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TRULY INDEPENDENT  
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# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

**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. 23

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# Weah vowed to repay AFL's money

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# Continental News

## Lesotho PM seeks immunity over murder of ex-wife

Lawyers for Lesotho's prime minister have told a court that he cannot be charged over the murder of his estranged wife because his position makes him immune from prosecution.

PM Thomas Thabane's then-wife, Lipolelo Thabane, was shot dead in 2017.

The case has now been referred to the High Court. His current wife has already been charged with the murder.

Mr Thabane would be the first African leader to be charged with domestic murder while in office. The case has shocked many in the small landlocked kingdom which is entirely surrounded by South Africa. In Monday's hearing, defence lawyer Qhalehang Letsika said: "My client cannot be prosecuted while in office but he is not above the law."

The presiding magistrate referred the case to the High Court, which will be sitting as



Prime Minister Thomas Thabane (L) and his wife Maesaiah (R) appeared in court together on Monday

the Constitutional Court when it hears the case with a panel of at least three judges.

Mr Thabane, 80, missed a court appearance last week because he went to South Africa for medical treatment.

He rejected reports that he

had fled the country. In January, his wife Maesaiah Thabane also went to South Africa after police issued a warrant of arrest against her.

Mr Thabane has said he would step down in July, resisting pressure from his own

party to leave office immediately. Lesotho is a constitutional monarchy and while the constitution is explicit that the king cannot be charged with a crime, it is unclear on the fate of the prime minister.

It has been reported that Mr Thabane wants to seek immunity for himself and his current wife Maesaiah Thabane who has already been charged with Lipolelo Thabane's murder but it is not clear what that would mean for the murder case.

Prosecutors argue that everyone is equal before the law and Mr Thabane should be no exception.

The country's top legal minds - a full bench of judges in the High Court - will need to decipher what the law allows. What is not in doubt is that this case will test Lesotho's laws and the independence of the judiciary.

Mr Thabane has been embarrassed and weakened

politically - some within his All Basotho Convention (ABC) want him to leave office immediately to face this murder debacle on his own.

But he is presumed innocent until proven guilty and until the matter gets finalised, he will continue running the country, at least until his party can agree on a successor. Lipolelo Thabane was gunned down at close range on the side of a dirt road while returning to her home in a village near the capital, Maseru.

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

At the time, the prime minister was living with Maesaiah, who is now 42, as if she were his wife. But Lipolelo had already won a separate legal battle to be recognised as First Lady, rather than Maesaiah. Maesaiah accompanied Mr Thabane to his inauguration, following his estranged wife's death.

Two months later she and Mr Thabane got married in a Roman Catholic ceremony. BBC

## Togo leader 'wins re-election' amid fraud protest

Togo's President Faure Gnassingbé has won re-election, according to preliminary results from the electoral commission.

However, opposition leader Agbéyomé Kodjo has accused the authorities of widespread fraud.

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

The electoral commission said that Mr Gnassingbé had received 72% of the vote, compared with about 18% for Mr Kodjo. The final results are expected to be announced by the Supreme Court this week. 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.

Africa Live: Updates on this and other stories from Africa

Mr Kodjo, former prime minister and head of the national assembly, accused the authorities of setting up fake polling stations in Saturday's election, 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 faced 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



## Tanzania journalist freed after seven months



Erick Kabendera was initially arrested over a question about his citizenship but that investigation was dropped

Detained Tanzanian journalist Erick Kabendera has been freed seven months after he was arrested. He had been charged with money laundering, tax evasion and leading organised crime.

Mr Kabendera's release comes after he entered into a plea-bargain agreement with the prosecution.

His detention was seen as an example of rising repression against the press and critics of Tanzania's President John Magufuli who came into office in 2015.

Rights group Amnesty International celebrated Mr Kabendera's release but added that there had been "no justice" for him. "Tanzania must publicly commit to ensuring that everyone can freely exercise all their human rights and stop the

politically motivated persecution of dissidents and journalists like Erick Kabendera," a statement from the organisation said. Shortly after Mr Kabendera was arrested last July the US and UK embassies in Tanzania said they were "concerned about the steady erosion of due process in Tanzania, as evidenced by the ever more frequent resorting to lengthy pre-trial detentions and shifting charges by its justice system."

The authorities had initially said the investigative journalist was arrested over a question about his citizenship but that investigation was dropped and the financial crimes charges were brought in.

His case was also postponed multiple times with the state prosecution saying they were still investigating the case.

# 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 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.*

**P**RINCETON - 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.

**The New Dawn**  
FULLY INDEPENDENT



By Akira Kawamoto

# Beyond Abenomics

*Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government has transformed Japanese monetary and fiscal policy over the last seven years. But the Abenomics experiment shows that enhancing demand is not enough to boost economic growth when an economy also faces massive supply-side constraints.*

**T**OKYO - Since taking office at the end of 2012, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has transformed the country's macroeconomic management. But the "Abenomics" experiment may soon start drawing to a close. Although Abe's term as head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party does not end until the autumn of 2021, the succession debate has already begun. It is therefore an appropriate time to assess the effectiveness of his policies, and what might come next.

The hallmark of Abenomics has been aggressive monetary easing under Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda, whom Abe appointed in March 2013. Kuroda, previously one of the leading internationalists at the Ministry of Finance (MOF), has been instrumental in rapidly expanding the BOJ's balance sheet - to a degree comparable to the BOJ's American and European counterparts. This represents a clear break from the policies of his predecessor, Masaaki Shirakawa, who belonged to the BOJ's mainstream conservative bureaucracy.

Under Kuroda's watch, Japan's average annual inflation between 2013 and 2019 was 1.1%, according to the International Monetary Fund. That represented a marked improvement from the previous five years under Shirakawa, when inflation averaged -0.2%. In fact, as Columbia University's Takatoshi Ito and Takeo Hoshi of the University of Tokyo argue in their recent book *The Japanese Economy*, the BOJ's tight monetary policy before Abe took office worsened Japan's deflation problems.

Regarding fiscal policy, the Abe administration, under pressure from the mainstream fiscal hawks of the MOF, raised the consumption-tax rate from 5% to 8% in April 2014, in line with a 2012 agreement with the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ). But the unexpectedly sharp economic slowdown that followed led Abe to postpone the next planned hike (to 10%) from 2015 to 2017, despite objections by MOF officials. The 10% rate eventually was introduced in October 2019.

Japan's exceptionally high level of public debt - nearly 150% of GDP in 2018 - means that any government must consider revenue-increasing measures, while recognizing that they can be a severe impediment to economic growth. Fine-tuning the size and timing of such measures is therefore critical, and it requires a maestro's touch to get it right.

The Abe administration approached last October's consumption-tax hike very cautiously, implementing it alongside counterbalancing measures such as reduced rates on foodstuffs. But that was not enough to offset the tax policy's negative effects. Strained by the hike, as well as by the fallout from Typhoon Hagibis, Japan's economy shrank by an annualized rate of 6.3% from the previous quarter in October-December 2019.

