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VOL.10 NO. 87

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020

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-Sen. Tengbeh writes Plenary



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Continental News

At least 40 killed in latest DR Congo massacre

At least 40 people were killed in the northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in the latest grisly attack on civilians in the mountainous jungles near the Ugandan border.

Fighters from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) group, which was driven out of Uganda in the late 1990s, attacked Samboko village, about 100km (60 miles) southwest of the city of Bunia, Omar Kavota from rights group CEPADHO said

on Wednesday.

A day after killing at least 17 in the nearby village of Makutano, ADF members killed at least 40 people with machetes and looted food and valuables early on Tuesday, Kavota added

More than 400 people have been killed in attacks attributed to the ADF since the army began an offensive to oust the group from its bases last year, according to the Kivu Security Tracker (KST), a research initiative that maps unrest in the region.

Following two months of relative quiet, the area has seen a rise in deadly attacks in the last three weeks, KST said.

Rachel Tarwayo, a government administrator, said she was aware of the Samboko incursion but could not provide any further details.

"On the ground, some people have fled and others have given themselves the courage to stay for the moment," said Gili Gotabo, a rights activist in the region.

The ADF has pledged allegiance to the armed group ISIL (ISIS), but researchers say there is no evidence of close collaboration. ISIL has also endorsed some ADF attacks.

About 200,000 people have fled their homes in Ituri province, where the two villages are located, in the past two months because of the widespread violence by a variety of armed groups. The attacks have also hampered efforts to stamp out an Ebola epidemic.

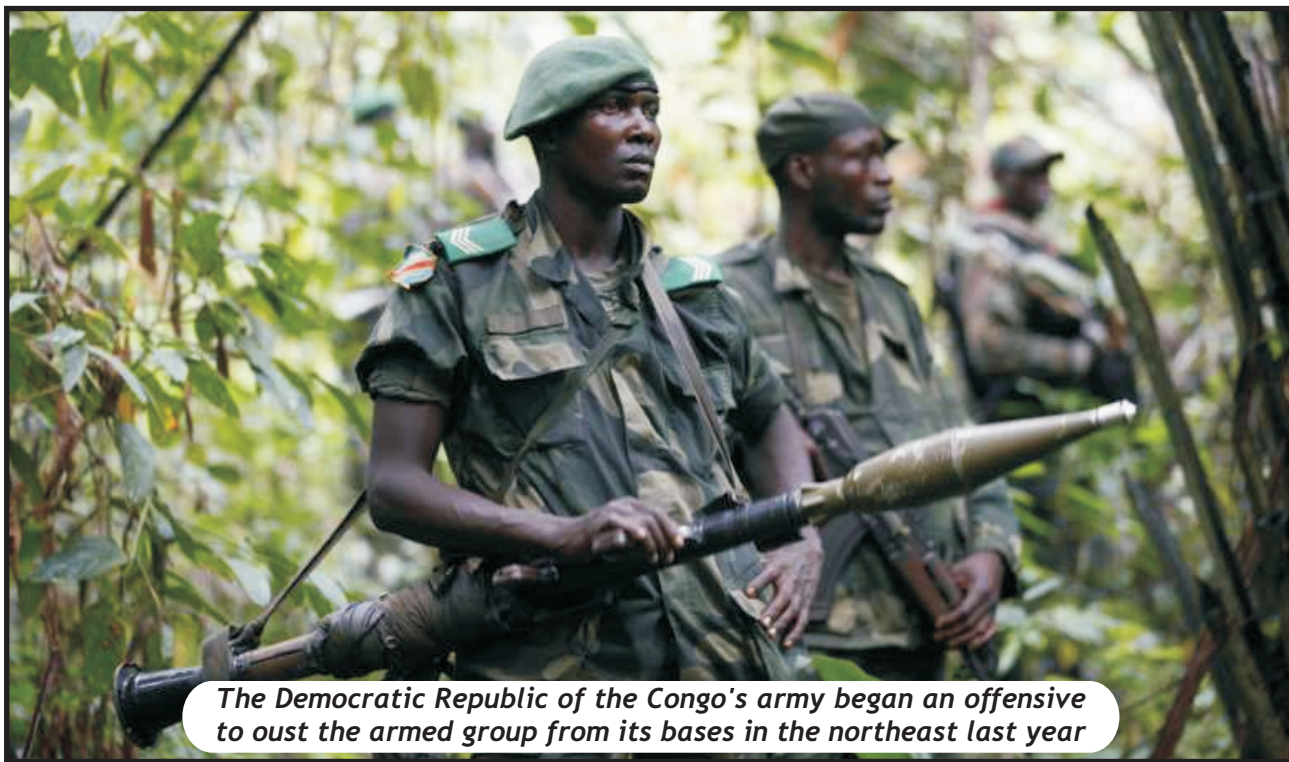
More than 700 people have been killed in Ituri since late 2017, a United Nations report said in January, adding that some of the deaths might constitute a "crime against humanity".

Last month, 22 people from

the Hema community were killed in attacks in the village of Koli in Ituri province, which were blamed on the Cooperative for the Development of Congo - an armed political-religious sect drawn from the Lendu ethnic group.

Conflict between the Lendu, mainly farmers, and the Hema, herders and traders, has a long history in the gold- and oil-rich region.

Researchers and rights groups say some Congolese soldiers have also participated in massacres since 2014 for a variety of motives, often related to competition for power in resource-rich lawless zones dominated by dozens of armed groups. AFP



The Democratic Republic of the Congo's army began an offensive to oust the armed group from its bases in the northeast last year

Sex workers deported from Mozambique

Police in Mozambique have deported 43 sex workers who were arrested for violating coronavirus restrictions.

They included Zambians

and Zimbabweans who were arrested in an operation last week, the authorities said.

About 109 people were arrested for violating the state of emergency rules in Beira

city.

They included sex workers, traders and people found drinking along public roads.

Some 77 of those arrested were sex workers, 43 of which were foreigners who were deported, according to the director of the police provincial command Fernando Ribeiro.

Some of the alcohol sellers were children, he added.

Mozambique has recorded 227 positive cases of Covid-19, 12 of which are in Sofala province.

The country's President Filipe Nyusi extended the state of emergency announced on 1 April for another month citing rising cases. During the state of emergency movement within the country is restricted, schools are closed and foreigners are not allowed into the country. BBC



The sex workers were arrested for violating the state of emergency rules

Virus hits another South Sudan VP

The newly appointed chairman of the South Sudan's reconstituted National Committee on Covid-19 has tested positive for the coronavirus, the national Ministry of Health has confirmed.

Fifth Vice President Hussein Abdelbagi is the fifth senior government official to publicly announce his test results following last week's announcement by First Vice

revealed his laboratory results via Twitter, stating that he was doing well after contracting Covid-19.

Speaking on the state-run TV SSBC Wednesday night, Mr Abdelbagi confirmed his laboratory results and called on the public to adhere to preventive measures in order to curb the rapid spread of the coronavirus.

"The task-force is working tirelessly to curb the level of



President Riek Machar and his wife Angelina Teny - the minister of Defense and Veteran Affairs - who publicly revealed they had tested positive for Covid-19. Days after Dr Machar's announcement, Information Minister Michael Makuei Lueth also confirmed he tested positive for the coronavirus.

On Tuesday this week, former minister for National Security, Dr Majak Agoot,

spread and transmission. However, the general public must comply with such regulations in order to enable us fight coronavirus effectively," he said. South Sudan on Wednesday night also confirmed 188 new Covid-19 cases. This brought the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases across the country to 994, with six recoveries and 10 deaths. AFP

EDITORIAL

The most vulnerable Vs. the rest

DISENCHANTMENT SEEMS TO be brewing among Liberians over who is qualified to benefit from ongoing COVID-19 food distribution to communities that authorities say targets 2.5 million most vulnerable households across the country. The COVID-19 food distribution steering committee says the food is specifically for orphanages and hospitals, the blind and physically-challenged, including inmates at the Group of 77, and elderly citizens, among others.

BUT SOME AGGRIEVED LIBERIANS are complaining that the categorization of vulnerable and most vulnerable citizens is a deliberate attempt by the government to deny some residents food. They argue that the entire country is affected by the novel coronavirus pandemic, so everyone should benefit from the exercise that has a budget of US\$30 million.

THE NOISE IS growing louder each day, as the distribution continues, but the authorities appear determined in going ahead as plan on grounds that resources are inadequate to serve the entire population of 4.5 million people.

BUT THE POINT is the government, working in collaboration with international partners, including WHO, IMF, the World Bank and USAID, intends to lockdown each community to exam the health status of residents, as it moves in with food.

HOWEVER, AGGRIEVED RESIDENTS are insisting that if an entire community is lockdown during food distribution then everyone should get the food rather than only the most vulnerable.

THE AUTHORITIES SEEM to find themselves in a quagmire that would politically haunt them long after the food distribution is over, which may require even higher price to pay at the ballot box.

OUR HONEST ADVICE is that government should listen to the outcry and reconsider its decision to serve only the most vulnerable segment of the population, because everyone matters on the day of election when the people, not just the most vulnerable, would desire who gets into the executive mansion, the seat of power.

RICE IS A political commodity in Liberia and every government that comes to power should know this. Politicians use rice, the nation's stable food, to win voters over during time of campaign, so when a government announces that it is distributing food to the citizenry amid a global health crisis such categorization of recipients is troubling, to say the least.

COME TO THINK of it, President George Manneh Weah announced free electricity to homes for the period of the lockdown and the State of Emergency, but it did not materialize and the Liberia Electricity Corporation is yet to provide explanations, though the President said government made available a total of US\$4 million to the corporation.

TO BE SELECTIVE in a population that is very impoverished, where majority of the citizens survive on less than a dollar per day is not just sheer insensitivity but counter-productive to inclusiveness, particularly so when government would have to repay the US\$25 million from the IMF and the US\$5 million grant provided by the World Bank for the exercise.

