne suis donc pas forcé de devenir président », a déclaré Urey.

Il s'est dit optimiste de la réussite de la Collaboration des partis politiques de l'opposition, qui se fera appeler « Alliance des partis politiques (APP) ».

M. Urey estime que, contrairement au passé où les alliances politiques se faisaient et se défaisaient le lendemain, le nouvel amour

politiques et de mettre de côté leurs ambitions politiques individuelles. Il a insisté sur la nécessité de l'organisation des élections primaires au cours desquels un candidat unique de l'opposition sera choisi, ce, pour éviter des frustrations. Il rejette ainsi l'idée d'un soi-disant sondage qui permettrait de choisir un candidat unique parmi les opposants.

"Moi, Benoni Urey, n'accepterai rien d'autre que des primaires", a-t-il déclaré, puis ajouté " je n'accepterai jamais l'idée d'un sondage". Selon lui, le sondage pourrait être utilisé dans un autre cas, mais pas dans le cas du choix du candidat unique de l'opposition à la prochaine présidentielle.

Français

Les principaux acteurs

comme l'exige la loi. J'espère que lors des consultations, vos précieuses contributions enrichiront ces documents en prévision de la réussite des appels à candidature », a-t-il souligné.

Une déclaration lue au nom de Mme Siafuah M. Gray, présidente de NOCAL, a indiqué pour sa part qu'au cours des derniers mois, l'institution a travaillé en étroite collaboration avec le régulateur pour répondre à toutes les exigences en matière de données et des composants techniques pour démarrer ce processus. A en croire la déclaration, les responsables du secteur pétrolier sont sur le point de finaliser la rédaction des règlements clairs pour que le processus commence. Cette démarche, selon l'avocate Gray, s'inscrit dans le cadre du respect de la nouvelle loi pétrolière de 2014.

Elle a révélé que le gouvernement a identifié un système pétrolier qui fonctionne à merveille, ce qui est un signe de la présence des hydrocarbures dans les eaux maritimes du Libéria. Elle s'est dite confiante qu'avec du travail de fond dans ce processus, l'on découvrira une quantité importante. Quant au sous-ministre de l'Énergie, des Terres, des Mines et de l'Énergie, il a fait remarquer que la participation des citoyens dans ce processus est un élément indispensable à la réussite, d'où l'importance de donner la priorité à l'intérêt du peuple et du pays

dans son ensemble. Il a exhorté la LPRA et la NOCAL à poursuivre ces réunions.

Le vice-président des services techniques de NOCAL, le Dr Lester Tenny, a pour sa part dénoncé le fait que l'image du secteur pétrolier a été ternie par une série de controverses dans le passé. Il a insisté sur la nécessité de gérer de façon optimale l'information qui est aussi importante que les résultats, car le secteur pétrolier est très sensible. Il s'est aussi dit confiant que le Libéria possède du pétrole. «Le Libéria a du pétrole, les indications sont là, il suffit de chercher pour le découvrir.»

La NOCAL, selon lui, continuera à fournir une assistance financière dans la mesure du possible aux régulateurs, il est toutefois important que le ministère des Finances soutienne également financièrement le processus, car pour atteindre ses objectifs, le régulateur a besoin d'un soutien financier suffisant. Il a averti que si le régulateur ne dispose pas de moyens financiers suffisants, le travail risque de retarder.

Le député Vicent Willie, représentant du district 4 du comté de Grand Bassa, qui préside le Comité législatif sur les ressources naturelles, a déclaré que l'Assemblée législative est disposée à aider le processus de quelque manière que ce soit, pourvu que les régulateurs se conforment à la loi, en particulier la nouvelle loi amendée sur le pétrole.

« Je m'exprime mieux

affranchis arrivés des Etats-Unis ont asservi leurs frères qu'ils ont trouvés sur place.

