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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. 22

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

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Cummings or Boakai?

-CPP undecided for 2023



Mr. Cummings



Sen. Karnga-Lawrence



Mr. Urey



Ex-VP Boakai

IAA in corruption web

-Deputy Director Neal



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Continental News

South Sudan rivals strike power-sharing deal

Former South Sudanese rebel leader Riek Machar has been sworn in as first vice-president, sealing a peace deal aimed at ending six years of civil war.

President Salva Kiir witnessed the moment at a ceremony at the State House in the capital, Juba. It is hoped that the new unity government will bring an end to the conflict that has killed about 400,000 people and displaced millions.

However, previous deals were widely heralded only to fall apart.

Saturday's ceremony took place just before the deadline for an agreement expired.

"For the people of South Sudan, I want to assure you that we will work together to end your suffering," Mr Machar said after taking the oath. He then embraced and shook hands with President Kiir.

"We must forgive one another and reconcile," said



Mr Kiir. "I also appeal to the people of Dinka and Nuer (rival ethnic groups) to forgive one another."

Also present at the ceremony was the leader of Sudan, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

Three other vice-presidents were also sworn in including Rebecca Garang, the widow of South Sudan's founding father, John Garang. Under the agreement, the current cabinet has been dissolved to make way for more opposition

members.

Correspondents say some issues remain unresolved including power-sharing and the integration of rebel fighters, but the two sides have agreed to form a government and address other matters later. The deal was announced hours after the UN released a damning report accusing both sides of deliberately starving civilians during their struggle for power.

What's the significance of the agreement?

President Kiir has expressed hope that the transitional three-year period will pave the way for refugees and internally displaced people to return to their homes.

In addition to those killed or displaced,

many others have been pushed to the brink of starvation and faced untold suffering.

If the deal holds, it could herald a fresh start in the world's newest country. What is the fighting about?

South Sudan became an independent state from Sudan in 2011, marking the end of a

long-running civil war. But it did not take long for the promise of peace to crumble.

Just two years after independence, the country returned to violent conflict after President Kiir sacked Machar, then the deputy president in December 2013.

President Kiir had accused Mr Machar of plotting a coup to overthrow him, which Mr Machar denied. While the war had political origins, it also has ethnic undertones and is based on power dynamics. The Dinka and Nuer, South Sudan's two largest ethnic groups, which the two leaders belong to, have been accused of targeting each other in the war, with atrocities committed by both sides. Why has it been so hard to strike a deal?

Parties had been unable or unwilling to agree on the terms for the formation of a transitional government, in line with the revitalised peace agreement of 2018.

The deal was supposed to have been finalised by May 2019 but was postponed twice - the latest deadline being 22 February. The conflict has pushed the country into a catastrophic humanitarian crisis. BBC

Togo opposition alleges 'fake' polling stations

ATogo opposition leader has accused authorities of setting up fake polling stations in Saturday's presidential election to skew the result in favour of the incumbent.

Agbéyomé Kodjo made the accusation against President Faure Gnassingbé who has been in power since 2005 when he took over from his

father.

The president's office is quoted by AFP news agency as denying the accusation.

The results of the vote are expected by Friday.

Mr Kodjo, former prime minister and head of the national assembly, also accused the authorities of ballot stuffing and getting people to cast multiple votes

in Mr Gnassingbé's favour. Troops surrounded Mr Kodjo's home for around three hours after voting finished on Saturday.

Togo's Security Minister, Yark Dameham, told Voice of America that Mr Kodjo's house had been surrounded as a precaution.

"We have received reports that he is at risk of an attack on his house by unruly individuals, but I cannot tell you from which side," he is quoted as saying.

But Mr Kodjo told the BBC that he was given no explanation and believed this was not for his protection but instead to allow time to rig the vote.

Mr Gnassingbé has led Togo's population of eight million people since taking over following the death of his father Gnassingbé Eyadema, who ruled for 38 years.

He faces six rivals for the position of president.

Constitutional changes were approved last year allowing him to seek re-election and potentially stay in office until 2030 - an issue which sparked huge protests in 2017-18. BBC

Kenya judge faces murder charge



Justice Sankale ole Kantai, who was arrested on Friday for associating with murder suspect Sarah Wairimu, is set to be charged as the third person in the killing of Dutch businessman Tob Cohen, police sources told the Nation last evening.

This is after detectives, who have been investigating his probable interference in the murder case facing Mr Cohen's widow Sarah Wairimu found communication between the two that could be linked to the businessman's killing months before the tycoon disappeared. The judge was released Saturday on a police

bond after spending Friday night at the Muthaiga Police Station. He will be presented in court on Tuesday morning, but the Director of Public Prosecutions Noordin Haji has to approve the murder charges.

The Director of Criminal Investigation (DCI) George Kinoti Saturday evening told the Nation that they have enough evidence dating several months before Mr Cohen disappeared that can sustain a murder charge. "We are definitely charging him with murder. We have established a prema facie case and we are sure it can stand in court," said Mr Kinoti.



Togolese people voted on Saturday for their new president

EDITORIAL

Liberians, beware another oil exploration

LIBERIA IS GEARING up for second round of bidding for offshore oil explorations slated for April 2020. The Executive Mansion announced in late December, 2019 plan by the Weah administration to put on sale nine offshore blocks in the Harper Basin, reportedly one of the last unexplored and undrilled regions offshore West Africa.

ALREADY, STAKEHOLDERS UNDER the auspices of the Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority and the National Oil Company of Liberia have been meeting in Monrovia on the prospects for oil and gas here.

THE VICE PRESIDENT for Technical Services at NOCAL, Dr. Lester Tenny, is passionately optimistic about prospects of finding the 'black gold' in Liberia. "Liberia does have oil; the fingerprints are there; we just need to discover the oil", he told the stakeholders' roundtable last week.