COMMENTARY

By Ifeanyi M. Nsofor & Bell Ihua

Nigeria's Mental Health Desert

Nigeria is failing those of its people who struggle with mental-health issues - no small share of the population. But with improved legislation, education, and support systems, the country can turn the tide on mental health, laying the groundwork for a healthier, happier, and more productive future.

ABUJA - To most Nigerians, mental illness is "when someone starts running around naked." It is a shocking misconception, yet a full 70% of respondents to a recent mental-health survey - the country's largest in nearly 20 years - believe it. And that was just one of the many misguided and harmful beliefs that the poll revealed.

The survey of 5,315 respondents, conducted by our organizations - EpiAFRIC and the Africa Polling Institute - found that 84% believe that mental disorders are attributable to drug abuse, 60% link such disorders to "sickness of the mind," 54% to "possession by evil spirits," and 23% to "punishment by God." Nearly one-third - 32% - believe that mental disorders run in families.

Given these misconceptions, it is perhaps not surprising that 69% of respondents said they would not engage in any form of relationship with a person with mental-health issues - mostly, said 58%, for reasons of personal safety. Only 26% of respondents would so much as be friends with a person with mental illness, while just 2% would do business with such a person and a mere 1% would consider marriage. Nigerians are often encouraged to check for a history of mental illness in the family of a prospective spouse.

This stigma has serious consequences for those who struggle with mental-health issues. If someone was seen to be suffering from a mental disorder, 8% of survey respondents would take them to a traditional healer; 4% would lock them up; and 2% would try to beat the disease out of them. Given that 48% of the survey's respondents reported knowing someone who suffers from a mental disorder - a group that includes up to 30% of the population, by some estimates - the implications of these responses are far-reaching.

Making matters worse, Nigeria's mental-health stigma is embedded in its legal system. As it stands, the 1958 Lunacy Act, a colonial law that effectively legalizes violations of the rights of the mentally ill, governs mental-health care. For example, the act authorizes medical practitioners and magistrates to identify "lunatics" and determine when and for how long they should be detained - usually in prisons alongside criminal inmates. The National Assembly has had a replacement bill since 2003. Although its Senate Committee on Health recently held a public hearing on the bill, it has yet to be passed.

Given the social stigma and lack of legal protection, Nigerians struggling with mental illness are understandably reluctant to get help. But even those who do seek support might have difficulty finding it. Even if they went to a hospital - where 65% of survey respondents said they would take a person with mental illness - there is no guarantee that a qualified professional would be available. According to the Association of Psychiatrists in Nigeria, only 250 psychiatrists provide services to Nigeria's 200 million people - one per 800,000 people.

The United States, with 28,000 psychiatrists and 330 million people, has one for every 11,786.

Given the extensive training psychiatrists must undertake, it will take decades to address this shortfall - and only if young people are encouraged to enter the field. That is why policymakers must act now, both to reduce the stigma - especially by correcting misconceptions about mental illness - and to provide adequate care and support for those who need it today.

To that end, innovative approaches are already emerging. The Mentally Aware Nigeria Initiative uses the power of social media to educate the public about mental-health issues. It has also established a suicide/distress hotline, which provides immediate intervention and "mental-health first aid," before referring callers for specialized care.

Nigeria is hardly alone. In Zimbabwe, the Friendship Bench is pioneering a community-based approach, in which local lay health workers - especially "grandmothers" (elderly women) - deliver evidence-based talk therapy on benches under trees. A clinical trial published in the Journal of the American Medical Association showed that, after six months, those who received the intervention had significantly lower symptom scores than the control group, who received enhanced conventional care.

Farther afield are even more unexpected innovations. For example, in the United States, the Oasis Alliance, a Virginia-based non-profit, uses interior design to "encourage and accelerate recovery, growth, and mental wellbeing" in trauma survivors.

Of course, programs like these cost money. So, beyond changing its mental-health laws, Nigeria's government must allocate more funds to the sector. According to the World Health Organization, the world spends less than \$3 per person, on average, on mental health each year; in low-income countries, that rate can be as low \$0.25 per person. In Nigeria, the national mental-health budget essentially covers just capital costs and staff salaries at federal neuropsychiatric hospitals, and only a fraction of the allocated budget is routinely released.

One way to make more of limited funds would be to add mental health care to existing donor-funded public-health programs. For example, HIV/AIDS programs should include mental-health services for affected people. Furthermore, health insurers should be required to include mental-health services in their plans, so that people are not forced to pay out of pocket - an insurmountable barrier for many.

Nigeria is failing those of its people who struggle with mental-health issues - no small share of the population. But with improved legislation, education, and support systems - designed and implemented with the engagement of mental-health advocates, practitioners, and donors - Nigeria can turn the tide on mental health, laying the groundwork for a healthier, happier, and more productive future.

The New Dawn
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Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,
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Lord, they are all the same 6 & 7

Dear Father:

Hmm, you know, there is a common saying among the daughters of Eve in my village, when it comes to their discussions surrounding the sons of Adam- I mean the way they would compare them.

They would usually advise their friends saying when you are comparing your partner with another person's partner, just say "my husband or boyfriend is fine pass yor own or taller than your man etc because men are all the same. It is only the shape and sizes that make them different.

Um, tell me about it.

Yes oo, Father, the daughters of Eve in my village have since settled with that one in their minds. So they don't go out looking for perfect guys anymore. Some nowadays are just looking for the sons of Adam with minimum risk, which is respect.

But to say, they are seeking after perfect gentlemen not in our village anymore-it has been a foregone conclusion in their heads that all men are the same no matter how decorated they come.

Okay my son, come out of the closet and tell me exactly what's going on.

Nothing pretty much except for the noise we are hearing around here every day. One morning you wake-up you hear that some group of people coming together to form an umbrella party or a farmers union. Funny enough, they are all the same Tom and Jerry-no different.

There were people who made a whole lot of noise in this village for 12 good years, where are they today-none sense!

Instead of learning from the mistakes of the Old Lady who also made so many after failing to learn from the ones before her and the list goes on and on, they are here during stuffs unimaginable.

And don't even think you can take comfort in those ones parading around here or on face to face sittingsomewhere in Uncle Sam's village acting like one messiah, they might even be the worst criminal on the scene especially with the kind of tinted records some of them already have in this village.

Father, don't py attention to any of them, they are all the same using different styles or techniques to come and siphon our village money just like these ones are doing now.

The only difference is they will come in many shapes and sizes or speeches to cajole the people of our village.

Somebody for 12 good years ran around here like cut neck chicken just to come and behave as if they were living on another planet.

Da the one will make me to be jumping around here for another group of hustlers who only aim is to come and milk our village.

The daughters of Eve in our village have seen a lot and they have a lot that we can learn from. It's unfortunate that in this case many of the people in our village I don't know what is wrong with them-either they are just incredibly gullible or they just don't care.

If only we could listen to the vibes of the daughters of Eve in this village we could save ourselves a lot of troubles. It's like the Good Old Book says: "Go to the ants you sluggards, and learn from them-though they have no leader, but they gather their food doing the dry season and congregate during the rainy season. But we sons of Adams and people of this village have failed to learn from our women.

Anyway Father, how can you blame them, when all they are moved by are the creativity of conned artists on our political scene, some acting like Robinhood and yet you have bunch of foolish people all over the place-bunch of sycophants.

So yes, the daughters of Eve in my village are right- they are all the same 6&7.

OPINION

By Nina L. Khrushcheva

Russian Derangement Syndrome

Although worries about Russian disinformation are not unfounded, they have steadily grown into an unhealthy obsession in the United States and other Western democracies. When absolutely everything is blamed on Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Kremlin has little reason not to continue misbehaving.

EASTERN SHORE, MARYLAND - On May 21, the US Department of State announced a \$250,000 grant for "Exposing Russian Health Disinformation," to which the Russian Embassy in Washington, DC, immediately responded that America had shown its "true intentions... during a difficult global pandemic." Normally, I would not side with the Kremlin. But I cannot help wondering whether the Russophobia found in some segments of America's political class and media has become pathological.

To be sure, in April, the US Department of State warned that Russia, along with China and Iran, was stepping up its disinformation efforts in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. And yet, ever since the 2016 US presidential election, mainstream media outlets and the Democrats (my own party) have been wringing their hands over Russia, often succumbing to sheer hysteria. Though the Kremlin did interfere in the election to undermine Hillary Clinton, thereby ultimately helping Donald Trump, the ensuing investigations found no evidence of the clear-cut "collusion" that many in America's leading media outlets had long assumed was there.

As the executive editor of the New York Times, Dean Baquet, conceded last year during an internal newsroom meeting, "We built our newsroom to cover one story, and we did it truly well. Now we have to regroup, and shift resources and emphasis to take on a different story." In other words, the New York Times, like other mainstream publications, is in the business of shaping the narrative. As Walter Lippmann - required reading in US journalism schools - pointed out almost 100 years ago, someone has to tell the "bewildered herd" what to think.

This is not to suggest that Russian President Vladimir Putin has nothing to answer for. His Kremlin has indeed sought to undermine Western democracies. It has stifled civil liberties at home, expanded Russia's military and security forces, and waged war in Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus, and Syria. It has even sent goons abroad to threaten or eliminate political opponents such as former Russian spy Sergei Skripal, who barely survived an assassination attempt in the United Kingdom in 2018 (Alexander Litvinenko, another wayward spy targeted in the UK in 2006, was not so lucky).

But the United States has also meddled in other countries' affairs, so that the Kremlin can always accuse it of applying a double standard. For Putin, who has not forgotten US efforts to bring rock music and blue jeans to the Soviet Union, meddling is the only proper response to meddlers.