The longer-term effects of that contraction - which may be aggravated by the COVID-19 outbreak - remain to be seen. Nonetheless, the Abe administration has prevailed over Japan's powerful policy establishment at the MOF and BOJ, not least because of the shift of political power to the Kantei (the name of the prime minister's official residence) and the composition of Abe's team: current and former government officials from outside the mainstream elite bureaucracy. Moreover, Abe was greatly helped by the lack of effective opposition in the Diet, as widespread disappointment with the previous DPJ-led administration enabled him to win one election after another.

But now, although Japan's avoidance of deflation in recent years was no mean achievement, Abe's successor will face two big challenges. The first is to boost economic growth, an area where Abenomics has underperformed. While monetary and fiscal policies have strengthened Japan's insufficient aggregate demand, average annual 1.1% growth under Abe demonstrates that this alone is not sufficient.

In particular, Japan must implement supply-side policies that enhance productivity. BOJ estimates of potential growth rates between 2013 and 2019 show that much of the contribution came from expansion of the country's workforce and capital stock, while the contribution of productivity gains has actually declined under Abenomics. Moreover, Japan needs higher growth to finance its mounting social-security costs. If pro-growth policies remain unfocused, the fiscal burden ultimately will destroy the economy.

The top priority must be to create a vibrant job market and accelerate the economy's shift to more productive sectors. The next imperative is bold regulatory reform to encourage new market entrants; Japan still maintains strict, non-transparent regulations to protect its old-fashioned taxi industry from ride-sharing services, for example. Establishing a nurturing environment for start-ups that eventually can replace Japan's old industrial behemoths is another challenge, requiring a new government agency devoted to innovation. Policymakers also must urgently upgrade the country's education system for the digital age.

These policies will require political courage to overcome strong vested interests, and the wisdom to embrace continuous policy improvement. It is a pity that Abe did not spend his tremendous political capital on the critical economic agenda, with the exception of trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership. His successor will have to make a much stronger long-term commitment to pro-growth policies.

The second challenge is to energize the government bureaucracy. In sharp contrast to the United States, where institutions and experts compete to provide policymaking services, Japan's bureaucracy is a de facto monopoly supplier. Following institutional reforms aimed at exerting effective political leadership over the silo-minded bureaucracy, a central personnel authority, controlled by powerful politicians in the cabinet, now vets senior Japanese civil servants. But many critics claim that this system encourages officials to tell politicians only what they want to hear, and stifles bottom-up initiatives.

That is too bad, because Japan urgently needs a new style of policymaking in which well-informed, open-minded civil servants offer expert options for decision-makers. But returning to traditional seniority-based personnel practices within ministerial bureaucracies is not an option. Instead, Abe's successor must try to overhaul the bureaucracy by establishing a transparent, merit-based evaluation and appointment system.

Seven years of Abenomics have produced some notable results. But Japan's next government must focus squarely on the supply-side and administrative reforms needed to accelerate and sustain economic growth.



**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](mailto:elamin@usaid.gov) with copy to Thomatta Cooper at [tccooper@usaid.gov](mailto: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](mailto:elamin@usaid.gov) and Thomatta Cooper at [tccooper@usaid.gov](mailto: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

- ISSUANCE DATE:** 02/19/2020
- CLOSING DATE/TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** 03/09/2020 at 17:30 Monrovia time
- POSITION TITLE:** Financial Management/Budget Analyst
- 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.
- 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.
- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia with possible travel as stated in the statement of duties.
- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility and computer access
- 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:**

- Supervision Received:** This position reports directly to the Health Office Director.
- Supervision Exercised:** None.
- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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:

- "Cooperating country" means the country in which the employing USAID Mission is located.
- "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](mailto:amangou@usaid.gov) and Sylvester Browne, Human Resources Specialist, email: [sbrowne@usaid.gov](mailto:sbrowne@usaid.gov)

**II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION**

- Education:** A university degree in finance & budgeting, sociology/social sciences, economics, business, accounting or another management-related field.
- Prior Work Experience:** A minimum of five years of progressively responsible positions in public financial management, accounting and or budget management required.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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:
- A clearly typed application cover letter that briefly summarizes why you believe you are qualified for this position.
  - Resume or CV.
  - The names and contact details of three references that can attest to your financial management experience.
  - Documentation (e.g. copies of certificates or degrees) that address the minimum requirements of the position.
  - 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**

**Sinje Health Center receives large solar power**

**S**inje Health Center in Grand Cape Mount County has received the largest solar power under UNDP Liberia Solar for Health Project.

At a technical handover of the 3 kilowatt power grid system at the weekend, the health facility received 154 panels-(275 watts each) and 54 batteries- a capacity of 3000 watts each.

The aim is to help the

theaters and maternal and child health centers within 12 health facilities in seven Counties- Bong, Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Lofa, Bomi, Grand Bassa and Montserrado.

Each health center is benefitting at different levels of solar power capacity. Training of relevant staff also forms part of the package.

Deputy Health Minister and Chief Medical Officer of Liberia Francis Kateh, applauded the

energy as part of efforts aimed at greening the environment and fighting climate change.

According to the Pillar Head of UNDP's Sustainable Economic Transformation Programme, DorslaFarcarthy Health is critical to the sustenance of any nation and thus needs to be prioritize in such innovative interventions.

Mr. Farcarthy stressed that sustainability should be prioritized in order for the solar system to run smoothly and last long.

He described the system as a "good design" that can be very useful in other areas and pledged UNDP's partnership role in helping to mobilize resources for improved investments.

The UNDP Solar for Health Project Manager, Moses Massah also announced that as part of a sustainability plan, a MOU is to be drafted and signed by parties involved in the project.

The solar power project is being managed by a Liberian owned company called Eco-Power.

Its General Manager VicksonKorlewala describes the system as progressive and highly sophisticated and if managed well, can last more than 20 years.

He also informed partners that the system can be monitored from anywhere in Liberia. As part of the arrangement, ECO-Power will maintain the system for one-year.



government find innovative ways of cutting down on fuel consumption and reducing carbon emissions, as Liberia struggles with climate change issues.

The UNDP funded solar project prioritizes laboratories, operation

intervention by UNDP in helping the Liberian Government to save lives.

Dr. Kateh pledged and committed his administration to ensuring proper maintenance of the facility.

UNDP is encouraging investment in renewable

**President Weah applauds Estonia**

**P**resident. George Manneh Weah has, on behalf of the Liberian people and in his own name extended sincere congratulations to President KerstiKaljulaid, of the Republic of Estonia, on the National Day of that country.

In his message to President Kaljulaid, Mr. Weah wished him and the People of Estonia a

promoted similar goals of human rights, peace, security, justice and the advancement of human dignity."