HOWEVER, LIBERIANS SHOULD be cautious this time around, in raising euphoria for oil, judging from past experiences that became nothing else but mere illusion like quick sand. Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf raised excitement about oil and sold about a dozen blocks to foreign companies, including the American oil giant, ExxonMobile. But after a period of drills and explorations, the result came that Liberia lacks oil quantity for commercial purpose.

EVEN THE VERY NOCAL that headed the process proceeded in a way that left ordinary Liberians disappointed and the entire country frustrated under the watch of Madam Sirleaf. After spending millions of dollars on staff salaries and benefits, substandard public projects and so-called nationwide awareness by dishonest lawmakers, the entire exercise tumbled with NOCAL declaring bankruptcy. The former President eventually took responsibility and the rest is history.

NOT THAT WE are pessimists or prophets of doom, but experiences of the past in this sector requires that we proceed circumspectly to avoid treading the same path or repeating errors from the past.

ACCORDING TO THE international oil website based in Norway, geophysical company TGS holds a range of multi-client data across the Harper Basin to support the licensing round, including 5,272 kilometers of 2D and 6,276 square kilometers of 3D seismic, gravity and magnetic data.

IT DETAILED THAT Syn-rift structural traps can be identified over much of the area, which offer multi-level prospectivity and that cretaceous slope and basin floor fan systems demonstrating high amplitude character have been identified, some of which cover over 300 square kilometers, while volumetric assessment of these features suggests field sizes over a billion barrels of oil in place could be present here.

THAT SOUNDS GOOD and we applaud the government and partners for these studies that are giving us hope. Notwithstanding, we call on the current administration, particularly the LPRA and the NOCAL to work in concert in delivering a result for the Liberian people that would be a great departure from the past.

WE CHALLENGE PRESIDENT George Manneh Weah to make this oil dream both a reality and a blessing for Liberia by ensuring that if this vital global commodity is discovered in our waters, it would benefit not only the present generation, but generations to come.

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."

New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT



By Bernard Haykel

What's at Stake in Libya?

The battle for Libya is a complicated affair involving not just the warring parties on the ground, but also a host of regional and global powers vying for regional influence and control of energy resources. And, unless it ends soon, it could sow instability in neighboring countries and trigger more waves of refugees fleeing to Europe.

PRINCETON - The ongoing war in Libya is a microcosm of the tragedy that has gripped many Middle Eastern countries. If it is not resolved soon, the fighting in Libya could sow instability in neighboring countries like Tunisia and Egypt, and trigger more waves of refugees fleeing to Europe.

At root, the Libyan crisis is a civil war among various groups that are divided by tribal and regional loyalties, as well as by ideological beliefs. All are vying to control the country's oil revenues. Yet, at the moment, there are principally two sides to the conflict: the Islamist-dominated, internationally recognized Government of National Accord (GNA), which still controls the capital, Tripoli; and the Tobruk-based House of Representatives and the Libyan National Army (LNA), which are under the command of the anti-Islamist field marshal Khalifa Haftar. While most of the country is now under the authoritarian nationalist Haftar's control, Tripoli has yet to fall.

Behind each of these warring camps are outside powers pursuing their own interests. While Turkey and Qatar have backed the GNA, Egypt, Russia, and the United Arab Emirates have been lending support to Haftar. International media coverage of the war has attributed this outside interference to competition - mainly between Turkey and Egypt - for oil and gas resources.

The Egyptians have a gas project that could potentially link up with facilities in Israel, Cyprus, and Greece to supply Europe. But that objective directly conflicts with Turkey's goal of creating an exclusive maritime zone with Libya, and of securing sole control over Libya's energy resources.

But the contest over energy is not the whole story. To understand the Libya conflict fully, one also must consider the complex links between geopolitics and ideology. A victory for the Islamists in Tripoli would allow Turkey and Qatar not only to extend their influence into a major oil-producing state on the Mediterranean; it also would offer them strategic depth, strengthening their influence over other countries such as Tunisia and Egypt (a longtime rival).

Hence, for most of the war, Qatar has sponsored the Islamists, mainly by providing financial support to a single person: the religious activist and scholar Ali Muhammad al-Salabi. With the help of Qatar's resources, al-Salabi has emerged as the GNA's de facto leader. But late last year, the GNA appeared to be on the verge of defeat, leading to Turkey's intervention on its behalf. Turkey has since committed weapons, drones, soldiers, and even Syrian fighters to the battle for Tripoli.

On the other side of the divide, Egypt and the UAE do not want to see a petrostate capable of producing 2.5 million barrels per day fall into the hands of Islamists who are beholden to their regional rivals. A victory for the GNA would turn Libya into an Islamist stronghold and a beachhead for undermining Egypt and the UAE's authoritarian vision for the region. Haftar - a uniformed and heavily ornamented military dictator straight out of central casting - would establish an order much more to their liking. If he is victorious, Libya's oil resources could then be leveraged in the broader fight against the Islamist bogeyman across the region.

Russia's motive for siding with Haftar is more intriguing, but can be summed up in one word: revanchism. Although Russian President Vladimir Putin has sent mercenaries (mainly those associated with the paramilitary Wagner Group) to join the fight, Haftar himself is not the Kremlin's top candidate to rule Libya. Putin wants to install Saif al-Islam Qaddafi, the son of the late Libyan dictator, Muammar el-Qaddafi, who ruled the country from 1969 to 2011.