Moreover, when the West accuses Russia of undermining its democracies, the Kremlin can always say that it didn't create the West's problems of racism or inequality. As John Herrman of the New York Times showed in August 2016, while many of the hyper-partisan stories that go viral on Facebook are reported by Kremlin-linked media outlets like RT, they originate in America.

A more recent New York Times story on "Putin's Long War Against American Science" points out that the Kremlin's "disinformation blitz has coincided with a drop in vaccination rates among children in the United States and a rise in measles, a disease once considered vanquished." Seriously? Conspiracy theories about vaccines have been a staple of US political discourse for a generation or more.

When everything becomes Russia's fault, Putin has no good reason not to engage in the kind of behavior he will be accused of anyway. Though Russia fell off the Western media's radar during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is now back in the limelight. Quoting a US official, Yahoo News reported in early April that, "The Russian intelligence services 'likely are watching the US response to the COVID-19 pandemic'" to identify supply-chain weaknesses and other vulnerabilities.

Should this really come as a surprise? The entire world has been watching Trump's clumsy, feckless response, mostly with horror.

Western media outlets have also been busy examining Russia's own experience with the pandemic, questioning its seemingly low infection and mortality rates. On May 13, a Bloomberg News headline initially stated, "Experts Want to Know Why Coronavirus Hasn't Killed More Russians," before being changed to read, "Experts Question Russian Data on COVID-19 Death Toll."

According to Russian authorities, the country's death toll as of May 27 was 3,968. Thus, even if the Kremlin was halving those figures, Russia still would have only around 7,900 deaths, which is five times less than the UK, over ten times less than the US, and less than half the death toll in New York City. Nonetheless, a Politico Europe article from May 24 explains in no uncertain terms, "How Russia's Coronavirus Crisis Got So Bad."

Of course, others in the US have set their sights on China. After trying and failing to convince the rest of the world to call COVID-19 the "Chinese virus," the Trump administration has peddled an unsubstantiated theory that the pathogen was created in a lab in Wuhan.

Rest assured, this finger-pointing has been gleefully reported in Russia, where Putin has denounced the US rhetoric and called for "mutual cooperation." While the European Commission spokesman who recently accused Putin of trying to "undermine public confidence in the local authorities" in Europe probably isn't wrong, one could accuse many Western news outlets of doing the same thing vis-à-vis Russia.

As the Trump administration and congressional Republicans seek to blame China for the pandemic, they should take note of the Democrats' own experiences obsessing over Russia. Indiscriminately attacking Putin because Clinton lost the 2016 election turned out to be a losing strategy. The new blame game will only strengthen the burgeoning alliance between China and Russia.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

CPP Framework is a "Carte Blanche" for Patronage and Protectionism – A Critique

By Martin K. N. Kollie
Liberian activist and columnist

CONT'D FROM LAST EDITION

Critique #1: The National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL) trekked on similar path and it failed. The National Patriotic Party (NPP) also failed when it chose to foster this politically disingenuous approach. The moribund Trug Whig Party (TWP) is a notable example of such failure. The Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) is miserably failing because of similar mentality. It cannot just be about "Grab, Get, and Go". This "CHANGE" that the CPP seeks cannot and must not be only about JOB. Political Reciprocity and Political Patronage have done more harm than good to Liberia. The government MUST be and should work for all Liberians.

It is not a bad thing to recommend for job. But for CPP to prioritize this discriminatory pattern in its framework or keep emphasizing the recommendation of only "known, active, and visible members" is a cause for alarm. Such course of action will lead to non-cooperation and non-compliance in various districts and counties. Those who are not "known, active, and visible" will be compelled to rise up against those who are "known, active, and visible". This section of CPP undermines the spirit and the intent of participatory governance and inclusiveness. It incentivizes exclusivism or exclusivity. The CPP must abide by the tenets of pluralism or pluralistic democracy. The days of oligarchy, elitism, or a one-party system are gone.

Other Contentious Sections:

Section 10:11.5:
"For the purposes of this framework, each Constituent Political Party shall define full make-up of its national executive committee."

Section 10:11.6:
"For the purposes of this framework, each Constituent Political Party shall define full make-up of its county executive committee."

Section 10:11.7:
"Recommendations from the parties for local government positions shall be made by the county executive committee of each Constituent Political Party to its national executive committee."

Section 10:11.8:
"Recommendations from constituent political parties shall be made by the executive committee of that party."

Section 10:11.9:
"All recommendations from the Constituent Political Parties shall be submitted to the Decision-Making Body of the Alliance which shall ensure compliance with this framework."

Section 10:11.10:
"When the head of a ministry, agency, commission, authority county, or district is appointed from one party, all deputy head positions shall be filled by recommendations from other constituent political parties. Positions shall be distributed according to the methods procedures set up pursuant to Section B (3)."

General Critique: The CPP must be different from the CDC and such difference must be shown through intents, words, and deeds. The struggle all of us (politicians, activists, journalists, etc.) are involved with cannot be just about job-seeking and power sharing. It should and must be about transforming Liberia and inspiring the lost hope of all Liberians.

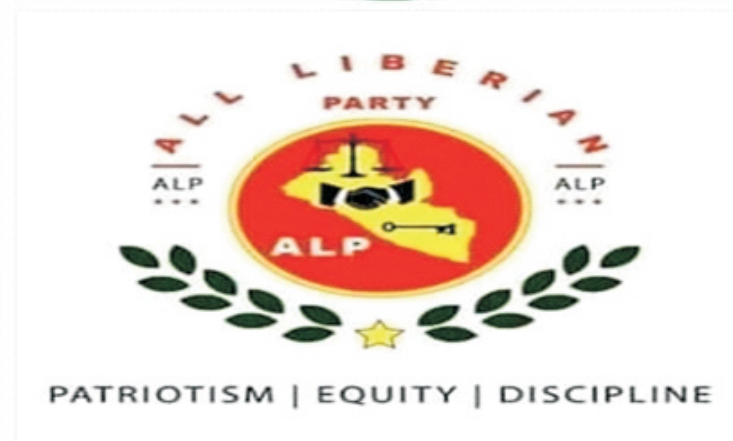
The CPP Framework has made us to think about the Berlin Conference of 1884 when 13 nations in Europe as well as the United States of America met to work

on a joint policy to divide or partition the African Continent. This was the Scramble for Africa. Is the CPP Framework "the Scramble for Liberia"? I hope not!

The framework isn't exact in terms of what it aspires to achieve especially in the interest of the Liberian people. For instance, the document is calling for the "recommendation of appointees from constituent political parties" and at the same time calling for the "compliant consideration of those would be appointees from constituent political parties". It is scaring to even say "Positions shall be distributed according to the methods and procedures set up pursuant to Section B (3)."

In most cases appertaining to the provisions supra, the CPP Framework delegates the executive power and constitutional authority of the would be Commander-In-Chief (CIC) to various County Executive Committees of constituent political parties, the National Executive Committees of constituent political parties, and the National Executive Committee of the CPP. This is a usurpation, an infringement, or an abrogation of the presidential function(s). In fact, there is nothing in our Constitution that guarantees Section 10:11.10 of the CPP Framework.

What must the CPP do going forward



(Recommendation):

- 1) The CPP must immediately abandon its 'job-seeking' and 'power sharing' quest and focus more on concrete conversations pertinent to crafting a doable roadmap for genuine national development and/or a realistic plan (visionary manifesto) to improve and invest in areas like agriculture, education, health, social welfare, job creation (youth employment), infrastructure, technology, transportation, energy, private sector investment, foreign policy formulation, housing, tourism, security, rule of law, accountability, transparency, peace, reconciliation, etc.
- 2) The CPP must be cautious about what it puts out as a document or a framework (e.g. even as a draft);
- 3) The CPP must carry out broad-based consultation(s) with different stakeholders before releasing a document of such nature. Inclusiveness and public participation are

crucial to democratization.

- 4) The CPP must focus on promoting grassroots ownership pertinent to such process or framework. The masses must be involved at all levels and have a direct say even in the drafting process of any document including the CPP Framework;
- 5) The stakeholders of the CPP have to be mindful of the fact that they are not the only opposition political actors or players in Liberia. All must be incorporated in an effort to defeat and unseat Pres. George M. Weah ahead of 2020 and 2023 polls. Therefore, I encourage CPP to reach out to The Rainbow Coalition et al;
- 6) Going forward, I want to reemphasize the importance of openness, honesty, patriotism, boldness, and genuineness in the CPP and among key players.

Beyond this end, the willingness of the four (4) collaborating political parties to come together is a historic milestone and we applaud them for this giant-sized step. At all times, such collaboration

must be guided by firm conviction, aspiration, and belief for a New Liberia. It must place the interest of the people above self.

The CPP cannot be the preacher and at the same time the sinner. CPP has criticized CDC for pursuing self-interest and witch-hunting. The gospel of CPP must correspond with its deeds. Liberians do not need good messages only but upright and patriotic messengers as well.

The four (4) political parties cannot just come together because they want to share public positions among themselves. I hope that the CPP is different and will be the difference that Liberians have been yearning for. The CPP Framework needs a careful relook or a critical readjustment. Liberia first, Liberia last!