« J'ai des oncles et des tantes qui ne parlent pas anglais. Nous ne devons pas permettre aux gens de nous diviser. Si quelqu'un est allé

comme esclave et est revenu, nous avons tous payé le prix », a-t-il ajouté, avant de conclure que les politiciens qui se disent plus autochtones n'ont même pas de maison dans leurs villages.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Aryeh Neier

Le grand bond en avant de la Chine dans l'épidémie

NEW YORK - Avant que le monde n'ait connaissance du nouveau coronavirus qui a déclenché une panique mondiale, un ophtalmologiste basé à Wuhan, Li Wenliang, a remarqué quelque chose d'étrange chez certains patients. Ils semblaient avoir contracté un virus inconnu qui ressemblait au syndrome respiratoire aigu sévère (SRAS), qui a touché la Chine il y a près d'une génération. Quelques jours plus tard, après que Li ait envoyé un message d'avertissement à plusieurs médecins lors d'une discussion de groupe, le médecin de 34 ans a été convoqué par la police, qui l'a forcé à signer une lettre pour avouer « avoir fait de faux commentaires » qui avaient « perturbé l'ordre social ». Li est à présent décédé, victime de ce même virus - maintenant appelé COVID-19 - pour lequel il avait sonné l'alarme.

La mort de Li - ainsi que d'autres révélations sur les efforts de la Chine pour faire taire les dénonciateurs du COVID-19 - ont déclenché une indignation mondiale, à juste titre. Si le gouvernement s'était inquiété davantage de protéger la santé publique plutôt que de supprimer des informations peu flatteuses, il aurait pu empêcher la propagation du virus. Jusqu'à présent, le COVID-19 a infecté plus de 74 000 personnes rien qu'en Chine, faisant plus de 2 000 morts.

Ce n'est pourtant pas la première fois que le déni de liberté d'expression est lié à une urgence meurtrière en matière de santé publique en Chine. Lorsque l'épidémie de SRAS a commencé en 2002, les autorités chinoises ont également tenté d'étouffer l'affaire.

Heureusement, Hu Shuli - fondatrice et rédactrice en chef de Caijing, un hebdomadaire d'affaires - a exposé relativement rapidement les machinations des fonctionnaires. Après avoir appris que des patients de Pékin avaient des fièvres mystérieuses, elle a envoyé des journalistes dans les hôpitaux pour interroger les médecins. Les reportages de Caijing ont forcé les dirigeants chinois à reconnaître publiquement le SRAS - la première étape vers le contrôle du virus. Pourtant, avant que le SRAS n'ait été contenu, le virus s'était propagé à plus de 8 000 personnes dans le monde, tuant ainsi près de 800 personnes.

Mais la répression de la liberté d'expression en Chine a un pedigree encore plus troublant en matière de santé publique. Elle a également joué un rôle important dans la dévastation causée par le Grand Bond en avant de Mao Zedong - la plus grande catastrophe que la Chine ait connue depuis que le Parti communiste a pris le pouvoir en 1949.

En 1958, Mao a décidé que, pour parvenir à une industrialisation rapide, les villageois devraient être contraints de se rassembler dans les communes, pour y effectuer des tâches industrielles qui, ailleurs, pouvaient s'effectuer sur des machines et dans des usines. Par exemple, des millions de personnes ont été chargées de produire de l'acier dans de petits hauts fourneaux de cours de ferme, souvent en fondant des outils agricoles.

En détournant la main-d'œuvre vers une industrie à petite échelle très inefficace, le Grand Bond en avant a ravagé la production agricole, entraînant de graves pénuries alimentaires, qui ont persisté même après la fin de l'initiative en 1960. Selon le journaliste chinois Yang Jisheng, dont le compte rendu digne de foi sur la famine qui en a résulté,

qui se fonde sur deux décennies de recherche, a été publié à Hong Kong en 2008 - pas moins de 36 millions de Chinois ont succombé à la famine entre 1958 et 1962.