With the support of former regime loyalists, Qaddafi has joined forces with Haftar. But the Russians do not trust Haftar, because they regard him as a US intelligence asset, owing to his previous life as an American citizen who lived in Langley, Virginia (incidentally, the site of CIA headquarters) for two decades. By making Qaddafi Libya's next ruler, the Kremlin hopes to prove a point to the Americans and Europeans who helped to topple his father. Following his success in keeping Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in power despite overwhelming odds, Putin wants to show that it is he who will dictate Libya's future and call the shots in the region. If the clock really is set back to Moscow time, it will be interesting to see what happens to Haftar.

The complex situation in Libya is verging on the surreal. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the very real suffering of the Libyan people, who are caught between the competing factions. For its part, the United States has been negligent in its approach to the crisis, which it has largely ignored in the hope that other regional powers will restore order. In fact, those powers are the ones sowing chaos, and only the US has the diplomatic leverage to end the conflict.

Should Libya's civil war continue, its effects will undoubtedly spill over to other parts of the region. More refugees will flee to Europe, especially if the conflict turns out to be a harbinger of civil wars to come. Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, or Lebanon could become the next theater for regional and international powers to fight proxy wars while fantasizing about becoming the Arab world's next hegemon. As the rubble that is now Syria makes clear, to the victor will go spoils that no longer justify the effort.


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 tccooper@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 tccooper@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.

MRU and UNDP JOINT SUB-REGIONAL ACTION PLANNING MEETING - pictorial

The Mano River Union (MRU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), held a three-day Joint Sub-regional Action Planning Meeting in Monrovia from Monday February 17-19, 2020.

The meeting was in furtherance of a MoU between the two organizations based on the core principles of the SDGs to ensure stronger regional cooperation among the MRU Member States and

UNDP in areas of mutual cooperation.

It was also aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of their development efforts, as well as to strengthen regional integration to advance peace and security and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Mano River Union Member States.

UNDP and MRU share similar visions and have worked together on various missions and

initiatives over the past years.

They worked collaboratively to foster peace and security especially during and since the end of the civil conflicts in the MRU countries, as well as, during the Ebola epidemic which began in 2014 and ended in 2016.

The meeting was a follow up to the outcome of the first meeting held in Sierra Leone last year.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah to give land to over 20,000 residents



President George Manneh Weah

By Winston W. Parley

President George Manneh Weah has promised to check with the Liberia Land Authority to verify the ownership of lands currently being occupy by squatters for so many years in Unification Town Margibi County.

The aimed of the verification is part of efforts to make the squatters the official owners of said properties in the area.

His commitment to the residents was an immediate response to a request made through their lawmaker, Margibi County District Two

Rep. Irvin Jones last Thursday, 20 February at the ground breaking ceremony for the expansion and construction of a four - lane ELWA to Roberts International Airport (RIA) Highway.

“Let me inform Honorable Jones that I will check with the Land Authority to make sure that those that were squatting for so many years will have a place officially,” he said as the gathering cheered his response during the program at Unification Town.

However, President Weah says he can’t do it alone, telling Rep. Jones that since the lawmaker is a members of the

House of Representatives he will be [heading] this initiative for his people, which includes working with Foreign Affairs Minister Gbehzohngar Milton Findley for some information.

In a rather jovial expression, President Weah said Mr. Findley had informed him that his father was a lawyer and so he has some of the documents with him, adding “so you can check with him.”

Earlier making the appeal, Rep. Jones said the people have been residing on the land under the squatter right scheme for over 60 years.

According to him, there are over 20,000 residents in Unification Town, adding of that number, “Only three of the residents in Unification Town have legitimate deeds to the property that they currently occupy.”

Rep. Jones explained further that one of those legitimate deeds was signed in 1970 by late President William V.S. Tubman, and another belonging to the Johnson family was signed by late President William R. Tolbert in 1975, while “The Catholic Church also claims that she has a legitimate deed.”

On behalf of the residents of Unification Town, Rep. Jones pleaded with President Weah to give them legitimacy to the land.

GOL holds 2nd retreat for Honorary Consuls

The Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has held a two-day Special Retreat for Honorary Consuls representing the country’s interest in different parts of the world.

The retreat, which was held under the theme, “Economic Growth Thru Foreign Partnership”, was convened on Thursday, February 20, 2020 in the C. Cecil Dennis Jr. Auditorium of the Ministry of

Government on their achievements thus far, and to also discuss how they can contribute to the Government’s Pro-Poor Agenda.

He told the guests that as the George Weah-led administration endeavors to raise the living standard of its citizens, the Government looks forward to Honorary Consul serving as true partners in linking the Government with



Foreign Affairs, on Capitol Hill.

The retreat brought together Honorary Consuls from countries in Asia, Europe, America and Africa as well as senior officials of the Liberian Government headed by Foreign Minister Gbehzohngar Milton Findley.

Other Senior Government officials at the two days event included Mr. Nathaniel McGill, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Mr. Molewwuleh B. Gray, Chairman of the National Investment Commission, Mr. Thomas Doe Nah, Commissioner General of the Liberia Revenue Authority as well as other representatives from various government ministries and agencies.

Speaking at the Opening Session, Foreign Minister Findley welcomed the Honorary Consuls to Liberia and informed them that the retreat was convened primarily to allow Liberia’s Honorary Consuls brief

potential investors.

“We are among other things, instituting a new guideline to track the workings of Honorary Consuls and we look forward to a better working relationship with you all, the Liberian Foreign Minister emphasized”.

During the deliberation, the Chairman of the National Investment Commission, Mr. Molewwuleh B. Gray and the Commissioner General of the Liberia Revenue Authority, Mr. Thomas Doe Nah made separate presentations giving the Honorary Consuls first-hand information on Liberia’s investment climate and tax-regime respectively.