The Liberian President assured his counterpart that under his leadership the two countries will continue to work in harmony in upholding and promoting these cherished values and amplifying their bilateral relations to include



happy celebration, success and prosperity.

"As we join you in celebrating this auspicious occasion, we note with admiration, our long standing relationship which dates back to 1921 when Liberia as founding member of the League of Nations recognized the newly formed Baltic Republic; since then, our two countries have shared and

cooperation on women empowerment, joint initiatives between Liberia and Estonia in the spheres of education, science and technology and agriculture.

The Liberian leader then wished President Kaljulaid personal good health and for the people of the Republic of Estonia continue prosperity.

**Pleebo health center receives supplies**

By GareysonNeufville

**T**he only public health center in PleeboSodoken district#2, Maryland County has received medical supplies donated by Speaker Bhofal Chambers, who represents the district.

The drugs were delivered to the medical center recently by the district coordinator in the office of Speaker Chambers, Robert P.Weah.

Mr.Weah said the donation by the Speaker is a means of identifying with the facility following numerous appeals from citizens.

Receiving the supplies, the administrator of the pleebo health center Garrison Sayon, lauded the effort of Speaker Chambers and described the donation as timely.

Mr. Sayon however complained of lack electricity



and more staff not on government payroll as some challenges hindering the smooth operation of the center.

He appealed to the office of the Speaker thru Mr. Sayon in finding remedy for some of these challenges.

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Defense Minister, AFL Chief of Staff subpoenaed

By Winston W. Parley

On prosecutors' request, Criminal Court "C" Judge Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay has subpoenaed Defense Minister Daniel Ziankahn and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), Major General Prince C. Johnson, to testify in the trial of former Defense Ministry officials regarding alleged misapplication of soldiers' compulsory savings.

Making the request Monday, 24 February, the prosecution pleaded with the court for the issuance of the writ of ad - testificandum to be served on Minister Ziankahn and AFL Chief of Staff Gen. Johnson.

The prosecution specifically states in its request that the testimony of the subpoenaed Minister will

be restricted to the authorization of his name as a signatory to the AFL Pension Account or AFL Welfare and Morale Account.

Also, the prosecution adds that the Army Chief of Staff Gen. Johnson's testimony will be restricted to the authorization of his name as signatory to the AFL Pension Account or AFL Welfare and Morale Account.

The prosecution had requested the appearance of the officials for Wednesday, 26 February, but the judge, in granting the State's request orders that both generals are to be served with subpoena to appear on 25 February at 10:00 AM.

Judge Gbeisay warns that failure on the part of the subpoenaed officials to appear, the court shall ensure that they are in court, further instructing

the clerk to issue the subpoena.

The subpoenaed officials are due to testify in the trial of former Defense Minister Brownie Samukai, co-defendants Joseph P. Johnson and J. Nyumah Dorbor and others who are standing trial for allegedly embezzling funds generated in a compulsory saving scheme established in July 2009 for personnel of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) during former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's rule.

The defendants were indicted by the regime of President George Manneh Weah on 9 October 2019 over claims of committing economic sabotage, theft of property, and misuse of public money, among others.

Through the compulsory savings funds, prosecutors say former Minister Samukai, former Deputy Defense Minister Joseph Johnson and former Defense Ministry Comptroller Nyumah Dorbor deducted the salaries of AFL officers from all ranks to serve as supplementary pension benefits for assistance to wounded soldiers and deceased soldiers' families.

Over US\$1.2m of the US\$1.9m deposited was allegedly misapplied by Mr. Samukai, the prosecution alleges, and claims further that the defendants made themselves the only signatories to the account, leaving out the then AFL Chief of Staff and other ranking officers.



## Driver escapes burning truck in Maryland

By Gareyson Neufville

Police in Maryland County are on the hunt for the driver of a business truck that gutted fire in the traffic in Harper City.

The traffic commander of the Liberia National Police detachment in Maryland County, Moses Z. Teoh confirms the driver, Eric Mator, 40, is on the run.

The truck reportedly belongs to a businessman identified as Abraham Maron, in Harper, while the driver, Mator, who was alone onboard the truck, is a resident of Pleebo Zone 4.

The incident occurred recently in Gewloken Town near the Maryland Oil Palm Plantation (MOPP) on the Grand Kru-Maryland highway

while returning from Grand Kru to Pleebo.

Police disclosed the truck is being used in the county as a commercial truck, transporting people and goods from the Port of Harper to nearby cities and towns. It also transports sand from Harper to other cities,

including crushed rocks to construction sites, among others. There was no casualty reported, but Police are investigating cause of the fire while search continues for the escaping driver Eric Mator, in the county. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



## 11,000 Youth to benefit

Cont'd from back page

Mercy Corps in close partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports will operate three youth opportunity centers. The Monrovia Youth Opportunity Center will serve youth in Montserrado County while the two other centers will be located in Buchanan for Grand Bassa County and in Kakata city to serve Margibi County.

The kick-off event started with LEEP Team Leader, Mr. Mwesigwa Bikie Isharaza, giving an overview of the program. He said LEEP has three interlinked and mutually reinforcing objectives that address constraints to both youth labor demand and labor supply.

First, LEEP will build the self-confidence of youth by training them to succeed as employees or entrepreneurs. The program will then connect them to formal opportunities in the workforce or to small business development support.

Secondly, to create new opportunities for young people, LEEP will expand its engagement with the private-sector through business accelerators that will provide support to firms poised to create youth employment opportunities or correct labor market failures. Finally, LEEP will create partnerships that will identify and nurture talent in the nascent technology and entrepreneurship space.

Mr. Isharaza said Mercy Corps has previously worked closely with the Ministry of Youth and Sport (MOYS) and intends to deepen this relationship which is both strategic and critical to delivering this project and its services to the youth.

Clarifying the direct role of the MOYS, he said the LEEP program will provide technical and material support to MOYS to facilitate experiential learning for young people under the National Youth Service Program (NYSP), the Youth On-the-job Training Scheme (YOJT) and selected sports clubs in the targeted counties.

The National Youth Service Program will support highly skilled young Liberians who have recently graduated from university to participate in a one-year national service scheme. The project aims to provide an opportunity for university and college graduates to support the provision of public education, health/ Sexual Reproductive Health, agriculture and youth center management services at the community level

through volunteer services.

The YOJT scheme will provide hands on work experience to young Liberians; the program will target semi-literate and illiterate youth. Beneficiaries will receive on the job technical apprenticeship training at various technical trade workshops such as mechanic shops, carpentry, welding and metalwork shops. Ten sports clubs will benefit from material and technical support that will be used to develop critical life skills to the targeted young people.

Giving the opening remarks, Mercy Corps Interim Country Director Ms. Nina Taka said Mercy Corps has been working in Liberia since 2002 delivering youth empowerment and employment, energy, maternal health, advocacy and school feeding programs. Mercy Corps currently have five programs operating in Liberia and central this work, is a focus on. She further stated that Mercy Corps will always aim to make a positive difference, however seemingly small leave an indelible mark in the lives of participants work with.