Comme pour le COVID-19, des informations vitales sur les conséquences calamiteuses du Grand Bond en avant ont été réfrénées dès le début. Au début, les responsables du gouvernement central n'étaient pas au courant de la catastrophe qui se déroulait dans les campagnes, en raison de la réticence des autorités locales à relayer des informations qui auraient pu être jugées comme autant de critiques à l'encontre de Mao.

Mais même lorsque les principaux dirigeants chinois ont appris la famine, ils ont passé le problème sous silence, plutôt que de faire appel à une aide extérieure. La protection de la réputation de Mao était la priorité absolue, et compte tenu de l'isolement international extrême de la Chine à l'époque, le monde extérieur ne découvrirait rien à moins que les Chinois n'en parlent.

La répression de la vérité sur le Grand Bond en avant persiste jusqu'à ce jour, les responsables du parti préférant minimiser la tragédie en la dépeignant comme le résultat de mauvaises conditions météorologiques. Le livre de Yang ne peut toujours pas être publié en Chine continentale.

Le lien entre la famine et la liberté d'expression ne se limite pas à la Chine. Comme l'a souligné le philosophe et prix Nobel d'économie indien Amartya Sen il y a près de deux décennies, « aucune famine n'a jamais eu lieu dans l'histoire du monde dans une démocratie qui fonctionne ». Il est généralement peu probable que les dirigeants qui dépendent du soutien des électeurs qui ont la liberté de critiquer les politiques publiques, soutiennent des politiques qui font affamer ces électeurs.

Cela n'a pas été le cas au Zimbabwe, où environ la moitié de la population (environ 7,7 millions de personnes) est actuellement confrontée à l'insécurité alimentaire, selon le Programme alimentaire mondial. Des niveaux de malnutrition sans précédent assaillent huit des 59 districts du Zimbabwe.

Le Zimbabwe est depuis longtemps connu sous le nom de « grenier à blé de l'Afrique », grâce à son climat relativement doux. Mais le changement climatique se fait sentir. Pire encore, plusieurs décennies de mauvaise gestion économique par Robert Mugabe - qui s'est dispensé de la responsabilité démocratique au cours de ses 37 ans au pouvoir et qui a vu son régime prendre fin lorsque l'armée l'a forcé à démissionner en 2017 - ont produit une inflation galopante, un chômage élevé, des pénuries de carburant et des pannes d'électricité prolongées. Tout cela a considérablement aggravé la situation des Zimbabwéens.

La liberté d'expression va bien plus loin que la dissidence politique directe ou la tolérance des idées, des actes ou des images que nous estimons offensantes. Comme Sen l'a écrit en 1990, « un ensemble de libertés - critiquer, publier, voter - est lié de manière causale à d'autres types de libertés » telles que « la liberté d'échapper à la famine et à la mortalité liée à la famine ». À cette liste, nous devrions ajouter « la liberté d'éviter la mort par le COVID-19 ».

Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhéna

E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

The Weah-led Government has LIED again about ELWA-RIA Road

By Martin K. N. Kollie

Activist and Columnist, martinkerkula1989@yahoo.com

Before you can even begin to read, I plead with you to just click this link (<https://vimeo.com/128848315>) and watch this very interesting video for 4 minutes 31 seconds. An IT colleague from USA sent me this short demo last night. The ICT age has made it so easier to detect or discover outright lies in this 21st Century. Technology has made it possible for us to filter falsehood from fact.

Yesterday, the Government of Liberia willfully chose to mislead our people with a few well-designed graphics depicting a 4-lane road from ELWA Junction to RIA. In as much we are still around, no lie will go unnoticed. Our writing series "Under The Sycamore Tree" will continue to fact-check every falsehood.

MICAT through LINA and the Presidential Press Office have been running with this lie and spreading it like wildfire. As usual, the Special Aide SekouKalascoDamaro was so fast to leapfrog this monstrous lie. A number of social media followers have been victimized by this subterfuge.