For his part, the LRA Commissioner General, Thomas Doe Nah informed the Honorary Consuls on the role of the LRA, adding that Liberia has a better tax regime. He assured them that all red tapes have been removed thereby

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

NIR boss stresses significance of biometric enrollment in MRU

The Executive Director of the National Identification Registry (NIR), Mr. J. Tiah Nagbe says a well-structured and established biometric regime in the Mano River Union basin would help in closing financial gaps in key areas and ensure credibility in the governance systems of the member states.

Mr. Nagbe said biometric enrollment of citizens would help minimize financial burden on member states in several areas including national censuses, voters’ registration and the proper identification of citizens as they transact businesses across borders in the sub-region.

“For example”, Hon Nagbe said, “a report from the Government of South Africa indicates that since the country launched a robust and high-coverage civil registration and ID system for elections, it has generated an



NIR Boss Mr. J. Tiah Nagbe

estimated saving of USD 314 million over its three election cycles from 2000 through 2014.”

The Executive Director of the national registry made the remarks on Wednesday

February 19, 2020 when a delegation of the Mano River Union (MRU) visited the facilities of Liberia’s National Identification Registry in Monrovia.

The delegation was headed

by Mrs. Medina Wesseh, Secretary General of the MRU and included Madam Grace Harmon, Deputy Director of Sierra Leone’s National Civil Registration Authority. The MRU’s delegation was accompanied at the NIR by

ECOWAS’ Ambassador to Liberia, Amb. Tunde O. Ajisomo and Prof. Sam G. Doe, a Liberian working with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Freetown,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Français

Afrique : le marché de la drogue explose, état des lieux

Chaque jour, l'Afrique doit faire face à de nouveaux problèmes de drogue. En 2050, l'Afrique sera le deuxième plus gros consommateur de drogue au monde. Le développement du trafic, de la production, de la consommation et d'organisations criminelles puissantes n'épargne aucune région du continent. Une situation alarmante que commente Martin Ewi, spécialiste du crime organisé transnational en Afrique.

Martin Ewi est le coordinateur technique du Projet ENACT (renforcer les capacités de réponses de l'Afrique face au crime organisé transnational) à l'Institut d'études de sécurité (ISS) basé à Pretoria, en Afrique du Sud.

ENACT est un projet financé par l'Union européenne dans le cadre de son programme panafricain, mis en œuvre par trois

et sa culture aurait été d'abord expérimentée à Mazaro, sur le fleuve Zambèze, dans la région du centre du Mozambique. Ce que cette histoire précoce de la drogue nous dit, c'est que l'Afrique a été utilisée pour l'expérimentation de la culture de masse de drogues et pour l'exportation grâce à son sol riche et à ses conditions météorologiques favorables. Mais il y a, en Afrique, une histoire des drogues plus récente, qui est liée au trafic international et au rôle général que joue le continent dans l'économie criminelle mondiale.

L'Afrique est-elle devenue au fil du temps une terre de trafic?

Les premiers signes du trafic mondial sont apparus en Afrique de l'Ouest vers la fin de la période coloniale. Des recherches menées par Steven Ellis ont révélé que des trafiquants libanais faisaient de la contrebande et du trafic

le pays ingouvernable politiquement, économiquement et socialement. Les conséquences régionales, en particulier sur les pays limitrophes, ont été considérables.

L'Afrique a toujours été une zone de transit pour les drogues telles que l'héroïne, la cocaïne et d'autres drogues importées. Ce qui a changé ces derniers temps, c'est le développement des routes, l'intensité du trafic et l'augmentation croissante de la consommation. Avant, presque toutes les drogues qui transitaient par le continent étaient exportées. Mais récemment, les données de l'ONU DC montrent qu'une proportion croissante de ces drogues transitoires est consommée localement.

Quelles sont les drogues les plus consommées sur le continent?

La cartographie de la

Les producteurs de l'ouest montagneux dissident non à la vente de leur cacao en Guinée et au Libéria



« La majeure partie de la production cacaoyère de l'ouest montagneux va vers la Guinée et le Libéria », dénonce Obed Blondé Doua, président de l'association des producteurs et organisations professionnelles agricoles de l'Ouest montagneux (APROPAM).

Cette organisation a décidé d'une riposte qui débute les jours à venir par une tournée de sensibilisation des sensibilisation des communautés villageoises, des autorités administratives et sécuritaires des localités frontalières.

« Une tournée pour l'implantation de grandes pancartes pour dire non à la fuite de notre cacao aura lieu sur la ligne frontalière, à Zouan Hounien, Danané, Sipilou, Ouaninou, Booko et Odienné » a annoncé Obed Doua Blondé à 7info.

Trois régions frontalières sont donc concernées par cette tournée et cette action de riposte des producteurs de l'Ouest montagneux face à la fuite de la production ivoirienne, en proie à des menaces.

Selon le président de l'association des producteurs et organisations professionnelles agricoles de l'ouest montagneux, Obed Blondé Doua, « l'harmattan a trop duré cette année et cela n'est pas intéressant pour le cacao ». « Les échanges entre producteurs sont essentiellement basés sur cette question car nous savons que cette année la récolte ne sera pas bonne. »

« Au total, en 2019/2020, un stock de 2 millions de tonnes d'or brun devrait ainsi être acheminé vers les principaux débouchés d'exportation, soit 180?000 tonnes de moins qu'en 2018/2019 », a révélé l'Agence Ecofin, sur le sujet.

Outre cette menace due au changement climatique, une autre menace provient cette fois des Etats-Unis. Après les deux sénateurs démocrates qui avaient contraint Dominique Ouattara à un séjour explicatif sur les efforts déployés par le gouvernement ivoirien, sur le

travail des enfants dans la cacaoculture, c'est autour de trois ONG de mener la charge.