"While we have specifically youth-facing programs, the majority of our work in Liberia has youth programming threaded into it. Mercy Corps works in close collaboration with the Government of Liberia, civil society organizations and the communities we worked in and we strongly believe in the power of partnerships, to leave a sustainable solution or pattern that government and civil society organizations can carry on to create better living conditions for our participants after Mercy Corps is gone," she said.

"Partnerships are the only true way, to build a sustainable future for ourselves, and for those, on whose shoulders we all have been given the chance to thrive. The Government of France, through its development agency, AFD, working in close collaboration with the Government of Liberia and civil society organizations such as Mercy Corps are an example of partnerships we all should be proud of," she added.

"I hope the young people who walk through these gates, and along with our partner Ministry of Youth and Sports, will seize this opportunity learn, earn and make a difference in their lives and those around them. She thanked the French Government, (and the people of France), the Government of Liberia, making this occasion a reality."

# Français

## Y a-t-il des problèmes au sein de l'alliance des partis politiques de l'opposition

Rien ne semble aller au sein de l'alliance des quatre principaux partis politiques d'opposition qui souhaitent pourtant empêcher la Coalition pour le changement démocratique du président George Manneh Weah de bénéficier d'un second mandat en 2023.

L'ANC (Alternative National Congress), membre de l'alliance, s'est dit victime de campagne de dénigrement de la part des autres partis membres, à savoir le Parti de l'Unité (UP, ancien parti au pouvoir), le Parti de la liberté (LP) et le Parti de tous les libériens (ALP).

L'ANC est dirigé par l'ancien candidat malheureux à la présidentielle de 2017, M. Alexander B. Cummings, qui est considéré comme l'un des opposants farouches au régime Weah.

Le secrétaire général de l'ANC, Aloysius Toe, a mis en garde que M. Alexander Cummings et l'ANC ont maintes fois déclaré qu'ils n'accepteront que des

résultats issus d'un processus politique juste, transparent et démocratique.

Le secrétaire général Aloysius Toe est monté au créneau un jour après que le leader politique de l'ALP, M. Benoni Urey, a annoncé que l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah et leader politique de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, est le plus apte à diriger le bloc de

l'opposition contre le président Weah lors de l'élection présidentielle de 2023.

Me Toea martelé que l'ANC est un parti responsable et a l'intention de faire preuve de maturité dans toutes ses déclarations et relations avec les partis de l'opposition et le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Côte d'Ivoire: « Nous n'irons pas aux élections avec la CEI sur laquelle compte le Rhdp » Hubert Oulaï

Les enseignants membres de la Cellule des enseignants du Fpi (Cefpi) étaient en Assemblée générale samedi à Yopougon. Pour se faire expliquer l'attitude de leur parti dans la mouvance sociopolitique actuelle, ils ont invité le président du comité de contrôle, l'ancien ministre Hubert Oulaï.

Pendant plus d'une heure

et demie, cefidèle de Laurent Gbagbo a analysé la situation judiciaire de Laurent Gbagbo avant de déboucher sur les chances qu'al'ancien président de revenir aux affaires une fois sorti des mailles de la prison.

Dans son analyse, ils s'est penché sur les facteurs favorables à l'éventuel retour de Gbagbo au pouvoir. Il

cite comme un des facteurs, "l'effritement du Rhdp", le parti au pouvoir. « Au moment où le Fpi est debout, on assiste à l'effritement du Rhdp. Un parti devenu Rhdp unifié déboulonné. D'indéboulonnable (comme le proclamait Ouattara) où sommes nous aujourd'hui ? », interroge le conférencier avant de déclarer que Ouattara a perdu tous les boulons et ne tient plus que par le seul boulon du Rdr. Le Pdc, Guillaume Soro, l'

communauté internationale, tous ces boulons sur lesquels comptait Ouattara, ont tour à tour sauté de l'avis de Hubert Oulaï. C'est pourquoi, dénonçant l'attitude du pouvoir à s'arc-bouter sur une commission électorale à sa guise, il a eu commentaire devant les militants de son parti : « Aujourd'hui, nous disons que nous n'allons pas aux élections avec cette CEI sur laquelle ils comptent. Sur le code électoral, on n'a pas signé de papier avec eux. (...) Mais pour qu'où pouvoir qui

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Exploration Pétrolière : Les Libériens ont intérêt à se calmer

Le Libéria se prépare pour lancer un deuxième appel à candidature pour des explorations pétrolières offshore au cours du mois d'avril 2020. La présidence avait annoncé fin décembre 2019 le plan de l'administration Weah de mettre en vente neuf blocs offshore dans le bassin de Harper, qui serait l'un des derniers à ne pas avoir fait l'objet d'exploration au large de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Déjà, les parties prenantes, sous les auspices de la Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority et de la National Oil Company of Liberia, se sont réunies à Monrovia sur les perspectives de découverte du pétrole et du gaz ici.

Le Dr Lester Tenny, vice-président de NOCAL chargé des services techniques, est passionnément optimiste quant aux perspectives de découverte de « l'or noir » au Libéria. « Le Libéria a du pétrole ; les signaux sont là ; nous avons juste besoin de découvrir le pétrole », a-t-il déclaré la semaine dernière lors d'une rencontre avec des parties prenantes.

Cependant, il faut que les Libériens fassent preuve de prudence et de patience cette fois-ci en ce qui concerne l'euphorie autour du pétrole. Il faut tirer des leçons à partir des expériences passées où notre espoir avait cédé la place à une simple illusion comme du sable mouvant. L'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf avait suscité un enthousiasme inouï quant à la possibilité de l'existence du pétrole sur les côtes libériennes et vendu une douzaine de blocs pétroliers à des sociétés étrangères, dont le géant pétrolier américain Exxon Mobile. Mais après une période et d'explorations, il a été établi que le Libéria ne disposait pas de quantité suffisante de pétrole à des fins commerciales.

Même NOCAL qui a dirigé le processus a, par ses actions, déçu tous les Libériens ordinaires et frustré le pays tout entier. Après avoir dépensé des millions de dollars sur les salaires et les avantages sociaux de son personnel, des projets publics de qualité inférieure et sur la soi-disant sensibilisation nationale entreprise par des législateurs malhonnêtes, tout l'exercice a dégringolé et NOCAL a fait

faillite. L'ancienne présidente s'est dite responsable de l'échec.

Nous ne sommes en aucun cas pessimistes, mais les expériences que nous avons tous vécues concernant ce secteur exigent que nous procédions avec circonspection pour éviter de suivre le même chemin ou de répéter les mêmes erreurs.