KalascoDamaro wrote on his Facebook page, "ELWA to RIA Road Modernization Project. Thanks to President Weah and his team."

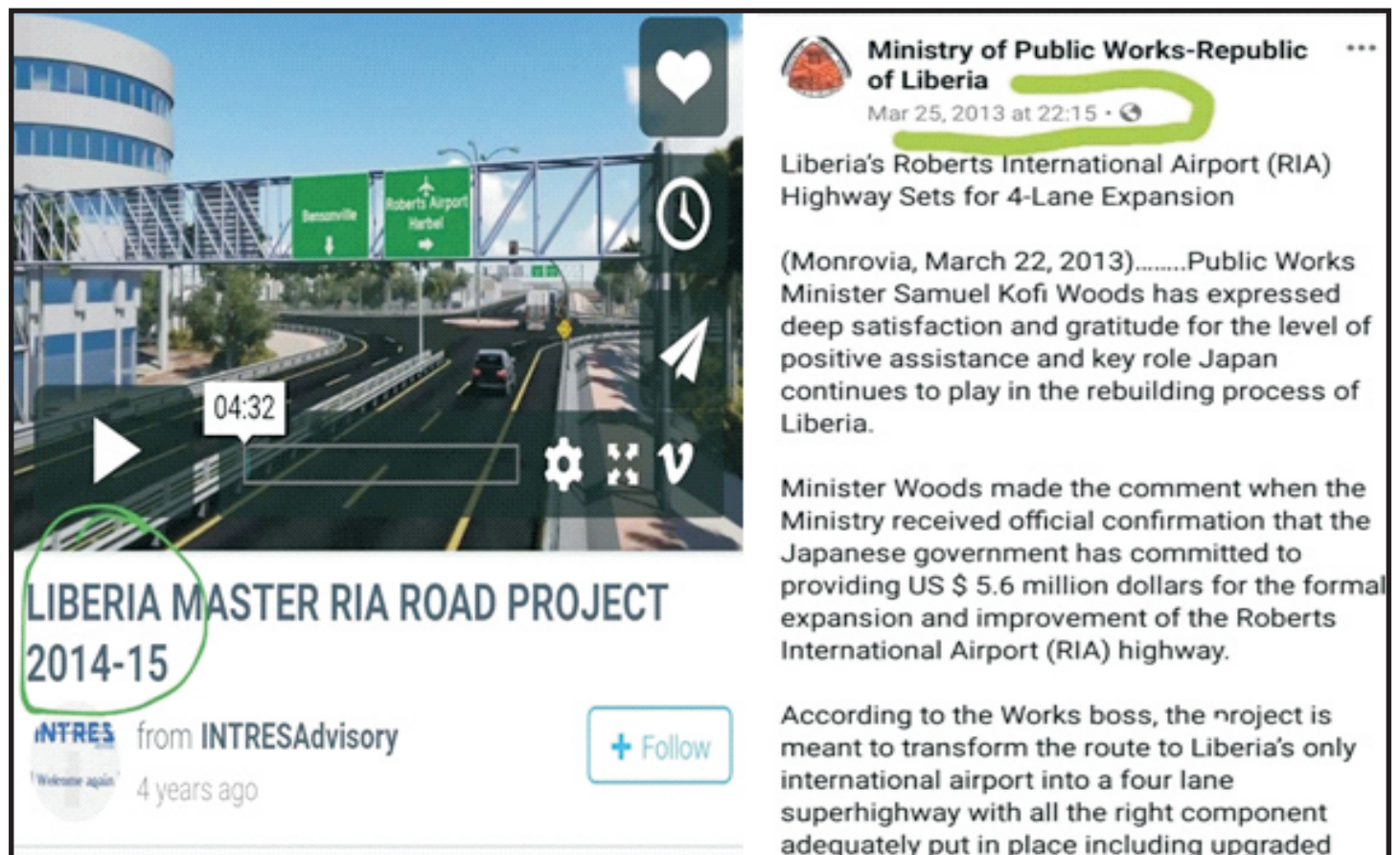
A few minutes after his post, dozens of high-ranking public officials, including pro-regime apologists and pro-Weah zealots, began to share these fake images/pictorials on social media. They overwhelmingly praised Pres. George M. Weah for initiating this "modernization project" which is an outright lie.