L'association Corporate Accountability Lab, International Rights Advocates et la Civil Rights Litigation Clinic exigent à Nestlé, Hershey ou Mondelez, trois grandes entreprises internationales du négoce du cacao, de « fournir d'ici août, la preuve que leur matière première ne résulte pas d'un processus de production dégradant d'un point de vue humain sous peine d'une fin des importations depuis la Côte d'Ivoire. »

En réaction, Richard Scobey dans le Washington Post, a estimé que « Cet appel irresponsable pour un blocage des importations de cacao depuis la Côte d'Ivoire va plus tôt aggraver la situation au lieu de contribuer à son amélioration. »

La fuite du cacao ivoirien vers la Guinée et le Libéria vient s'ajouter à ce tableau de risques. Le Préfet de la Région du Tonkpi a apporté sa caution à cette initiative locale de lutte pour la sauvegarde des intérêts économiques de la Côte d'Ivoire. Avec le Préfet de Man, la délégation régionale du Conseil café cacao, le représentant de la Chambre nationale des Rois et Chefs traditionnels de Côte d'Ivoire, le Gloudeh Gué Pascal, le ministère de l'Agriculture et du développement rural ainsi que les autorités préfectorales des régions du Bafing et du Kabadougou.

« A l'occasion de cette tournée de sensibilisation, d'installation des pancartes, il y aura la mise en place de comités villageois de surveillance dirigés par les présidents de jeunes » a indiqué Obed Blondé Doua.

Des autorités administratives et sécuritaires sont dénoncées comme parties prenantes de ce trafic qui dessert l'économie nationale.



plus populaire du continent. On trouve dans l'Égypte antique des preuves de la présence de cannabis dès 3 000 avant JC, mais on estime que celui-ci a été surtout introduit en Afrique, pour la première fois à Madagascar et sur la côte méditerranéenne du continent il y a plus de 1 000 ans par des commerçants asiatiques. Le khat (Catha edulis), dont la production, la consommation et le commerce se seraient développés dès le XIIIe siècle, est également l'une des premières drogues utilisées en Afrique.

En ce qui concerne l'opium, d'après des recherches menées par la professeure Thembisa Waetjen de l'Université de Johannesburg, il aurait été introduit par un homme d'affaires portugais appelé Ignasio José de Paiva Raposo

que l'Afrique de l'Ouest est devenue le carrefour principal pour le transit de la cocaïne en provenance d'Amérique latine à destination de l'Europe et de l'Amérique du Nord, la côte est africaine est devenue, pour ces mêmes destinations, le carrefour du trafic d'héroïne en provenance d'Afghanistan et du Pakistan. En octobre 2007, l'Office des Nations unies contre la drogue et le crime (ONU DC) a estimé que la moyenne de saisies annuelles de cocaïne en Afrique était de 0,6 tonne, mais en 2007, cette moyenne avait grimpé à 2,5 tonnes et à 5,7 tonnes uniquement pour l'année 2007.

La situation la plus grave en Afrique fut alors la Guinée-Bissau où de puissants cartels de drogue ont profité de la mauvaise gouvernance du pays pour prendre le contrôle et en faire un narco-État. En 2005, le trafic de cocaïne en provenance d'Amérique latine avait rendu

sont beaucoup plus dangereuses que les drogues traditionnelles.

Ce que nous avons constaté, c'est que là où il y a un trafic élevé d'une drogue, il y a aussi une consommation locale croissante. En septembre 2019, le projet ENACT a lancé l'indice de crime organisé en Afrique, qui fournit un cadre pour mesurer l'impact de la criminalité organisée en Afrique. Cet indice a révélé que l'héroïne est concentrée sur la côte orientale de l'Afrique et dans quelques pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest comme le Nigeria et le Ghana et que le Mozambique a la plus forte concentration de trafic d'héroïne de la région. La cocaïne est largement concentrée en Afrique de l'Ouest et les drogues synthétiques, également connues sous le nom de substances psychoactives,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Français

Afrique : le marché

sont concentrées en Afrique du Sud, au Nigeria, au Soudan, en Libye, au Cameroun, en République centrafricaine et au Tchad, avec des taux de consommation croissants dans certains pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest et de l'Est.

Quels sont les grandes tendances en matière de consommation ?

La première tendance importante en termes de consommation, c'est que le nombre de personnes qui consomment des drogues augmente. L'Afrique sera le deuxième plus grand consommateur de drogues au monde après l'Asie du Sud en 2050. Ce que les statistiques nous disent, c'est que 87% des opioïdes pharmaceutiques saisis dans le monde provenaient d'Afrique de l'Ouest, d'Afrique centrale et d'Afrique du Nord.

En 2016, il y avait 1,8 million de consommateurs de cocaïne sur le continent. Toutes drogues confondues, il y a plus de 10 millions des consommateurs de drogues en Afrique, dont 5,7 millions rien qu'en Afrique de l'Ouest (2018). Avec plus de 50% du total du continent, l'Afrique de l'Ouest est actuellement le plus grand consommateur de drogues d'Afrique.

Une étude d'ENACT, intitulée « Demande et consommation de drogues en Afrique : modélisation des tendances jusqu'en 2050 », publiée en 2019, montre les tendances régionales suivantes en Afrique entre 2015 et 2050 :

Le graphique montre que l'Afrique de l'Ouest aura la plus forte population de consommateurs de drogues.

Plusieurs facteurs contribuent à l'augmentation de la demande des drogues en Afrique : il s'agit notamment de facteurs économiques, culturels, éducatifs et démographiques. La croissance démographique contrastée avec les possibilités économiques limitées, en particulier le chômage des jeunes, créera plus de frustration qui poussera de nombreux jeunes vers la drogue. Les pressions sociales et la tolérance culturelle continueront de pousser les gens vers la drogue. Les personnes ayant une éducation limitée ont également une tendance plus élevée à utiliser des drogues comme mécanisme d'adaptation.