About The Author: Martin K. N. Kollie is an exiled Liberian activist and columnist. He can be reached via martinkerkula1989@yahoo.com



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**CROSS-CUTTING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (CCCD) PROJECT
 TERM of REFERENCE**

REFERENCE NO. TOR/CCCD/EPA-2020-001

Project Title: Strengthening National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations with the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities

Job Title	Consultant to Prepare and Air Rio Conventions Jingles		
Division/Department	Environmental Protection Agency/EPA		
Programme/Project Number	GEF ID number: 9390 (Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Project/CCCD)		
Activity Result	Public service announcement(s) on globally sensitive and environmentally friendly behavior		
Assignment	Prepare and air jingles and public service announcement on Rio Convention mainstreaming and improve environmentally friendly behavior		
Location	Monrovia, Liberia		
Reports to	National Project Director Executive Director, EPA	Consultancy Duration:	(8 WEEKS)

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) obtained funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to support the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Project for Liberia. The project will support the Government of Liberia to Strengthening National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations within the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities. The project has four components:

1. Integrated Environmental Knowledge Management System (EKMS)
2. Enhanced institutional and technical capacities for mainstreaming
3. **Improving awareness of global environmental values**
4. Updating the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) a

The UNDP through the EPA as Implementing Entity (IE) intends to recruit the service of a **Local Consultant Firm**, who will produce and air Public service announcement(s)/jingle on globally sensitive and environmentally friendly behavior. This project is in line with the GEF-6 CCCD Strategy objective 1, 3, and 5 which call for countries to: a) integrate global environmental needs into management information systems and monitoring, b) integrate MEA provisions into national policy, legislative, and regulatory frameworks, and c) update NCSAs, respectively. The goal of this project is for Liberia to make better decisions to meet and sustain global environmental obligations. This requires the country to have the capacity to coordinate efforts, as well as best practices for integrating global environmental priorities into planning, decision-making, and reporting processes. To this end, the objective of this project is to strengthen a targeted set of national capacities to deliver and sustain global environmental outcomes within the framework of sustainable development priorities. The project will be carried out via four linked components. **Component 1:** calls for the establishment of an integrated Environmental Knowledge Management System to meet global environment and sustainable development priorities, **Component 2:** focuses on enhanced institutional and technical capacities to mainstream, develop, and utilize policies for implementation of the three Rio Conventions, **Component 3: works to improved environmental attitudes and values for the global environment**, and **Component 4:** is the updating of the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA). The project will take an adaptive collaborative management (ACM) approach to implementation, which calls for stakeholders to take an early and proactive role in the mainstreaming exercises, as well as to help identify and solve unexpected implementation barriers and challenges. By taking an ACM approach, project activities and outputs can be more legitimately modified and adapted to maintain timely and cost-effective project performance and delivery. As a National Implementation Modality (NIM) project, its management team will be seated at the EPA.

Activity Summary

The goal of this activity is to improve the implementation of three Rio Conventions, i.e. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in Liberia through the development of national capacities to better coordinate and generate information related to the implementation of these Conventions.

2.0 Objective

The overriding objective of this activity is to help the general public to understand how their decisions and actions affect the **environment**, builds knowledge and skills necessary to address complex **environmental** issues, as well as ways we can take action to keep our **environment** healthy and sustainable for the future through the airing of jingles on radio.

The component of the project aims is to combat the lack of awareness on climate change, biodiversity loss and sustainable land management by creating an enabling environment for the general public to gain awareness, effective participation and access to data, information and knowledge relating to the Rio Conventions. This intends to build knowledge of wider communities against environmental ignorance, support for implementation of environmental policies, laws against human induced environmental degradation. Realizing the effectiveness of media capacity building and mobilization to complement government and CSOs efforts in policy discourse in favor of educating the general public, the CCCD is developing the Radio Jingles and PSAs in five different themes for the media campaign on Convention on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Land Management issues to support the stakeholders participate in the national implementation of the Rio Conventions in Liberia.

The Specific Objectives of the activity: To raise awareness, acquire knowledge, acquire a set of values for environmental protection, develop ability to draw unbiased inferences and conclusion and enhance participation at all levels in environmental decision making through media mobilization for information and knowledge about environmental issues affecting Liberia and create an enabling environment at grass root level among literates and illiterates, children and adults, men and women, policies and decision-makers, and influence the law makers in the central, provincial and local level in the legal enforcement of the environmental laws and policies.

Target group: Ministries and Agencies, Non-governmental organizations, Community members nationwide, Leaders of grass root level organizations, Religious leaders, Local political leaders, Police officials, Journalists at local level, teachers and Members of School Management Committees (SMCs), youths/students, Local schools, Grass-root level organizations, CSOs at county and national level, national media personnel and local bodies. The total expected beneficiaries of the project are 500,000 catchment populations from fifteen counties.

3.0 Scope of Task
 Produce three environmental awareness jingles and one public service announcement and air nationwide on 17 radio stations in the local Liberian English and dialects mainstreaming sustainable land management, sustainable biodiversity and climate change mitigation.

1. Ozone Depletion, Greenhouse Effect and Global Warming
2. Desertification
3. Deforestation
4. Loss of Biodiversity
5. Disposal of Wastes

Detailed scope of work

- A. Productions in local content
- a. Radio Jingles: Develop 3 (three) jingles on each of the Rio Conventions in Liberian English and 16 major dialects with local content
 - b. Public Service Announcement: 1 (one) PSA integrating the three Rio Conventions in Liberian English and 16 major dialects with local content
 - c. Duration of the each jingles & PSAs: 60 seconds

4.0 Key Deliverables

1. Submission of Inception Report, draft scripts of jingles and public service announcement for review and approval within 10 working days of signing contract

2. Final version of Jingles in 16 major Liberian dialects recorded on disk
3. Final version jingles in local Liberian dialect.
4. Final jingles and PSA in Liberian English
5. Mass production of jingles and PSA
6. Evidence of Contract with Radio stations nationwide to air jingles and public service announcement for six months submitted
7. Aired jingles and PSA nationwide on 17 radio stations in the 15 counties of Liberia for six months

5.0 Duration of Assignment:

The total duration of the assignment will be for a period of 8 weeks from the day of signing the contract. However, the firm/company/CSO/ should submit the first final Radio of task by the close of the 8th week of signing contract.

6.0 Scope of Price Proposal and Schedule of Payments

Price Proposal

The financial offer should be quoted as a lump sum amount, 'all-inclusive'. The term "All inclusive" implies that all costs (professional fees, travel costs, communications, consumables, etc.) that could possibly be incurred by the Contractor are already factored into the final amounts submitted in the proposal

The contract price is fixed regardless of changes in the cost components. Payments will be effected based on deliverables

7.0 QUALIFICATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Technical and Financial Proposal Content. The applicant shall structure the Technical and Financial Proposal as follows:

Technical Proposal

Expertise of Firm/Organization – this section should provide details regarding management structure of the organization, organizational capability/resources, and experience of organization/firm, the list of projects/contracts (both completed and on-going, both domestic and international) which are related or similar in nature to the requirements of the Expression of Interest, and proof of business registration certificate and tax clearance.

Proposed Methodology, Approach and Implementation Plan – this section should demonstrate the Proposer's response to the Terms of Reference by identifying the specific components proposed, how the requirements shall be addressed, as specified, point by point; providing a detailed description of the essential performance characteristics proposed; identifying the works/portions of the work that will be subcontracted; and demonstrating how the proposed methodology meets or exceeds the specifications, while ensuring appropriateness of the approach to the local conditions and the rest of the project operating environment. This methodology must be laid out in an implementation timetable that is within the duration of the contract as specified.

Management Structure and Key Personnel – This section should include the comprehensive curriculum

vitae (CVs) of key personnel that will be assigned to support the implementation of the proposed methodology, clearly defining the roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the proposed methodology. CVs should establish competence and demonstrate qualifications producing radio jingles, dramas and programmes in Biodiversity, Sustainable Land Management and climate change in areas relevant to the TOR.

In complying with this section, the applicant/contractor assures and confirms to CCCD/EPA that the personnel being nominated are available for the Contract on the dates proposed. If any of the key personnel later becomes unavailable, except for unavoidable reasons such as death or medical incapacity, among other possibilities, the client reserves the right to consider the proposal non-responsive. Any deliberate substitution arising from unavoidable reasons, including delay in the implementation of the project of task through no fault of the contractor shall be made only with CCCD/EPA's acceptance of the justification for substitution, and EPA's approval of the qualification of the replacement who shall be either of equal or superior credentials as the one being replaced.

Financial Proposal

The Financial Proposal shall list all major cost components associated with the services, and the detailed breakdown of such costs. All outputs and activities described in the Technical Proposal must be priced separately on a one-to-one correspondence. Any output and activities described in the Technical Proposal but not priced in the Financial Proposal, shall be assumed to be included in the prices of other activities or items, as well as in the final total price.

Cost breakdown per deliverable

No.	Deliverables	Percentage of total price(weight payment)	Price lump sum all inclusive
1.	Upon submission of Inception Report detailing methodology and time frame and draft scripts of jingles and PSA	25%	
2	Upon submission of draft audio version of the jingles, PSA and evidence of pre-contractual agreements with 17 radio stations nationwide to air jingles and PSA	35%	
3	Upon production of approved audio version of jingles and PSA as required and evidence of contractual agreements with radio stations to commence airing	40%	
4	Total	100	

The expression of interest with valid company seal and signature should be submitted in hard copy.

However, anyone who intends to submit EOI online should submit on the 12th of June 2020 (No later no earlier). Submit your EOI with CV, Technical and Financial Proposal.

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or through email (rdoo@epa.gov.lr), indicating in subject area "EOI for the Production and Airing of Rio Conventions Mainstreaming Jingles and Public Service Announcement. Closing date for applications is 1PM, June 12, 2020. Any application coming/received after this deadline will not be given consideration. Only short-listed candidates whose applications correspond to the above criteria will be contacted for an interview.

NOTE: This information is also posted on the below websites: www.emansion.gov.lr, www.ekmsliberia.info, www.epa.gov.lr, UNDP Liberia websites, and local dailies.