The truth can never lie:

The images being widely displayed on social media depicting a "modernization project" of a 4-lane ELWA-RIA Road under Pres. George Weah are fake images. They are screenshots from a Demo Video produced and released in 2015. This is the link to the Video: <https://vimeo.com/128848315>. Please open it and see for yourself.

Facts about this Video:

- 1) The timeframe of this short video is 4 minutes 31 seconds.
- 2) The title of this video is "Liberia Master RIA Road Project".
- 3) The video is from INTRES Advisory and was released 4 years ago to demonstrate the sample or design



of the 45km ELWA-RIA Road which was initiated by former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Must the CDC-led Government lie about just everything? This dishonorable act is not only demeaning but it reflects desperation and distrust. The regime has been caught 'pants down' lying without any regard for probity and public trust. Why aren't they telling our people the real story? Parking a few used dump trucks in the name of East International is fully ready to begin this project is a diversionary tactic from the prevailing paralyses (Gas shortage, unemployment crisis, high inflation, hike in tuition, zero growth, and the hike in the price of rice).

Shamefully, LINA has already run a news story titled "Liberian Gov't Breaks Ground for 4-Lane RIA Highway..." In an effort to spread this lie and/or propaganda, MICAT has paid some local news outlets to publish this story. How many times will Pres. Weah break ground for this one road? In March 2019, he broke ground for this very same project (Link: <https://afroinsider.com/weah-breaks-ground/>). Isn't this despicable? This lie is so horrible and stomach-aching. The regime has no ounce of fear to LIE.

No government succeeds by leeching on lies and feeding

on deception. Propaganda simply intended for mere publicity stunt is short-lived. Honesty builds firm public trust and breeds genuine national development. The CDC-led government has LIED again. PLEASE watch this demo via this video again: (<https://vimeo.com/128848315>).

The Real Story about this ELWA-RIA Road:

The real story of this 4-lane ELWA-RIA Road is that the Sirleaf-led administration broke ground for this project in January 2015. Early works began with the layout and the securing of the right of way after receiving a US\$5.6m Grant under the Japanese Monetization Program or Counterpart Value Fund (Link: http://mpw.gov.lr/2press.php?news_id=27&related=7&pg=sp). The one (1) lane there now was even paved.

The total cost of this 45km 4-lane road project is around US\$101m. Additional funding commitment to rehabilitate and pave phase 1 of this project was lobbied and negotiated for by EJS. Her administration secured funding commitment from Japan, World Bank, IDA, etc. to implement this project.

The CDC-led government is not telling us where it has sourced or will source funding from to implement this US\$101m project. Does CDC have this whopping amount to spend or has any funding commitment been made to invest on a single road like this 4-lane project? This LIE about "RIA Road Modernization" is too visible and they need to STOP. Graphics and demos only intended to woo citizens do not develop a country. Vision and action do.

Do they have any reason to lie about almost everything in order to falsely impress and gain political capital? Enough of this gimmick! The Liberian people have had enough after more than 2 years. There is power in honesty. When I wrote yesterday that this project is Ellen's making, some CDCians and pro-CDC enthusiasts took me to task. The truth has now vindicated me. Where are they? Where are those sycophantic and clueless loyalists?

Our Writing Series "Under The Sycamore Tree" is anchored to fact-based analyses and it is here to stay. We will continue to side-brush outright lies and protect public interest from sabotage and scam. Our reliance is nourished in truth-telling. It is your right to know and it is our duty to let you know. Let the pen bleed the TRUTH. We value nation-ship over friendship. Watch out for Edition 8.