Les grandes organisations criminelles internationales sont-elles présentes et actives sur le continent

africain ?

L'Afrique est un véritable eldorado pour les syndicats mondiaux du crime organisé. L'anarchie, les frontières poreuses, la corruption institutionnalisée et les abondantes ressources naturelles ont toutes fourni des conditions propices à divers cartels du crime organisé. Ces cartels impliqués dans le trafic de drogue, l'exploitation des ressources naturelles et d'autres activités criminelles ont divisé le continent en zones d'influences.

L'un des cartels les plus notoires est celui de la Ndrangheta, un groupe mafieux italien, qui maintient une présence dans plusieurs pays africains dont le Nigeria, la Côte d'Ivoire, la Tunisie, l'Afrique du Sud, le Maroc et l'Algérie. Selon un certain nombre de rapports d'enquêtes, ce cartel est impliqué dans le trafic de cocaïne et d'héroïne et dans divers crimes en Afrique du Sud.

Il y a aussi Cosa Nostra, un cartel sicilien très présent dans plusieurs pays dont l'Afrique du Sud, le Zimbabwe, la Namibie, la République démocratique du Congo, l'Angola, le Ghana. En plus du trafic de drogue, le cartel a été impliqué dans les diamants illégaux et d'autres minéraux. La Camorra est un autre cartel italien de Naples avec une présence en Afrique. Selon certains rapports, le groupe est présent en Afrique de l'Ouest et dans des pays comme la République centrafricaine. Ce groupe a été associé à la violence, à la prostitution, à la drogue et au trafic d'êtres humains.

Les Mexicains sont aussi présents comme le cartel de Sinaloa, fondé en 1989, fortement impliqué dans le trafic de cocaïne en Afrique de l'Ouest. Leur modèle opérationnel consiste à collaborer avec des groupes locaux pour faire passer de la drogue à travers des ports d'Afrique de l'Ouest. On trouve aussi dans le trafic de drogue en Afrique les cartels de Los Zetas, Golfo, Juarez, Tijuana et Guadalajara.

Y a-t-il aujourd'hui des grandes organisations criminelles africaines transnationales qui opèrent au niveau régional et international ? Il y a un nombre croissant de syndicats africains du crime organisé. Le plus organisé d'entre eux est la confraternité nigériane Black Axe. Ils ont une présence mondiale et sont structurés comme un cartel mafieux sicilien. Ils opèrent en Afrique du Sud, au Kenya, aux États-Unis, au Canada, au Royaume-Uni.

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 ».

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

18,000 metric tons of gas ready for distribution

-Commerce Ministry

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry says a verified quantity of 18,000 (eighteen thousand) metric tons of gas, representing 6.3 million gallons will fully be

February, as efforts to overcome the recent gasoline crisis continue.

The release says queues are still visible, owing to limited logistics in moving tankers to filling stations across the country.

gasoline products in containers remains in force and that those found in the habit of hoarding or selling the products above the approved price of \$ LRD635.00 per gallon for PMS and \$LRD 730.00 for AGO should desist, or face disciplinary measures.

At the same time the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has instituted a number of measures intended to enhance accountability, transparency and confidence in the Liberian petroleum sector.

In line with the measures, inspectors and monitors from the Ministry will now be assigned to LPRC's Loading Rack and related areas, effective Monday, February 24, 2020.

The release says the Commerce Ministry has instructed the Management of the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company to re-institute the Transparency Reporting Regime, which will provide the inventory level of each and every importer on a daily basis, to the importers, with copies to the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Finance and Development Planning and State for Presidential Affairs, respectively. **Press Release**



distributed to the public for consumption.

According to a Commerce Ministry release, the queues at filling stations will disappear today, Monday, February 24 and Tuesday, 25th

The Commerce Ministry, LPRC and importers, the release continues, are working together to overcome the gasoline crisis.

It notes that the Ministry's restriction on the sale of

ANC opens county

Cont'd from back page

remain resilient, smart and tough.

Mr. Cummings also encouraged the people of Capemount saying, there is hope and "we will prevail and things will get better", while asking for their continuous support especially as the country goes to the senatorial elections later this year before the presidential in 2023 to transform Liberia.

He further called on the county to work with the new county leadership inducted during the program and to support the county Chairman Mr. Tonia Fahnbulleh and his team in Cape Mount.

He promised to visit again and assured them of his return to the county to spend more time with them during his county tour later this year.

During the program on Saturday, the mobilization and operations team conducted mass recruitment as several citizens of Cape Mount trooped to fill out their membership forms and take their ID cards.

"ANC continues to be the fastest growing political party in the country. We welcome every citizen irrespective of tribe, ability, status, gender, etc. Many thanks to the great people of Cape Mount for making the ANC their home. Remember, at the ANC, Everybody is Somebody and we Put Liberia First. Join Us today!" the party said in a

statement issued later on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the ANC announced Sunday that its Disability Council will open an office at the party headquarters later today Monday February 24, 2020.

In a statement issued, the party notes that it realizes the the rights of persons with disability in politics and public life.

"The Chairperson of the Disability Council of the ANC, Amb. Daintowon Domah Pay-Bayee, a Politician and Advocate for the Missing Voices " Persons with Disabilities especially Women, Youth and Children ", officials and members of the Council and the Party will be Officially Opening the Disability Council's Office on the 24th of February 2020 at 11:00 am at the Alternative National Congress (ANC) Headquarters, Airfield Shortcut, 24th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia," the party said.

It added that "all Women Groups, Youth Groups, Partners, Donors, Members of both Print and Electronic Media in the interest of the advancement of the lives of Persons with Disabilities in the spirit of leaving no one behind and Institutions of Persons with Disabilities mostly especially are Officially Invited." -Writes **Othello B. Garblah**

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IAA in corruption

Planning for the establishment of the same IAA Testing Center.