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY
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CROSS-CUTTING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (CCCD) PROJECT
Terms of Reference
REFERENCE NO: TOR/CCCD/EPA-2020-004

Project Title: Strengthening National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations with the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities

Job Title	EKMS Officer/Information Technologist		
Division/Department	Environmental Protection Agency/EPA		
Programme/Project Number	GEF ID number: 9390 (Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Project/CCCD)		
Activity Result			
Assignment	Monitor and supervise the Environmental Knowledge Management System		
Location	Monrovia, Liberia		
Reports to	National Project Director Executive Director, EPA	Consultancy Duration:	Six Months renewable base performance

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) obtained funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to support the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Project for Liberia. The project will support the Government of Liberia to Strengthening National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations within the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities. The project has four components:

1. **Integrated Environmental Knowledge Management System (EKMS)**
2. Enhanced institutional and technical capacities for mainstreaming
3. Improving awareness of global environmental values
4. Updating the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) a

The UNDP through the EPA as Implementing Entity (IE) intends to recruit the service of a **Local**

Consultant, who will monitor and supervise the integrated environmental knowledge management system reporting the Rio. The project is in line with the GEF-6 CCCD Strategy objective 1, 3, and 5 which call for countries to: a) integrate global environmental needs into management information systems and monitoring, b) integrate MEA provisions into national policy, legislative, and regulatory frameworks, and c) update NCSAs, respectively. The goal of this project is for Liberia to make better decisions to meet and sustain global environmental obligations. This requires the country to have the capacity to coordinate efforts, as well as best practices for integrating global environmental priorities into planning, decision-making, and reporting processes. To this end, the objective of this project is to strengthen a targeted set of national capacities to deliver and sustain global environmental outcomes within the framework of sustainable development priorities. The project will be carried out via four linked components. **Component 1: calls for the establishment of an integrated Environmental Knowledge Management System to meet global environment and sustainable development priorities.** **Component 2:** focuses on enhanced institutional and technical capacities to mainstream, develop, and utilize policies for implementation of the three Rio Conventions, **Component 3:** works to improved environmental attitudes and values for the global environment, and **Component 4:** is the updating of the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA). The project will take an adaptive collaborative management (ACM) approach to implementation, which calls for stakeholders to take an early and proactive role in the mainstreaming exercises, as well as to help identify and solve unexpected implementation barriers and challenges. By taking an ACM approach, project activities and outputs can be more legitimately modified and adapted to maintain timely and cost-effective project performance and delivery. As a National Implementation Modality (NIM) project, its management team will be seated at the EPA.

Activity Summary

The goal of this activity is to improve the implementation of three Rio Conventions, i.e. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in Liberia through the development of national capacities to better coordinate and generate information related to the implementation of these Conventions.

2.0 JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:

Duties and Responsibilities EKMS Officer (Information Technology Specialist)

The Environmental Knowledge Management Officer shall oversee

- The day-to day running of the EKMS in collaboration with the project manager
- Under the supervision of the Project Manager, he/she will work with the national Rio Convention specialists, as well as with the relevant information technology managers in the different departments to network the EKMS with their information systems.

- The specialist will apply technical expertise to the implementation, monitoring, and maintenance of the EKMS.
- Identifying EKMS Officers and knowledge brokers capacity needs of stakeholders' institutions.
- Ensure the collection, validation and uploading of all environmental data, and information generated.
- Assess and ensure that hardware provided to stakeholders' institutions are used according to specification.
- Provide concrete recommendations to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the EKMS
- Ensure that the EKMS remains running and accessible.

3.0 SCOPE of Work

- a) Work with all line ministries and agencies, NGOs whose websites are integrated into the EKMS

Functional Competencies:

- Excellent and effective communication (verbal and written) skills, including ability to prepare reports and conduct presentations by clearly formulating positions on issues, articulating options concisely conveying maximum necessary information, making and defending recommendations; ability to convey difficult issues and positions to the public.
- Excellent ability to diagnose and solve information technological problem

Expected Outputs

The EKMS officer shall Report monthly, and quarterly all progress, challenges and issues pertaining to the working of the EKMS.

EDUCATION QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

Candidate should hold a Bachelor Degree in Information Technology. He/she must have at least 3 years of progressive work experience, including network analysis, system administration, security and information assurance, IT audit, database administration, and web administration.

OTHER SKILLS

- Excellent team player with good interpersonal skills
- Ability to manage workload with minimum supervision
- Ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines
- Ability to accommodate additional demands at short notice
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment
- Oral communication/presentation skills
- Proactive mindset

Duration of the assignment and enumeration

This assignment starts immediately the consultant is selected and issued a contract. The assignment ends December 31, 2020 and is renewable based on performance.

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or through email (rdoo@epa.gov.lr), indicating in subject area. Closing date for submission of application is 1PM, June 12, 2020. Any submission coming/received after this deadline will not be given consideration. Only submissions that meet the requirement/criteria as contained in Terms of reference will be considered for evaluation. The application must include CV, credentials.

NOTE: This information is also posted on the below websites: www.emansion.gov.lr, www.ekmsliberia.info, www.epa.gov.lr, and local dailies.



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CROSS-CUTTING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (CCCD) PROJECT
Terms of Reference

REFERENCE NO: TOR/CCCD/EPA-2020-002

Project Title: Strengthening National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations with the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities

Job Title	Consultant to Produce and Publish Articles		
Division/Department	Environmental Protection Agency/EPA		
Programme/Project Number	GEF ID number: 9390 (Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Project/CCCD)		
Activity Result	Brochures and Articles on the Rio Conventions		
Assignment	Prepare and publish articles on the socio-economic linkages between sustainable land management, Climate change and biodiversity		
Location	Monrovia, Liberia		
Reports to	National Project Director Executive Director, EPA	Consultancy Duration:	(8 WEEKS)

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) obtained funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to support the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Project for Liberia. The project will support the Government of Liberia to Strengthening National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations within the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities. The project has four components:

1. **Integrated Environmental Knowledge Management System (EKMS)**
2. Enhanced institutional and technical capacities for mainstreaming
3. **Improving awareness of global environmental values**
4. Updating the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) a

The UNDP through the EPA as Implementing Entity (IE) intends to recruit the service of a **Local Consultant**, who will **Produce articles on the socio-economic linkages on the thematic areas of the Rio Conventions**. This project is in line with the GEF-6 CCCD Strategy objective 1, 3, and 5 which call for countries to: a) integrate

global environmental needs into management information systems and monitoring, b) integrate MEA provisions into national policy, legislative, and regulatory frameworks, and c) update NCSAs, respectively. The goal of this project is for Liberia to make better decisions to meet and sustain global environmental obligations. This requires the country to have the capacity to coordinate efforts, as well as best practices for integrating global environmental priorities into planning, decision-making, and reporting processes. To this end, the objective of this project is to strengthen a targeted set of national capacities to deliver and sustain global environmental outcomes within the framework of sustainable development priorities. The project will be carried out via four linked components. **Component 1:** calls for the establishment of an integrated Environmental Knowledge Management System to meet global environment and sustainable development priorities, **Component 2:** focuses on enhanced institutional and technical capacities to mainstream, develop, and utilize policies for implementation of the three Rio Conventions, **Component 3: works to improved environmental attitudes and values for the global environment,** and **Component 4:** is the updating of the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA). The project will take an adaptive collaborative management (ACM) approach to implementation, which calls for stakeholders to take an early and proactive role in the mainstreaming exercises, as well as to help identify and solve unexpected implementation barriers and challenges. By taking an ACM approach, project activities and outputs can be more legitimately modified and adapted to maintain timely and cost-effective project performance and delivery. As a National Implementation Modality (NIM) project, its management team will be seated at the EPA.

Activity Summary

The goal of this activity is to improve the implementation of three Rio Conventions, i.e. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in Liberia through the development of national capacities to better coordinate and generate information related to the implementation of these Conventions.

Job Responsibilities:

1. **Produce articles on the socio-economic linkages on the thematic areas of the Rio Conventions:**
 - a. **Biodiversity**
 - b. **Climate Change**
 - c. **Land Management**
2. **Publish articles on socio-economic linkages of Rio Conventions in local dailies with wider online and print coverage**

Functional Competencies:

- Excellent and effective communication (verbal and written) skills, including ability to prepare reports and conduct presentations by clearly formulating positions on issues, articulating options concisely conveying maximum necessary information, making and defending recommendations; ability to convey difficult issues and positions to the public.
- Have a considerable knowledge of the value of Rio Conventions to sustainable development

Key Expected Results

1. The general public have acquired knowledge, values, attitudes, commitment, and skills needed to protect and improve the environment. to create new patterns of behavior of individuals, groups, and society
2. Individuals developed a deeper understanding of the socio-economic impacts of a sustainable environment and how protecting it secure one sustainable livelihood.

Output

1. Articles on the socio-economic linkages between sustainable land management, biodiversity, and climate change are produced
2. Copies of local dailies publishing the articles are reported.

QUALIFICATION

Candidate must have at least five (5) years of progressive work experience in the task described in the Terms of reference, Master's degree in **Environmental Studies and related areas**.

OTHER SKILLS

- Excellent team player with good interpersonal skills
- Ability to manage workload with minimum supervision
- Ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines
- Ability to accommodate additional demands at short notice
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment
- Oral communication/presentation skills
- Proactive mindset

ATTENTION:

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or through email (rdoo@epa.gov.lr), indicating in subject area "Terms of Reference" to produce and Publish socio-Economic linkages between the three Rio Conventions. Closing date for submission of TORs is 1PM, June 12, 2020. Any submission coming/received after this deadline will not be given consideration. Only submissions that meet the requirement/criteria as contained in Request for TOR will be considered for evaluation. The application package must include CV, credentials and Technical and Financial Proposal.

NOTE: This information is also posted on the below websites: www.emansion.gov.lr, www.ekmsliberia.info, www.epa.gov.lr, www.unpd.gov.lr and local dailies.

Français

L'opposition rejette le report de la date des élections sénatoriales partielles

Les partis politiques de l'opposition ne sont pas d'accord avec la commission électorale nationale qui propose le report des élections sénatoriales partielles initialement prévues pour octobre jusqu'au mois de décembre de cette année.

L'opposition libérienne dit craindre que ce report entraîne des incertitudes et l'insécurité dans le pays.