Selon le site Web international du pétrole basé en Norvège, la société géophysique TGS détient une gamme de données multi-clients à travers le bassin de Harper pour soutenir le cycle de licences, y compris 5 272 kilomètres en 2D et 6 276 kilomètres carrés de données sismiques, gravimétriques et magnétiques en 3D.

Il a détaillé que des pièges structuraux Syn-rift peuvent être identifiés sur une grande partie de la zone, qui offrent une prospectivité à plusieurs niveaux et que des systèmes de ventilateur de pente et de bassin du crétacé démontrant un caractère de grande amplitude ont été identifiés, dont certains couvrent plus de 300 kilomètres carrés, tandis qu'une évaluation volumétrique de ces caractéristiques suggère que des champs de plus d'un milliard de barils de pétrole en place pourraient être présents ici.

C'est une bonne nouvelle. Nous félicitons le gouvernement et les partenaires pour ces études qui nous donnent de l'espoir. Néanmoins, nous appelons l'administration actuelle, en particulier l'Autorité de Régulation du Pétrole du Libéria (LPRA), à travailler de concert avec tous les acteurs du secteur pour obtenir un résultat satisfaisant pour le peuple libérien.

Nous exhortons le président George Manneh Weah à faire de ce rêve une réalité pour le grand bonheur du Libéria en veillant à ce que, si une quantité commercialisable est découverte dans nos eaux, les libériens en tirent grand profit, y compris les générations futures.



# Français

## Y a-t-il des problèmes

gouvernement libérien.

Il a dénoncé des tentatives de dénigrement et de rabaissement de la part de certains partis membres de l'alliance dont seraient victimes l'ANC et son leader politique dont l'image serait ternie par une désinformation délibérée quant à la position du parti sur le processus de sélection d'un candidat unique de l'opposition par un sondage.

« Ce n'est pas la première fois que l'ANC et son leader politique sont dénigrés et rabaisés et ridiculisés par des personnes membres des partis frères. C'est devenu une habitude. Les cicatrices et les pertes de Cape Mount sont encore fraîches dans nos esprits. Ce sont toujours les mêmes personnes », a-t-il dit sans citer personne.

« Nous tenons à préciser clairement qu'à aucun moment l'ANC ne s'est opposé aux primaires. L'ANC a

embrassé les primaires. Le sondage ne remplacera pas les primaires. L'ANC a fait preuve de bonne foi et a fait une proposition claire pour la sélection d'un candidat unique de l'alliance. Chers Libériens, voilà ce dont il est question », a expliqué Me Toe.

Selon lui, le Parti de l'unité (UP) avait proposé un consensus où les quatre leaders politiques se mettraient d'accord à l'unanimité sur la personne qui serait le candidat de l'alliance. L'ANC, pour sa part, a proposé que si les quatre dirigeants n'arrivent pas à un consensus, alors il faut que nous procédions à un sondage des opinions auprès des électeurs afin de savoir qui a la faveur du peuple, la décision serait ensuite entérinée par une convention. Mais en janvier 2020, le Parti de la Liberté (LP) a quant à lui proposé l'annulation du sondage en faveur des primaires, ce qui a été accepté par tous.

## Côte d'Ivoire: « Nous n'irons

clamepartout qu'il fait 8 % de croissance, qu'il met les ivoiriens à l'aise ne veut pas discuter (sincèrement) ? Ceci nous fait dire que si Gbagbo vient, il va gagner. Ils savent que c'est devenu difficile donc ils ne veulent plus discuter. Ils savent que si on s'assoit, on va parler du code électoral et de la Cei », explicitement l'ancien ministre de la Fonction publique. Lequel conclura que le contexte judiciaire international nous donne des

signes de libération de Gbagbo et qu'au plan national, le contextesociopolitiqueest plus que favorable à Laurent Gbagbo.

Hubert Oulaï nuance toutefois ses propos soulignant que l'option de son parti, depuis le congrès de Moossouest de participer à toutes les élections de 2020 et qu'aucune disposition contraire n'a encore été émise. L'avis plus hautest donc un réflexion personnelle au regard des conditions de préparation de l'élection.

## Weah va donner des terres à plus de 20 000 habitants

Le président George Manneh Weah a promis de consulter l'Autorité Terrienne du Liberia pour vérifier la propriété des terres qui sont actuellement occupées depuis des années à Unification Town, dans le comté de Margibi. L'objectif est de faire des occupants actuels des propriétaires officiels.

Le Président a fait cette promesse en réponse à une demande formulée par leur représentant, le député du district deux du comté de Margibi, Irvin Jones, le jeudi 20 février lors de la cérémonie de pose de première pierre pour l'expansion de la route menant à l'aéroport international Roberts (RIA).

« Permettez-moi d'informer l'honorable Jones que je vérifierai auprès de l'autorité foncière pour m'assurer que ceux qui squattent depuis tant d'années auront officiellement une place », a-t-il déclaré sous des applaudissements.

Le président Weah a dit qu'il ne peut cependant le faire seul. Il a demandé au député de diriger cette initiative car il est membre de la chambre des représentants.

Le président Weah a fait savoir que M. Findley, ministre des affaires étrangères, lui avait dit que son père était avocat et dispose des documents sur ces propriétés.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Bernard Haykel

## Quels sont les enjeux en Libye ?

PRINCETON - L'actuel conflit libyen un véritable microcosme de la tragédie qui affecte de nombreux pays au Moyen-Orient. Si elle n'est pas résolue rapidement, la guerre en Libye risque d'entraîner une instabilité dans les pays voisins tels que la Tunisie et l'Égypte, et d'engendrer encore davantage de vagues de réfugiés vers l'Europe.

À l'origine, la crise libyenne est une guerre civile entre divers groupes divisés par des loyautés tribales et régionales, ainsi qu'entre différentes croyances idéologiques. Tous les protagonistes entendent contrôler les revenus pétroliers du pays. Mais à l'heure actuelle, deux principaux camps se dégagent dans le conflit : d'un côté le Gouvernement d'entente nationale (GEN), reconnu au niveau international et dominé par les islamistes, qui conserve le contrôle de la capitale, Tripoli, et de l'autre la Chambre des représentants basée à Tobrouk et l'Armée nationale libyenne (ANL), commandées par le maréchal anti-islamiste Khalifa Haftar. Bien que la majeure partie du pays soit désormais sous le contrôle du nationaliste autoritaire Haftar, Tripoli n'est pas encore tombée.

Derrière chacun de ces camps en guerre, interviennent des puissances étrangères qui poursuivent leurs propres intérêts. La Turquie et la Qatar appuient le GEN, tandis que l'Égypte, la Russie et les Émirats arabes unis soutiennent Haftar. Les médias internationaux qui s'intéressent à la guerre en Libye expliquent ces ingérences étrangères par une concurrence - principalement entre la Turquie et l'Égypte - autour des ressources pétrolières et gazières.