The letter details that the IAA did not inform the MFDP that the World Bank had provided the needed resources for the IAA Testing Center.

"The second funding request from the IAA to MFDP was also approved and about US\$200,000 was provided for the same project. The equipment, purchased by the World Bank, were then used to setup a training room at the IAA Congo Town office instead of a testing center since IAA request for the establishment of a testing center was denied by those tests granting institutions," the communication adds.

The letter informs the committee that the continued payroll audits of government's ministries and agencies by the IAA appears to provide huge financial savings for the Government of Liberia as ghost names are allegedly removed from payrolls of ministries and agencies.

"The story is completely different in reality. Over the period these audits cost the Government huge financial losses with very little benefits. Clandestinely, as ghost names are removed from payrolls after widely publicized payroll audits, they subsequently resurface on those payrolls. This is so because the scam is intended to always provide the IAA with continued payroll audit opportunities thru which huge

sums of money is pocketed. Funding proposals by the IAA to MFDP for payroll audits are regularly grossly inflated by an average of 300% and are unrealistic," Neal's letter continues.

He maintains that in order to justify these unrealistic amounts in IAA's funding proposal for audits to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Director General Nyeswa misleads MFDP allegedly by grossly inflating payroll audit days, numbers of auditors going out for the special payroll audit, number of vehicles used and days rented for payroll audit, among other alleged excesses.

The Liberian Senate is expected to probe the letter

GOL holds 2nd retreat

Cont'd from page 7

enhancing LRA efficiency level substantially.

Mr. Nah also stated that as the Liberian Government seeks to expand its revenue base, the role of the Honorary Consuls in attracting investors to Liberia cannot be over emphasized.

In his assertion, the Executive Director of the NIC, Mr. Molewweh B. Gray who made presentation on Liberia's investment policy, noted that GOL provides fiscal incentives for foreign companies precisely in critical sectors including Agriculture, infrastructure development, tourism, and agribusiness among others.

Following the Liberian government officials' assertions, Separate presentations were made by the Honorary Consuls relative to their individual initiatives aimed at assisting Liberia.

While hailing the two days retreat, the Honorary Consuls added that the gathering will help shape their engagements in key priority areas in the

years ahead.

For his part, the Dean of Liberia's Honorary Consul Mr. Soutos Alexandros, Liberia's Honorary Consul in Greece, thanked the Government of Liberia for organizing what he termed as an important initiative that will strengthen their relationship.

He disclosed their readiness to continuously work with the Liberian Government noting; he is working very hard to keep Liberia's image high in Greece.

Also, Liberia's Honorary Consul to Saudi Arabia Hon. Ayam Al Halai disclosed that the Commercial department of the Consulate in Saudi Arabia has been working assiduously to link investors with the Liberian authorities. He noted that he is also sourcing scholarship opportunities for Liberians.

This is the Second Retreat for Honorary Consuls under the administration of President George Manneh Weah. The first retreat was held in 2018, at the Boulevard Palace Hotel in Sinkor.

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Cummings or Boakai?

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

All seems not to be well here in the four collaborating opposition political parties that want to deny President George Manneh Weah's ruling Coalition for Democratic Change a second term at the ballot box in 2023, as a member of the CPP, the Alternative National Congress (ANC) warns against stage-managed process in the collaboration.

Other parties making up the CPP include the former ruling Unity Party, All Liberian Party and the Liberty Party, respectively.

The ANC is headed by former presidential candidate Alexander B. Cummings, a strong critic of the Weah regime.

The party secretary general, Aloysius Toe sounds a caveat here, reminding the collaboration Mr. Alexander Cummings and the ANC have time and again, said, they will



only respect and accept any results within the CPP framework that emanates from a fair, transparent and democratic process.

The statement came a day

after the political leader of the All Liberian Party Benoni Urey, a fellow collaboration member announced that former Vice President Joseph Nyumah and leader of the ex-

ruling Unity Party, is most suited to lead the opposition bloc against President Weah for the 2023 Presidential election.

Cllr. Toe says the ANC is a responsible party and intends to remain responsible and mature in all its utterances and dealings with those in the CPP and the Liberian government.

He notes that there have been attempts by some of their colleagues in the CPP to demean, denigrate and portray the ANC and its political leader negatively thru deliberate misinformation about the party's position on candidate's selection process in the Collaboration known as Voters' Perception Survey (VPS).

"This is not the first time the ANC and its political leader have been denigrated and demeaned, and ridiculed by people associated with a sister party. This has become a pattern against the ANC. The scars and losses from Cape Mount to the CPP are still fresh on our minds, all from the same people," he laments without specifically calling names.

According to him, the smear campaign against the ANC has been long and consistent; and the source has always been the same; adding, but the party has chosen to remain above the fray, and will not travel the sad and pathetic path of attacking, demeaning or denigrating any political leader or a sister party.

"We wish to make it categorically clear that at no time has the ANC opposed primaries. ANC embraced primaries. The VPS will not replace the Primary. What the ANC has done has been to demonstrate good faith, and offer a clear proposal for the selection of the Standard Bearer for the CPP. Fellow Liberians, these are the facts in the CPP concerning candidate selection, and they are irrefutable", Cllr. Toe explains.

He narrates the Unity Party

(UP) proposed a consensus where the four political leaders would agree unanimously on who leads the ticket.

He adds the ANC proposed that if a decision is not reached by the four political leaders as to who heads the presidential ticket, then a Voters' Perception Survey should be conducted where members will decide who they want to lead the ticket, and the decision would then be endorsed by a convention, a decision, he says, the CPP accepted in August 2019.

However, he discloses that in January 2020, the Liberty Party (LP) a members of CPP proposed the removal of VPS to be replaced by primaries and immediately, the ALP endorsed the LP's position.