Les partis politiques issus de l'opposition ont exprimé leur opposition au report proposé des élections lors

d'une audition au Sénat le mercredi 27 mai après que la présidente par intérim du Conseil des commissaires de la NEC, Mme Davidetta Lansana, a révélé la semaine dernière que la commission ne disposait pas de moyens financiers suffisants pour organiser les élections sénatoriales à la date initialement prévue.

Selon Mme Lansana, la NEC n'a pas été à même de respecter le chronogramme fixé pour le bon déroulement du scrutin de 2020 en raison des difficultés financières auxquelles elle est confrontée.

La NEC a plaidé auprès du Sénat libérien pour le report des élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat jusqu'en décembre. La présidente par intérim du Conseil des commissaires de la NEC, Mme Lansana, a déclaré que la pandémie liée au coronavirus a empiré les choses en mettant à mal le bon déroulement des opérations préparatoires, dont l'acquisition du matériel électoral qui est généralement importé de l'étranger du pays.

Comparaissant devant le comité Sénatorial pour les affaires judiciaires présidé par le sénateur Varney Sherman, Mme Lansana, a révélé qu'il faudra du temps à la NEC pour commander les documents et les autres matériels électoraux auprès de la Chine ou d'autres fournisseurs, d'où la nécessité d'accepter que les élections soient reportées jusqu'au mois de décembre de cette année.

C'est alors que le Sénat libérien a invité les représentants des partis politiques à comparaître devant le Comité judiciaire du Sénat afin d'obtenir leur position sur la demande de prolongation des élections

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



DECLARATION DE L'OPPOSITION POLITIQUE IVOIRIENNE RELATIVE AU CALENDRIER DE LA RÉVISION DE LA LISTE ÉLECTORALE

C'est avec surprise que les Partis politiques de l'opposition ivoirienne ont pris connaissance à travers la presse, du calendrier de l'opération de révision de la liste électorale publié par la Commission chargée des Élections en Côte d'Ivoire.

La programmation ainsi annoncée ne reflète en rien les conclusions des discussions qui se sont déroulées le 06 mai 2020 lors de l'atelier d'information et d'échanges sur le processus électoral organisé par le programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement (PNUD).

En effet, à cette rencontre faite dans le cadre du projet « Appui aux Elections en Côte d'Ivoire » (PACE), ont été invités plusieurs Partis et groupements politiques de l'opposition dont le PDCI-RDA, EDS, l'USD, l'URD, le RPP, l'UPCI, le RPCI, CAP-UDD, LIDER et la Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI).

A cette occasion, face à quinze (15) partis et groupements politiques, la commission en charge des élections a fait le point de l'état d'avancement des préparatifs des opérations électorales et a exposé sur le mode opératoire de la révision de la liste électorale.

Après la présentation, par le Président de la Commission chargée des élections, du chronogramme aménagé des activités électorales tenant compte de la crise du COVID-19, des discussions ont été engagées. Ces discussions ont porté sur le chronogramme

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

La véritable réconciliation ne se fait pas au bout des lèvres !

LA RÉCONCILIATION NATIONALE VÉRITABLE continuera de glisser entre les mains des Libériens pendant longtemps parce que les dirigeants du pays semblent manquer de volonté politique pour promouvoir cet élément indispensable à la cohésion nationale. Une nation si divisée dans son existence historique et politique ne peut aller plus loin.

LES LIBÉRIENS CÉLÈBENT LE 14 MAI chaque année comme Journée nationale de l'unification, instaurée par le 18e président William V.S. Tubman, qui voyait un besoin impérieux d'unir les citoyens autochtones et les anciens esclaves d'Amérique, qui se sont installés ici et ont exercé une position dominante sur ceux qu'ils ont trouvés sur place, peut-être en raison de l'influence des anciens maîtres esclavagistes.

LA POLITIQUE DE DIVISION ou la politique d'exclusion est un vice qui a dressé les moins de 5 millions d'habitants les uns contre les autres, attisant en eux la haine, l'envie, la cupidité et l'étroitesse d'esprit.

LE PRÉSIDENT GEORGE MANNEH Weah a déclaré que la Journée nationale de l'unification de cette année ne pouvait pas être commémorée officiellement en raison de la lutte contre le coronavirus dans le pays. Mais en vérité, qu'est-ce qu'il y avait à célébrer ?

MONSIEUR WEAH lui-même, qui dirigeait autrefois la réconciliation nationale du Libéria sous la direction de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf avant de remporter la présidence en 2017, n'a pas lancé de programme significatif pour rassembler les Libériens, bien qu'il provienne d'un segment marginalisé et politiquement défavorisé de la société.

CERTAINS POURRAIT PENSER qu'il aurait pu adapter une telle posture alors dans l'opposition pour des raisons politiques évidentes, ne voulant que le leader dont il visait impatiemment le fauteuil prenne la gloire ou le mérite. A noter aussi que l'ex-présidente Sirleaf elle-même avait déclaré publiquement que sa véritable faiblesse était son incapacité de pardonner. Elle n'avait naturellement non plus aucun désir ni intérêt de pardonner à ses ennemis.

NONOBTANT, alors voici M. Weah, maintenant président, qui dit qu'il ne s'assoierait jamais avec des opposants pour échanger des points de vue et des idées sur les moyens non seulement d'unir les Libériens, mais de faire avancer le pays, parce que ces derniers ne cessent de critiquer son gouvernement.

PAR CONSEQUENT, LE LIBERIA CONTINUE de se débattre comme un beau diable dans ce borborygme malheureux avec des dirigeants qui parlent de réconciliation sur le bout des lèvres et non du fond du cœur. Ils prêchent une chose en public dont la signification est totalement opposée de ce qui est dit.

L'ANCIEN PRÉSIDENT Charles Ghankay Taylor, issu du milieu américano-libérien ou descendant des colons, a dit que son plus grand regret en tant qu'ancien chef, était de ne pas avoir été en mesure de réconcilier les Libériens. Il a mené une incursion sanglante rebelle en 1989 contre le premier président indigène du Libéria, Samuel Kanyon Doe, en représailles contre ce dernier pour avoir renversé le régime de Tolbert, qui était dominé par les colons.

CETTE DIVISION NATIONALE date de plus d'un siècle et, de toute évidence, est ancrée dans les mœurs. Les 14 années (1989-2003) de guerre civile ont même exacerbé la situation. Les gens sont divisés en tribus, clans, communautés, directement en ménages et familles.

Français

L'opposition rejette le report de la date

sénatoriales de mi-mandat.

Représentant le Congrès national alternatif, un parti membre de la nouvelle alliance des principaux partis politiques de l'opposition intitulée (Collaborating Political Parties (CPP)), Me Lafayette Horatio Gould a exigé que le scrutin se tienne à la date initialement prévue, en octobre.

Il a fait valoir que la Commission électorale et le gouvernement du Libéria auraient dû être préparés à l'avance, ils devraient être prêts à toute éventualité dont le déclenchement d'une épidémie ou d'autres calamités naturelles ou dues à l'homme.

Me Gould a en outre accusé la NEC de n'avoir pas impliqué les partis politiques dans ses activités dont le nettoyage de la liste électorale, entre autres.

Une accusation qu'a tout de suite réfutée la présidente par intérim de la NEC, tout en affirmant que la NEC a formé

des agents électoraux issus des partis politiques et a bel et bien associé les partis politiques dans le nettoyage de la liste électorale de 2017 et pour les élections partielles du comté de Montserrado.

C'est aussi le cas de Me Cole Bangalore, qui représentait le Parti de l'unité, qui est aussi membre du CPP. Il veut voir que vaillent les élections au lieu le 13 octobre de cette année comme prévue. Pour lui, le report des élections établira un mauvais précédent dans l'histoire électorale du pays.

M. Theodore Momo, qui préside le All Liberian Party (ALP), évoluera dans le même sens, rejetant avec énergie la proposition du report des élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat.

Mais, quant au président de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir (CDC), Mulbah Morlu, il a déclaré que le CDC est prêt et préparé à toute date pourvu que ça soit en 2020, pas au-delà.

DECLARATION DE L'OPPOSITION POLITIQUE IVOIRIENNE RELATIVE

d'exécution des opérations électorales, l'état des préparatifs et le mode opératoire de la révision de la liste électorale.

Les représentants des partis politiques ont remercié le PNUD et les Nations Unies pour leur assistance électorale et aussi d'avoir offert le cadre de ces échanges.

Les partis politiques de l'opposition notamment, le PDCI-RDA, EDS, l'USD, l'URD, le RPP, l'UPCI, le RPCI, CAP-UDD, et LIDER ont relevé qu'ils récusent l'organe électoral actuel parce qu'il est inféodé au pouvoir, non consensuel et donc incapable de garantir des élections transparentes et crédibles.

Ils ont insisté sur l'impérieuse nécessité de créer les conditions pour des élections inclusives, équitables et apaisées. Ils ont rappelé qu'ils restaient dans l'attente de la décision de la Cour Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples sur la CEI et ont exprimé des préoccupations liées, entre autres, à la durée et aux conditionnalités pour l'enrôlement des électeurs.

Après les échanges, les recommandations suivantes, ont été formulées :

1) Les dix mille cinq cents lieux de vote soient des centres d'enrôlement ;

2) La durée de

l'enrôlement soit d'au moins trente jours au lieu de quinze jours comme prévu par le chronogramme proposé par la CEI ;

3) Un consensus nécessaire sur les pièces suivantes devant servir pour l'enrôlement : l'extrait de naissance, le certificat de nationalité, la carte nationale d'identité ;

4) Le Système des Nations Unies et la communauté internationale devront poursuivre leurs efforts afin de contribuer à créer un consensus et un climat de confiance entre les partis prenantes aux élections.