Les Égyptiens envisagent un projet gazier qui pourrait relier des installations israéliennes, chypriotes et grecques afin d'approvisionner l'Europe. Cet objectif s'inscrit néanmoins en conflit direct avec celui de la Turquie consistant à créer une zone maritime exclusive avec la Libye, ainsi qu'à sécuriser un contrôle unique sur les ressources énergétiques de la Libye.

Mais la situation ne s'explique pas seulement par une compétition énergétique. Pour comprendre pleinement le conflit libyen, il faut également s'intéresser à des liens complexes entre géopolitique et idéologie. Une victoire des islamistes à Tripoli permettrait à la Turquie et au Qatar non seulement d'étendre leur influence dans un État producteur majeur de pétrole en Méditerranée, mais également de bénéficier d'une profondeur stratégique qui renforcerait leur influence sur d'autres pays tels que la Tunisie et l'Égypte (une rivale de longue date).

C'est ainsi que pendant l'essentiel du conflit, le Qatar a soutenu les islamistes, principalement en apportant un soutien financier à une seule personne : le militant religieux et universitaire Ali al-Sallabi. Grâce aux ressources du Qatar, al-Sallabi a émergé comme le leader de facto du GEN. L'an dernier, le GEN apparaissait toutefois au bord de la défaite, ce qui a conduit la Turquie à intervenir pour son compte. La Turquie mobilise depuis des armes, des drones, des soldats, et même des combattants syriens dans la bataille pour Tripoli.

De l'autre côté, l'Égypte et les ÉAU se refusent à

voir un État pétrolier, capable de produire 2,5 millions de barils par jour, tomber entre les mains d'islamistes sous la coupe de leurs rivaux régionaux. Une victoire du GEN ferait de la Libye un bastion islamiste, ainsi qu'une tête de pont permettant de mettre à mal la vision autoritaire de l'Égypte et des ÉAU pour la région. Dictateur militaire en uniforme généreusement décoré, que l'on croirait tout droit sorti d'une agence de casting, Haftar établirait un ordre qui leur conviendrait bien davantage. S'il venait à l'emporter, les ressources pétrolières de la Libye pourraient alors être exploitées dans une lutte plus large contre l'épouvantail islamiste dans la région.

Les raisons pour lesquelles la Russie prend la défense de Haftar sont plus intrigantes, mais peuvent se résumer en un mot : revanche. Bien que le président Vladimir Poutine ait déployé dans le conflit des mercenaires (principalement associés au Wagner Group paramilitaire), Haftar lui-même n'est pas le candidat idéal du Kremlin pour gouverner la Libye. Poutine préférerait installer Saïf al-Islam Kadhafi, fils du défunt dictateur libyen Mouammar Kadhafi, qui a régné sur le pays de 1969 à 2011.

Avec l'aide d'anciens loyalistes du régime, le Saïf Kadhafi a joint ses forces à celle de Haftar. Les Russes n'ont toutefois pas confiance en Haftar, qu'ils considèrent comme un agent du renseignement américain, compte tenu de son ancienne vie de citoyen américain, installé à Langley en Virginie (où est accessoirement basé le siège de la CIA) pendant une vingtaine d'années. En installant le fils Kadhafi au pouvoir en Libye, le Kremlin espère prouver un argument aux Américains et Européens qui ont contribué à renverser son père. Après être parvenu à maintenir au pouvoir le président syrien Bachar el-Assad en dépit de difficultés écrasantes, Poutine veut démontrer qu'il est celui qui dictera l'avenir de la Libye, et qui tiendra les rênes dans la région. Si l'horloge devient véritablement réglée sur l'heure de Moscou, il sera intéressant d'observer ce qu'il adviendra de Haftar.

Cette situation complexe en Libye est presque surréaliste. Malheureusement, les souffrances sont au contraire bien réelles pour une population libyenne piégée entre les factions concurrentes. De leur côté, les États-Unis se montrent négligents dans leur approche de la crise, qu'ils ignorent largement dans l'espoir que d'autres puissances régionales rétablissent l'ordre. Or, ce sont précisément ces puissances qui sèment le chaos, tandis que l'Amérique est la seule à bénéficier d'un levier diplomatique suffisant pour mettre un terme au conflit.

Si la guerre civile libyenne se prolonge, ses effets se propageront inéluctablement à d'autres parties de la région. De nouveaux réfugiés fuiront alors vers l'Europe, notamment si le conflit se révèle un signe avant-coureur de guerres civiles à venir. La Tunisie, l'Algérie, le Soudan ou encore le Liban pourraient devenir les prochains théâtres de guerres par procuration entre des puissances régionales et extérieures, qui poursuivront l'illusion de devenir la prochaine hégémonie du monde arabe. Comme l'illustre clairement l'actuel état de ruine de la Syrie, au vainqueur reviendra un butin qui ne saurait justifier la lutte.

## FEATURE

## FEATURE

# Wrong Timing, Unsafe Zone, Risky Adventure

## - An Open Letter To GSA Director General Mary Tanyonoh Broh

By Martin K. N. Kollie  
Activist and Columnist,  
[martinkerkula1989@yahoo.com](mailto:martinkerkula1989@yahoo.com)

February 21, 2020

Madam Mary T. Broh  
Director General  
General Services Agency (GSA)  
Monrovia, Republic of Liberia

Dear Madam Broh:

As our Republic under President George M. Weah strives to remain democratically afloat during these very tragic times of governance breakdown and leadership shortfall, I am compelled to adorn you with esteemed compliments. On my behalf, please divulge similar sentiment of best wishes to your staff at the General Services Agency (GSA).

Out of concern to safeguard your political future and out of curiosity to shield your legacy, I thought to pen this open letter to you for two (2) strategic reasons:

- 1) To caution you not to contest as a Candidate for Montserrado County in this upcoming 2020 Midterm Senatorial Elections;
- 2) To beseech you not to ruin your hard-earned image by running on a CDC ticket. Doing so might rob you of almost everything you've ever sacrificed for in your political sojourn. The stakes are too high.

The price to pay for such untimely decision would be too huge and hurting. The demerits of contesting in Montserrado County now are far more than the merits. The costs associated with such risky adventure, especially in a politically unsafe zone like Montserrado, outweigh the benefits after taking my time to run an unbiased assessment/evaluation through three (3) scientific approaches:

- 1) Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA);
- 2) Random Voter Perception Survey (RVPS);
- 3) Random Sampling of Public Opinions (RSPO).

As a 2019 Graduate of Economics and Political Science of the University of Liberia, I had to use simple techniques to carry out all of these systematic analyses in order to help you safeguard your political future. The possible outcomes from these analyses are not in your favor. I did choose to conduct this inquiry out of love and concern mainly to advise, guide, and caution you. But you have a choice to listen or not. You have a choice to contest or not.