About The Author: Martin K. N. Kollie is a Liberian activist, columnist, and economist who currently lives in exile. He is a proponent of social democracy and economic freedom for all. He is hopeful of a NEW LIBERIA.



I did not buy arms for Charles Taylor

Businessman turned politician Benoni Urey on Wednesday February 19, denied allegations that he used the Bureau of Maritime money to buy arms and ammunition for jailed former President Charles Taylor during the country's brutal civil war.

"I Benoni Urey will never buy arms and ammunition to kill my people," he roared during a press conference here. He described the long held speculation as total rumor saying people are in the habits of saying things they know nothing about.

Mr. Urey served as Maritime Commissioner under former President Taylor and has been accused of bankrolling the war through the maritime fund.

He is currently the political leader of the All Liberian Party or ALP, a party which is part of an Alliance of four political parties that seek to unseat President George Weah in 2023.

He was placed on sanction



and travel bans for many years but was later removed following series of investigations that found him posing less of a threat to the peace of Liberia.

"When I left Maritime, I was audited and investigated for

almost 15 years by Homeland Security (United States) and they found nothing on me" a self-feeling vindicated Urey explained.

Mr. Urey said what he remembered was the purchasing of two ex-military

helicopters for use by the police and the Presidential Security force Special Security Service or SSS now referred to as the Executive Protection Service or EPS.

He explain how

"I got a letter from the Finance Minister authorizing me to instruct the Agent (Liberia Shipping and Corporate Registry or LISCR) to transfer USD630, 000 to buy two helicopters MI-3 for the use of the police and SSS-François Massaquoi died in one. They were Ex-military helicopters.

When I got the instruction, I wrote my Comptroller and I said by directive of the President through the Finance Minister, you are hereby instructed to instruct the Agent to transfer this amount. So when this guy (Homeland Security Agent) came he asked me-Mr. Urey did you ever

transferred money to buy arms and ammunition I said no, He said what about e-military helicopter, I said yes. The guy pulled out the letter and said, yes its true, I thought you would have lied and I said what is there to lie about."

Meanwhile, Urey said he left 30 million in Maritime's account when the late Charles Gyude Bryant took over during the interim government arrangement after Taylor was forced into exile.

He said former president Taylor at one point in time requested the money and he refused. He said the 30m included profit accrued from USD305, 000 investment in EMULSAT, a satellite use for shipping navigation device at the time. He said that investment was done thru John Morlu Sr. -Writes Othello B. Garblah

RIA highway expansion to complete in 3 years

By Winston W. Parley

President George Manneh Weah has broken grounds for the commencement of works for the expansion and reconstruction of the Roberts International Airport (RIA) highway road project to widen the road which he laments has claimed lives of thousands of unfortunate passengers in the 70 years of its existence.

"The RIA Highway has been a death-trap since it was built in the 1940s, during World War Two," President Weah said during the groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, 20 February in Unification Town, just near RIA.

The 45km road project estimated by Public Works

officials at about US\$95m is expected to transform the current two - lane road to a modern four - lane major highway from ELWA to RIA.

President Weah notes that the RIA highway is the most convenient route for movement of people, goods and services to and from six of Liberia's 15 counties including Margibi, Grand Bassa, River Cess, Sinoe, Grand Kru and Maryland.

Additionally, he says some of these counties are hosts to several multinational corporations such as FireStone and Golden Veroleum.

"Let me take this occasion to remind you that road connectivity is a core pillar of my Administration, and it is the function of the Pro - Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development," he continues.

He informs Liberians at the dedication that his government's infrastructural development programs have the strong support of international development partners, expressing appreciation to the partners for the support and assuring them of utilizing resources put at government's disposal for their intended purposes.

According to President Weah, Liberians have given him lots of names as a result of his developmental programs, including "Country Giant," Talk and Do," and Feminist - in - Chief," adding that he has been given a new name called "Bad Road Medicine."