Au moment où nous nous attendions à une nouvelle rencontre de finalisation des positions après la rencontre avec la Société Civile, des décisions unilatérales, non consensuelles et non validées sont annoncées par le Président de la Commission chargée des élections. Par ailleurs, les Partis politiques de l'opposition rappellent que l'opération des audiences foraines lancées par le Gouvernement afin de faciliter l'inscription des nouveaux majeurs sur la liste électorale s'achève le 1er août 2020.

En conséquence de ce qui précède, les Partis politiques de l'opposition ivoirienne, signataires de la présente déclaration :

• rejettent le calendrier annoncé par le Président de la

COMMENTAIRE

Ifeanyi M. Nsofor & Bell Ihua

Le désert de la santé mentale au Nigeria

ABUJA - Pour la plupart des Nigériens, une personne souffrant de maladie mentale est «?quelqu'un qui se met à courir nu dans la rue? ». C'est une idée complètement fautive, pourtant un bon 70 % des répondants d'un sondage récent sur la santé mentale – le plus important réalisé au pays depuis presque 20 ans – y croit. Et ce n'était là qu'une seule des nombreuses conceptions erronées et nuisibles dont le sondage a fait état.

Le sondage mené auprès de 52 315 personnes consultées par nos organismes – EpiAFRIC et le Africa Polling Institute – a constaté que 84 % d'entre elles estiment que les troubles mentaux étaient attribuables à la toxicomanie, 60 % lient de tels troubles à de la «?faiblesse d'esprit?», 54 % à une «?possession par des forces maléfiques?» et 23 % à «?châtiment de Dieu?». Presque un tiers – 32 % – croit que les troubles mentaux sont le fait d'une malédiction familiale.

Étant donné toutes ses idées farfelues, il n'est peut-être pas étonnant que 69 % des répondants aient mentionné qu'ils ne voudraient entretenir aucune forme de relation avec une personne souffrant de troubles psychologiques – 58 % justifiant principalement cette attitude par des raisons de sécurité personnelle. Seulement 26 % des répondants envisageraient au mieux d'entretenir des liens d'amitié avec une personne souffrant de troubles psychiatriques, alors que 2 % seulement feraient affaire avec une telle personne et un maigre 1 % envisagerait de se marier avec elle. Les Nigériens sont souvent invités à vérifier s'il y a des antécédents familiaux de maladie mentale dans la famille d'un futur conjoint.

Cet ostracisme présente de graves conséquences pour ceux qui souffrent de problèmes de santé mentale. Si quelqu'un présentait des signes de troubles mentaux, 8 % des répondants les amèneraient chez un guérisseur traditionnel?; 4 % les enfermeraient?; et 2 % essaieraient de les guérir par une bonne raclée. Puisque 48 % des répondants du sondage déclaraient connaître quelqu'un qui souffre de troubles mentaux – un groupe qui compose jusqu'à 30 % de la population, selon certaines estimations – ces réponses prêtent à conséquence.

Pire encore, au Nigeria, les stigmates liés à la santé mentale font partie intrinsèque de son régime juridique. À ce stade, les soins de santé mentale sont régis par la loi de 1958 sur la démence, héritée du régime colonial qui légitime de fait les violations des droits des personnes souffrant de pathologies mentales. Ainsi, la loi autorise les médecins et les magistrats à arrêter les «?fous?» et à déterminer quand et comment ils devraient être détenus – d'habitude dans des prisons en compagnie de détenus reconnus coupables d'actes criminels. L'Assemblée nationale a un projet de loi au feuillet pour remplacer cette loi depuis 2003. Même si le Comité sénatorial sur la santé a récemment tenu une audience publique sur le projet de loi, la loi n'a pas encore été adoptée.

Vu les stigmates sociaux et le manque de protection judiciaire, les Nigériens souffrant de troubles psychologiques sont naturellement peu disposés à aller chercher de l'aide. Mais même ceux qui cherchent à consulter pourraient bien éprouver des difficultés à trouver des psychologues ou des psychiatres pour les aider. Même si on les envoyait à l'hôpital – là où 65 % des personnes sondées ont déclaré qu'elles amèneraient une personne souffrant de troubles psychologiques – il n'y a aucune garantie qu'un psychiatre sera disponible. Selon l'Association of Psychiatrists au Nigeria, il n'y a que 250 psychiatres pour assurer des services à 200 millions de Nigériens – un par 800 000 habitants. Les États-Unis, avec ses 28 000 psychiatres pour 330 millions d'Américains, sont pourvus d'un psychiatre par

117 786 habitants.

Puisque les psychiatres doivent suivre une longue formation poussée, il faudra des décennies pour combler ce déficit – et seulement si les jeunes sont encouragés à poursuivre des études dans cette discipline. Les responsables politiques se doivent d'intervenir, dès maintenant, pour réduire l'opprobre, mais surtout pour dissiper les malentendus sur les maladies et assurer des soins de qualité et une prise en charge de ceux qui en ont besoin, dès aujourd'hui.

À cette fin, des stratégies novatrices apparaissent déjà. La Mentally Aware Nigeria Initiative utilise la dynamique des médias sociaux pour sensibiliser le grand public sur les problèmes de santé mentale. Cette initiative a déjà mis sur pied une assistance téléphonique pour éviter les suicides et soulager la détresse psychologique, qui permet une intervention immédiate et de «?premiers soins en santé mentale?», avant d'aiguiller les demandeurs d'aide vers des soins spécialisés.

Le Nigeria est loin d'être le seul pays à innover. Au Zimbabwe, le Friendship Bench met de l'avant une démarche fondée sur les ressources communautaires dans laquelle des travailleurs de la santé non spécialisés dans les collectivités – principalement des «?grand-mères?» (ou des aïeules) – qui prodiguent une thérapie factuelle par le dialogue sur des bancs publics à l'ombre des arbres. Un essai clinique publié dans le Journal of the American Medical Association a indiqué qu'après six mois, ceux qui ont reçu l'intervention avaient des indices relatifs aux symptômes sensiblement plus faibles que le groupe de contrôle, qui a reçu des soins conventionnels bonifiés.

Ailleurs, on s'attend à davantage d'innovations fortuites. Par exemple, aux États-Unis, The Oasis Alliance, un organisme à but non lucratif en Virginie, utilise des concepts d'aménagements intérieurs pour «?favoriser et accélérer la récupération, le développement et le mieux-être psychologique?» chez les personnes ayant vécu un traumatisme.

Évidemment, de tels programmes coûtent cher. Aussi, à part l'abrogation de ses lois sur la santé mentale, l'État du Nigeria devra affecter davantage de fonds au secteur. Selon l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, il se dépense dans le monde moins de 3 \$ par personne, en moyenne, sur la santé mentale par année?; dans des pays à faibles revenus, ce taux peut être aussi faible que 0,25 \$ par personne. Au Nigeria, le budget national en santé mentale ne couvre que les dépenses en immobilisations et les salaires des effectifs des hôpitaux fédéraux en neuropsychiatrie et seule une fraction du budget affecté est normalement débloquée.

Une façon d'optimiser l'utilisation de fonds limités serait d'ajouter des soins psychologiques à des programmes existants de santé publique financés par des donateurs. Par exemple, les programmes de lutte contre le VIH et le SIDA devraient comporter des services de santé mentale pour les personnes atteintes. De plus, les assureurs de soins médicaux devraient inclure des services de consultation psychologique dans leur régime, de sorte que les gens n'aient pas à en débours les frais – une barrière insurmontable pour la plupart.

Le Nigeria laisse pour compte ceux qui souffrent de troubles psychologiques – une proportion non négligeable de la population. Mais avec une législation bonifiée, de meilleurs systèmes d'enseignement et de soutien – élaborés et mis en œuvre par la mobilisation des groupes de défense des intérêts, des praticiens et des organismes donateurs en santé mentale – les autorités publiques du Nigeria peuvent changer le cours des choses en santé mentale, jetant les bases d'un avenir plus sain, plus épanoui et plus productif.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

No date insight for reopening of schools

-MOE reiterates

Liberia's Education Ministry has reiterated that all schools here (public, private, faith-based and community) should indefinitely remain closed until health authorities deem it safe to reopen and begin physical/on-campus

instability of institutions, as well as teachers and school-workers.

As a result, the release notes that in consultation with education and health sector stakeholders, the Education Ministry is finalizing a comprehensive policy aimed at outlining cleared strategies on mitigating several factors and

Meanwhile, the Minister of Education, Prof. Ansu D. Sonii, Sr. commends school-administrations for their continuous effort in ensuring that some curriculum activities continue through distance learning (online) even during the suspension of the academic year and closure of school buildings in Liberia.

However, he warns against schools that are asking students to physically take delivery of the learning and assessment materials from campuses, urging them to desist.

According to Prof. Sonii, such action poses health risks to students. The Ministry of Education also encourages all students and parents to take advantage of the Teaching by Radio program aired on various radio stations across the country, geared towards providing refresher learning for students as they stay away from school due to the health crisis.

The radio program is a thirty - minute interval broadcast of core subjects aired by lesson, by time, and by schedule, for Grade K1 to Grade 12, which provide continuous learning for students in core subjects.-
-Press release



activities. In a release, the education authorities say amid the COVID - 19 health crisis and the disruption in the school year 2019/2020, the Ministry of Education recognizes the strike on students' learning processes and financial

challenges to facilitate the reopening of schools and complete the academic year 2019/2020 in line with the National Curriculum.

It also confirms that no date has been set for the resumption of classes and any physical academic activities.

Police probe teen age girl's rape claim

By Bridgett Milton

The Liberia National Police (LNP) has launched an investigation into the alleged rape case of a 15 - year - old

15 - year - old explained that she was living with her mother and her step father in Monrovia where she was allegedly raped by the accused.



girl whose step father Johnson Chuluty allegedly raped and impregnated her.