I do not intend to be agreeably definite about this news that I have been hearing which somehow reveals your ambition to run as a candidate for the 2020 midterm senatorial election in Montserrado County. Of course, it is your right and this communiqué poses no objection to that right. Though this news is coming from some credible sources, but I still consider it a rumor until you can confirm yourself. Do you care to confirm, General Broh, because I have begun seeing some political flyers with your picture "making rounds" on social media already?

Like I said, I am not going to consider this news as authentic until I hear from you. Amidst lingering public doubts and debates, I would like to plead with you to unapologetically reject any petition or proposal from CDC or any group of Liberians to run in this upcoming senatorial election as a candidate for Montserrado County. Here are my reasons why:

- a) The timing is very wrong;
- b) The electoral zone (Montserrado) is politically unsafe;
- c) The decision to contest against an incumbent opposition candidate (Sen. Abraham Darius Dillon), who still remains popular and enjoys



huge public support, would be a risky adventure. In politics as well as linguistics, such eerie undertaking is called "Bravadoism" - a Spanish terminology which depicts a form of unreasonable confidence or boldness only intended to falsely impress.

Madam Broh, though you currently serve at the will and pleasure of President George M. Weah as Director General of GSA which is statutorily permissible according to Article 56 of the Liberian Constitution, but nothing compels you to submit or cave in to any form of coercion pertinent to defining your own political life. The Presidential Power of H. E. George M. Weah does not extend this far. Anything beyond this limit is an abuse of power on his part.

The fact is that the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) under the political leadership of George Weah is not only cracking, but has gone out of touch with the masses after just 24 months in power. This egregious effect or downhill political reality can be largely blamed on GREED and CORUPTION being purveyed on an industrial scale. Currently, there is vast scarcity of electable CDCians. The CDC does not have sellable and electable candidates to fuel for the 2020 Senatorial Elections in all 15 counties.

President Weah and his Party (CDC) have become so desperate to ride on the image and influence of reputable characters who aren't CDCians. Up to date, they do not have a winnable candidate for Montserrado County, a county they often consider their stronghold. Public opinions through random surveys have shown that diehard CDCians like Rep. Munnah Pennoh Youngblood, Rep. Hon. Thomas P. Fallah, Rep. Acarous M. Gray, Hon. Paulita Wie, Mayor Jefferson Koijee, Hon. C Mike Doryen, Chairman Mulbah K Morlu Jr., MD Bill Tweahway, Min. Samuel D. Tweah, Min. Nathaniel F. McGill, et al are not sellable and winnable to stand for this year's senatorial election in Montserrado.

Even President Weah himself is most likely to be politically flogged if he chooses to ever contest this senatorial election in Montserrado County. The odds are against CDC as a result of misrule (bad governance) which has predominantly resulted into high unemployment - job losses - shortage of petrol - hike in rice price - spiraling inflation - food insecurity - liquidity crisis - hike in tuition - unjustifiable cut and delay in salaries of civil servants - rationing of electricity - scarcity of safe drinking water - high tariffs/taxes on imports - fall in domestic revenues and grants - high transport fares - increased rape and SEA cases - alarming police brutality and armed robbery - closure of local and international business firms due to economic decline - zero foreign direct investment - decline in inward remittances and the inflow of foreign currencies - huge capital outflow - cancellation of 3

days free calls - decline in exports - institutionalized corruption - lack of press freedom and justice - heightened incompetence in public service, etc.

To make matters worse, Weah and his cronies are building and buying giant-sized private mansions/palaces at the expense of the ordinary people. They have become kings and queens overnight while the masses remain hopeless and miserable more than ever before. The facts can never lie.

Madam Broh, CDC is an unsellable ticket to contest on in this upcoming election and elections to come. The CDC has become a tasteless political commodity. The Party's image has been terribly ruined and it lacks every ounce of integrity to serve public interest and public good. The Liberian people are quite aware of this unchallenged reality. I am only advising and pleading with you not to ruin your hard-earned reputation you've built yesteryear. This should not happen simply because you want to appease Pres. George Weah. I have surmised that it is the Kru solidarity or kinsmanship that is evoking such placation. Even though you might not win if you still insist on contesting, but you could gain more political traction as an independent candidate than a CDC candidate. Think about this!

Recently, President George M. Weah preferred you as the Keynote Speaker of the 63rd Armed Forces Day of Liberia. In my opinion, this preferment was primarily intended to woo and pacify you to run as a candidate on CDC's ticket. You must not give in or yield to such futile enticement. Doing so would be politically detrimental. Your willingness to contest in Montserrado will not only bring your character, as a workaholic, into public disrepute, but will hasten your political demise. PLEASE do not entrap yourself, Madam!

You have a good public record to protect. Such legacy must not be muddled. Even though I still have problem with your combative human relations/approaches during the period of your service as Monrovia City Mayor and Director of Passports, but you proved to be result-oriented, innovative, hardworking, and progressive. Of course, I can sincerely admit that you are a charismatic and transformational leader judging from your past as a public servant (political appointee). However, I do not know the extent of the impact that you are capable of making as an elected official. I have got no reason to deduce either because an appointed post is quite different from an elected post.

On the other hand, let me be just to my conscience by saying that you also have a history of controversies and poor human relations. While serving as the City Mayor of Monrovia and the Director of Passports, your outbursts/attacks led to the physical, psychological, economical, and emotional injuries of a segment of the voting population in Montserrado. You are on record for insulting and assaulting peaceful citizens including journalists and lawmakers. You demolished marketplaces, destroyed businesses, damaged homes, defied laws, flogged and detained peaceful citizens, etc.

There is still a segment of the voting population that is ready any day to pay you back for severely injuring them. They are prepared to vote against you no matter what. What I have seen, heard, and analyzed so far is that the legitimate voters in Montserrado County do not favor you at the moment. Do not take risk to contest now. Probably, you could consider Grand Kru County as a convenient option to test your political strength. The CDC is deceiving you bigly to contest in Montserrado.

This was the same CDC that described you as a "non-governmental material" in July 2013. Are you a "governmental material" now in 2020? How come? How come your once fierce critics (CDCians) have become the "town criers" of your senatorial bid. The sudden shift of their political allegiance or loyalty to a nonpartisan like you is not only sensational and sentimental, but romantic and short-lived. I suggest that you do a sober reflection and a critical introspection of their real intent that is solely characterized by deception in my opinion.

When you served as City Mayor of Monrovia, they (CDCians) aggressively muzzled you everywhere you ever went. Madam Broh, do not be lured into this shenanigan because it is a premature political project. The CDC must be left

TO BE CONT'D

# LP on CPP's brouhaha

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

In the current debate emerging from the four collaborating political parties over selection of a ticket for the next presidential election in 2023, a member party of the CPP Liberty Party says, in an unforeseeable event of a lack of consensus, a Voter's Perception Survey (VPS) will be used to help influence an ultimate decision at primary.