He noted that in the spirit of collaboration, understanding and goodwill, the ANC accepted the inclusion of primaries as a process but insists that in order to get a winnable candidate, the people must be a part of the decision-making process to tell us who they believe is the best candidate to head the CPP and lead Liberia.

Cllr. Toe explains further that prior to Mr. Benoni Urey's press conference on February 19, 2020, a decision was already made by the four Parties that Consensus, VPS and primaries will be conducted where the results of VPS will not be binding but used for informational purposes only prior to primaries.

He details that the ALP opposed to the VPS being conducted before the primaries, and suggested that it be done prior to the consensus—a position the other three parties disagreed with.

He stresses the ANC strongly believes that without using a VPS process to identify candidates voters prefer, there is a chance that the CPP would select a candidate that has a very low or poor voter approval, causing a significant number of supporters of individual party and CPP supporters to choose not to participate in an election, since they do not like the chosen candidates.

IAA in corruption web

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The Deputy Director General for Audit at the Internal Audit Agency, Robert Neal discloses here the IAA sits in a corruption web, calling for action to ratify the situation.

According to a communication addressed to the Senate Committee on Public Account (PAC) which was read during a hearing on the activities of the agency, Mr. Neal details the IAA has been engulfed with unspeakable levels of corruption, bad governance, including breaches of integrity and transparency policies and laws.

"These acts are being perpetrated by the institution's Director General, Mr. Emmanuel Barten

Nyeswa. For a year we discussed these issues internally but unfortunately, there has been no resolution. It is indicative upon this that I have decided to request a formal investigation into the ongoing standoff at the IAA," he writes.

He explains in his communication that the IAA, in contravention of its statutory mandate, has been very much irrelevant in the fight against corruption in Liberia. "This has been troubling! I wish to provide some examples of the allegations being made."

According to him, excess on IAA payroll; a review of IAA payroll couple of months ago by a senior official at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) showed an unjustifiable excess of close to

US\$40,000 on the payroll and that Director General Nyeswa was invited to explain the excess.

He continues that when Nyeswa allegedly failed to give justification for this amount that had illegitimately been paid out for months; the MFDP official then placed an immediate freeze on the disbursement of IAA salary and allowance for the month, pending an audit of the payroll.

Neal says unfortunately, with multiple pressures mounted on the said MFDP official which, he did not name, Nyeswa gave in to the pressure, released the payroll and called off the payroll audit. Up to this point, the unjustifiable amount in excess of US\$40,000 is still being collected by the director general.

He discloses that double amounts received for IAA Testing Center in 2016, the World Bank provided a little over US\$26,000 for the purchase of equipment and rent and the Center was intended to provide Liberians the opportunity to sit for the CPA, CIA, and CFA exams in Monrovia at the IAA head office.

According to him, the Center was not setup during the administration of former President Johnson Sirleaf and the equipment were kept by the IAA and that last year; a second funding request was made to the Ministry of Finance and Development



▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

NIR boss stresses

Cont'd from page 7

Sierra Leone.

Mr. Nagbe also explained to the visiting delegation that the privacy of individual's data is secured as the information placed on the identification card is what he considered "general information" but the details are stored in the national data-bank.

For her part, the Secretary General of the MRU, Mrs. Wesseh said the sub-regional body was impressed with the level of progress Liberia has

made in the establishment of a national biometric system. The head of the MRU called for more consultations and collaboration aimed at ensuring a vibrant biometric system in the sub-region.

The delegation also toured the enrollment center, the national data-bank center and the printing facilities after which Mrs. Wesseh and Prof. Doe, as citizens of Liberia, used the time to be enrolled.

ANC opens county offices in Capemount & Bomi -As Cummings meets local leaders



The political leader of the Alternative National Congress or ANC, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings over the weekend opened the party's county offices in Sinje and Tiene respectively as part of efforts to strengthen the ANC's structure in those counties.

The ANC embarked upon a restructuring and mobilization campaign across the country since the end of the 2017 presidential and

legislative elections in which it came third.

The restructuring and mobilization efforts also includes building new local party offices at the county level as a mean of expanding the ANC's activities in those areas ahead of the pending 2020 mid-term senatorial elections and the 2023 Presidential and Legislative elections.

The visit also coincided with the induction of Grand Capemount County structure,

followed by a sport match between ANC Grand Capemount and ANC Bomi.

Mr. Cummings whose party is also part of the four Collaborating Political Parties or CPP also held meetings with local leaders within the counties.

He thanked the people for their support, although he acknowledged that times are tough, but urged them to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

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Barcelona to have Coronavirus checks ahead of Napoli clash

Barcelona players will reportedly undergo coronavirus checks when they land in Naples this week, as authorities batten down the hatches to prevent the epidemic spreading further.

The hysteria surrounding the virus reached fever pitch in Italy over the weekend. There are more than 100 confirmed cases of the potentially deadly illness in the country, and as some towns in the north of the

country go into effective lockdown, four Serie A matches were postponed on Saturday as a precautionary measure.

Inter vs Sampdoria, Atalanta vs Sassuolo, Hellas Verona vs Cagliari and Torino vs Parma were all postponed, and although the Naples region remains unaffected as it stands, it seems no chances are being taken.

Barca's visit to Napoli is no exception, as the visiting players are to be checked to ensure they are not inadvertently bringing



the virus into the country. ESPN report that the players and staff will have their temperatures taken, and any showing signs of illness will be rushed straight to hospital.

The Champions League last 16 clash will see Barcelona look to continue their recent recovery with an important first-leg win. They prepared for the trip by dismissing Eibar 5-0 on Saturday, Lionel Messi ending a brief goal drought in stunning fashion as he netted four.

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