"They now call me Bad Road Medicine," President Weah says, adding that he is "very proud of this new title, which depicts me as the antidote to bad roads, and I will do my very best during the rest of my tenure to deserve it."

Earlier, Public Works Minister Mobutu Nyenpan said by breaking grounds for the ELWA - RIA Highway road project, the people of Liberia can be assured that comes July 26 2023,



UNDP/OHCHR Launch

Cont'd from page 6

rate of relapse as they return to their communities.

He stressed that prisons' mandates are retribution, deterrence, incapacitation and, reform and rehabilitation.

"It is important to break the chain and make inmates employable and that is why this programme is important",

Cole said.

He mentioned that UNDP will be more interested in tracking the impact of the programme as it goes forward, taking into account the numbers trained and employed as qualified tailors or entrepreneurs under the tailoring and soap making initiatives.



Change of Name

This is to inform the public in general that Mrs. Angie Brooks of Central Virginia, Graham Town, name has been changed from Angie Brooks to Josephine D. Washington, as of this date, February 21, 2020.



Change of Name

As of the date of this publication, Friday, February 21, 2020 Garmai F. Johnson Karmon, Republic of Liberia has asked the Civil Law Court of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia for the change of name from Garmai F. Johnson Karmon to Garmai F. Johnson.

Swiss prosecutors charge Al-Khelaifi in FIFA bribery case



The president of the Paris Saint-Germain soccer club was indicted Thursday as part of a five-year bribery and corruption investigation linked to FIFA.

Nasser al-Khelaifi, a Qatari who also runs the Doha-based broadcaster BeIN Media Group, was charged in Switzerland in connection to a bribery investigation linked to World Cup television rights. Swiss federal

prosecutors also charged former FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke with bribery. A unidentified third person was also charged.

Al-Khelaifi was implicated for allowing Valcke to use a luxury villa on the Italian island of Sardinia rent free in 2014 and 2015. At the time, Valcke had some influence over FIFA broadcast deals, including an extension of BeIN's Middle East rights for the 2026 and 2030 World Cups.

The office of Switzerland's attorney general filed an indictment charging Al-Khelaifi with inciting Valcke "to commit aggravated criminal mismanagement."

It is not clear if Al-Khelaifi will be arrested, or what kind of sentence or fine he could face.

As president of Qatari-owned PSG, Al-Khelaifi is among the most significant officials in modern soccer targeted in sprawling FIFA investigations by American and Swiss federal agencies. A close friend of the ruling Emir in Qatar, Al-Khelaifi has run French champion PSG for eight years while overseeing the purchase of star players Neymar and Kylian Mbappé. His influence in European soccer rose when he joined the UEFA executive committee last year.

Despite Thursday's indictment, Al-Khelaifi no longer faces an accusation of bribery in a criminal proceeding opened three years ago.



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Messi: Ronaldo is a predatory striker

Barcelona attacker Lionel Messi isn't surprised by Cristiano Ronaldo's recent Serie A scoring streak for Juventus as he praised the striker's ability to find the back of the net.

Ronaldo has scored in 11 straight league games for his Italian club despite turning 35 this month and has an impressive 24 goals to his name this season.

Messi, meanwhile, has gone four matches without a

goal but has contributed six assists in his three most recent appearances for the Catalans.

Though both players have always been prolific in front of goal, Messi believes Ronaldo has made scoring his obsession and isn't surprised to see the Portuguese star continue to fire in the final third.

"It's normal that he continues to score, he is a predatory striker, he loves to score, any day he plays he will score," Messi told Mundo Deportivo when asked about Ronaldo's



recent performances.

"He has many good attributes as a forward and at the minimum he converts."

Messi himself has struck 14 times across just 19 La Liga games this season for Barcelona as he also shows he still has an eye for goal at the age of 32.

Former teammate Carles Puyol recently backed the Argentina attacker to play on until he's 38, with Messi himself admitting he's feeling good despite his advancing age.

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