A statement posted on the social media page of LP political leader, Grand Bassa County Senator NyonbleeKarnge Lawrence, notes the CPP embraces, encourages the political aspirations of all of its leaders and members, and political aspirations are healthy for the fertilization of democracy.

"What is unhealthy is the temptation to assert an individual's political ambition over the aspirations of the collective, and the general



will of our people. Our parties have therefore come together as claimants to the will of our people to unite and rescue our country from its ongoing and steady socio-economic and

political decline," it asserts.

Senator Karnge Lawrence says it is therefore to be expected that political leaders and members of the CPP will work within their

political parties to strengthen their constituencies for all future competitions.

She further explains, what must be critically avoided is to lift internal competitions by which they examine one another and settle only for the best to distract their focus from the duties they owe themselves and the Liberian people - a duty to rescue the country.

"This, too, is within the spirit of the collaboration we are about to declare, and admittedly, it is healthy for our democracy. We must remain convicted to the truth that the stronger the parties in a collaborative effort, the stronger will be the collaborative outcome. The truth also is that to get to 2023, the CPP has to be tested in 2020. We must field our best and compete as one collective force in the upcoming Midterm Elections. We must win together for the Liberian people and announce a new day of doing business when the CPP senators are sworn in to represent the counties as we have promised our people that we would."

The Liberty Party stresses winning every county is not expected to be an easy feat against a government overtaken by corruption.

However, she continues it is a duty the CPP must collectively share if they truly desire to change the direction of the country and the change does not begin in 2023, but now.

Debate over a winnable candidate for the main opposition block that comprises the Liberty Party, the former ruling Unity Party, the All Liberian Party and the

Alternative National Congress hits the news when a member of the CPP, the Alternative National Congress (ANC) warns against a stage-managed process in the collaboration.

The caveat is in response to recent pronouncement by the political leader of the All Liberian Party Benoni Urey, Unity Party political leader and former Vice President Joseph NyumahBoakai, is most suited to lead the opposition bloc against President Weah in next election.

But the ANC is uncomfortable with such utterance. The party secretary general, Cllr. Aloysius Toe, reminds that ANC and its leader, Mr. Alexander Cummings 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.

He notes 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 otherwise the Voters' Perception Survey (VPS).

Cllr. Toe: 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."

According to him, the smear campaign against the ANC has been long and consistent; and the source has always been the same, but they have chosen to remain above the fray. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

## Weah vowed to repay AFL's money

By Winston W. Parley

The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), Brigadier General Geraldine Doe George has told the Criminal Court "C" in Monrovia that during a meeting, President George Manneh Weah took upon the responsibility to refund money deducted from the salaries of AFL personnel through budgetary allotment.

On cross examination with defense lawyers representing former Defense Minister Brownie Samukai, former Deputy Defense Minister Joseph Johnson and former Defense Ministry Comptroller NyumahDorbor Monday, 24 February, Gen. George explained that President Weah had questioned why the

money used was not reported to former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's government.

Though the witness recalls that President Weah's question was not answered at that meeting, yet she indicates that he promised to pay the money back to the Army through budgetary allotment.

"...[He] said why was the amount ... used ... not reported to the government of Madam Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf [,] but that question was not answered and he said, however, he was going to pay the money back to the Army through budgetary allotment," Gen. George testifies.

Responding to a defense counsel's question as to who was to make a reimbursement of AFL's pension in the tune of US\$1,147,656.35, Gen. George

testifies that they indicated in their report that the Government of Liberia should refund.

This case involves her former bosses who were mostly political appointees during former President Sirleaf's regime when Gen. George also worked as a high ranking female officer.

In her testimony, Gen. George says the purpose of the account was that upon the retirement of AFL personnel, the [compulsory saving] will be the first amount that will be given to the retiree based on what the retired officer had saved while the Government of Liberia packages retirement benefit.

Former Defense Minister Brownie Samukai, co-defendants Joseph P. Johnson and J. NyumahDorbor and others are standing trial for allegedly embezzling funds generated in a compulsory saving scheme established in July 2009 for AFL personnel during Mrs. Sirleaf's rule.

President Weah's regime drew an indictment against the defense officials on 9 October 2019, accusing them of committing economic sabotage, theft of property, and misuse of public money, among others.

Through the compulsory savings funds, prosecutors here allege that former Minister Samukai, former Deputy Defense Minister Joseph Johnson and former Defense Ministry Comptroller NyumahDorbor deducted the salaries of AFL officers from all ranks to serve as



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supplementary pension benefits for assistance to wounded soldiers and deceased soldiers' families.

Over US\$1.2m of the US\$1.9m deposited was allegedly misapplied by Mr. Samukai, the prosecution alleges, and claims further that the defendants made themselves the only signatories to the account,

leaving out the then AFL Chief of Staff and other ranking officers.

Witness George narrates that there has been no approval policy on the pension funds, adding that the Defense Minister changed the name of the account from AFL Pension or Retirement Funds to AFL Morale and Welfare Funds.

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TRULY INDEPENDENT



# Sports

With Emmanuel B. Juduh

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## 11,000 Youth to benefit from empowerment program

### -Mercy Corps dedicates Youth Center



In the next three years, the Liberia Employment and Entrepreneurship Program (LEEP) funded by the Government of France, through the French Development Agency (AFD) is expected to provide 11,000 Liberian youth (50% men, 50% women) between the ages of 18-35 and most impacted by

unemployment, in the counties of Montserrado, Margibi and Grand Bassa with market driven skills and employment opportunities.

LEEP which will be implemented by Mercy Corps Liberia, initiated its activities with a kick-off event on February 18, 2020, at which the first of three youth opportunity

centers located on Jamaica Road, Bushrod Island was opened by the Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr. D. Zeogar Wilson along with Ms. Mathilde Richelet, AFD Project Officer in Liberia, and Ms. Nina Taka, Mercy Corps Interim Country Director.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



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## Coronavirus hits Italian sport hard

Sport in Italy is being heavily disrupted by a surge in the number of new coronavirus cases but Napoli's Champions League match against Barcelona in the south of the country on Tuesday is not at risk.

Italy reported its fifth death from the virus on Monday and it has the most confirmed cases in Europe.

A surge in infections at the weekend forced the postponement of four Serie A football matches in the north

of the country where the outbreak is concentrated in two regions.

The game between Torino and Parma in Turin was called off as well as the matches between title-chasing Inter Milan and Sampdoria, Atalanta and Sassuolo, and Hellas Verona and Cagliari.

AC Milan also announced the postponement of their women's team's match against Fiorentina on Sunday.

The government announced on Sunday that all sporting



events in two northern regions would be suspended, with Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora saying the government had "a duty to be prudent and responsible".

Napoli's last 16 Champions League match against Lionel Messi's Barcelona side will go ahead on Tuesday as southern Italy is currently unaffected.

European football body UEFA said they were monitoring any change in that situation.

"UEFA is following the situation closely and is contact

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