In a video posted on social media over the weekend, the

The victim explains that she was raped when she was left at home while her mother went

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Russia Postpones BRICS Summit to Later Date

By KesterKennKlomegah

The summits of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states have been postponed from July to a later date, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Kremlin press service said on May 27.

"In light of the global pandemic and the temporary restrictions linked to it, the Organizing Committee for the preparation and securement of the chairmanship of the Russian Federation in the SCO in 2019-2020 and BRICS in 2020 has made a decision to postpone the meeting of the BRICS leaders and the session of the SCO Heads of State Council earlier scheduled for July 21-23 in St. Petersburg to a later date," the press service said in a statement.

The new dates for the summits will be determined depending on the further development of the epidemiological situation in the member states and in the world in

general, the statement said.

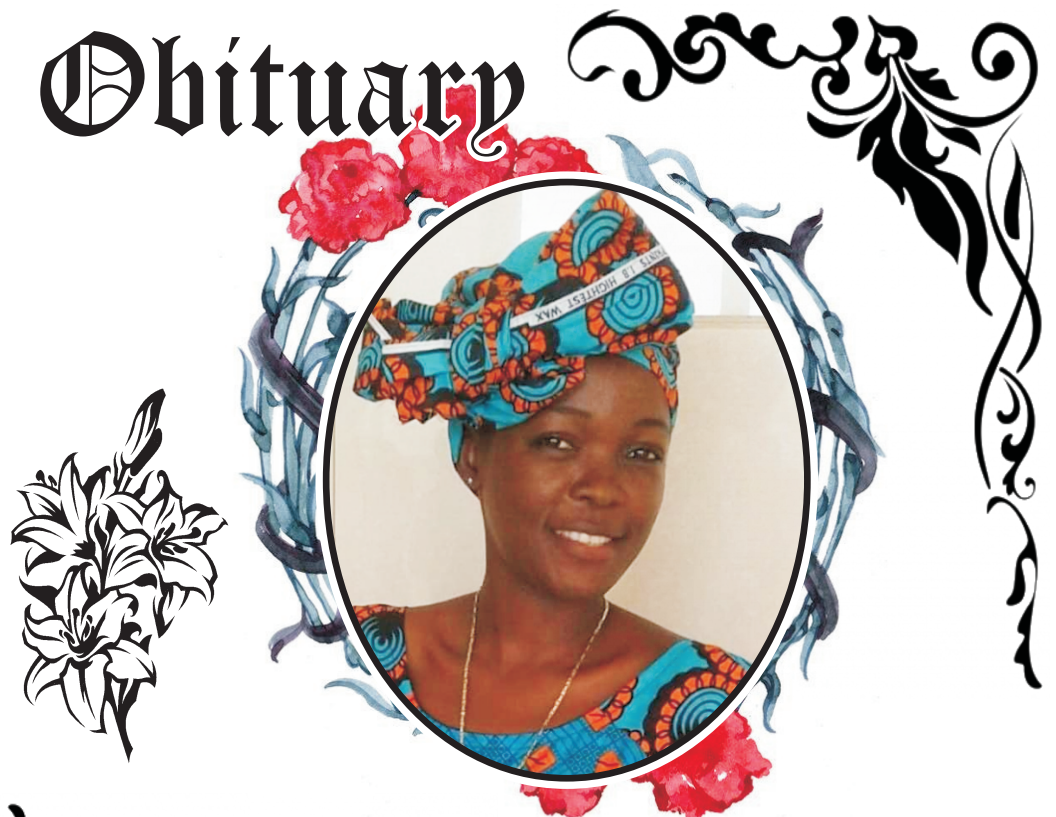
Throughout 2020, - under the theme "BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth" - Russia holds the BRICS pro tempore presidency.

The emphasis of the Russian presidency is on promoting science, technology and innovation and digital economy and health, and strengthening cooperation in the fight against transnational crimes.

In addition to those, dozens of academic, sporting, cultural and artistic events planned for the year. St Petersburg, chosen as the venue in accordance with the Presidential Executive Order No. 380 of 15 August 2019.

BRICS is the group composed by the five major emerging countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, - which together represent about 42% of the population, 23% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 30% of the territory and 18% of the global trade.

Obituary



The Management of the Searchlight Communications, Inc. publisher of the New Dawn newspaper regrets to announce the death of its Sports Reporter, Sally Gaye, who passed on Sunday, May 17, 2020 reportedly at the ELWA Hospital in Paynesville following a protracted illness.

Family meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 23, at the family residence behind the 72nd Barracks in Paynesville.

Funeral rites follow Saturday, May 30th 2020 at the Gardnersville Wesleyan Church near Stephen Tolbert Estate.

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Investigate Dillon

By Ethel A Tweh

Senator George Tengbeh of Lofa County wants the plenary of the Liberian Senate to investigate his colleague of Montserrado County, Senator Abraham Darius Dillon, for allegedly denigrating the Senate.

Tengbeh's communication

recast budget of receiving bribes, challenging him to provide proof.

According to Tengbeh, weeks ago Dillon deceptively told the public that he received US\$6,500 as operational fund. "Senator Dillon knows fully well that he received more than that; he understates the amount he received", he added.

behavior by Dillon is gross dishonesty, which has no place in the Liberian Senate, arguing that it is honorable to disclose full amount than to criminally disclose partially.

He noted that the Senate's standing rules call for perfect decorum during session, but Dillon is allegedly in a constant habit of disturbing session, which shows no respect to the officers who call him to order.

He also lamented that Dillon usually describes individuals (fellow senators) who vote for what they believe in and the entire Liberian Senate as rotten. "I think Dillon doesn't belong in this rotten institution".

The Lofa lawmaker recalled that recently, Dillon launched an attack on the character of Grand Bassa County Senator Jonathan Kaipay in his home town, causing further injury on Kaipay's reputation, dignity and representation.

Tengbeh pointed that Dillon has brought the Senate to public ridicule and made that body a laughing stock, saying, that the Leadership of the Senate should invite the Montserrado senator for an investigation, and if found guilty, the law should take its course.

Meanwhile, the leadership of the Senate on Thursday took seized of the complaint filed by Senator Tengbeh. - *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



which appeared on the Senate floor Thursday, May 28, says Dillon's willful and intentional behavior has cast a bad image on the Liberian Senate and individual senators.

He explained that on May 20, Sen. Dillon accused 23 senators, who affixed their signatures on the COVID-19

However, Dillon has been credited for breaking the news, because no one in the public knew that senators on Capitol Hill received US\$6,500 each immediately after they endorsed the State of Emergency in a joint resolution until the loud-spoken opposition senator came out.

But Tengbeh said such

Police probe teen

Cont'd from page 10

out to sell, accusing suspect Chuluty of tying cloth on his face before putting other clothes in her mouth and then raped her.

The victim alleges that she reported the case to her mother who she claimed insisted that her husband couldn't do that.

Following the alleged incident, the victim reveals that her stomach started to grow, leading to a pregnancy test conducted by her mother that showed that the teen age girl was allegedly three months pregnant.

According to the victim, she was subsequently sent to her grandmother in Lofa County by her mother and remained there until she gave birth.

Suspect Chuluty has been ordered arrested by the Ministry of Justice to face charges of rape and corruption of a 15 - year - old minor, resulting to impregnation.

Early Wednesday, 27 May, the LNP arrested the wife of suspect Chuluty, Madam Mary Chuluty and she is now undergoing interrogation by the Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberia National Police.

Speaking to various radio stations Thursday morning, 28 May, Police Spokesman Moses Carter informed the public that the victim is on the way to Monrovia.

Meanwhile, the LNP urges those sharing the video on social media to desist, as it takes the protection of the victim very seriously.

According to a release from the Minister of Gender, the ministry appreciates the most recent whistle-blower who brought light to the recent alleged rape case that went viral on social media.

The poster's action has set into motion a pathway to justice for the survivor. The ministry is at the same time

appealing to viewers of the viral video to disengage from sharing the content forward, especially without protecting the name and face of the survivor.

The Gender Ministry says this will help protect the victim's rights to privacy as enshrined in the Children's Law of 2011, as much as can be done right now.

It adds that note is taken that the inadvertent exposure of the identity of the rape survivor, has actually set the stage for her re-victimization to a certain degree, especially as a minor.

The Ministry of Gender applauds the Minister of Justice and his team, for working with the Minister of Gender and her team for ensuring that the Liberia National Police's Foya District Women and Children Protection Services, and the MGCSP's Lofa County Gender Supervisor moved quickly to get the survivor and place her into protective custody.

The release says the victim is receiving the necessary support and care. At the same time, it appreciates the LNP for picking up the survivor's mother for questioning which led to getting the full name of the alleged perpetrator, and a picture to identify him.

The Government of Liberia through its justice system has placed an All-Points Bulletin (APB) on suspect Johnson Chuluty and a robust manhunt has been launched for his arrest upon sight.

The Ministry of Gender says it welcomes public reporting on SGBV cases and encourages every citizen to continue to pay attention to the happenings in the communities, and say or report anything seeming suspicious or out of the ordinary. --*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Marriages of commitment or convenience?

Opposition political parties here are forming marriages in what seems to be not for commitment, but convenience two years before the next presidential and legislative elections in 2023.

Four opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) that separately contested in the 2017 elections and lost to now President George Manneh Weah consummated a framework recently that would allow them to put forth a single candidate against Mr. Weah's ruling Coalition for Democratic Change in the coming poll that ruling CDC partisans and loyalists vow to win landslide.

The parties include the former ruling Unity Party, Liberty Party, Alternative National Congress and the All Liberian Party.

The CPP released a concept document this week that boomeranged in which it

said only CPP members should be appointed to local government positions, if the collaboration won the pending elections, a concept that received widespread public condemnation, forcing the four parties to invalidate the

document published online.

The CPP immediately issued a clarification to the effect that this was a draft concept paper and that the official document, which is being finalized, has not been published.

Among the four parties, only the former governing Unity Party came close to Mr.



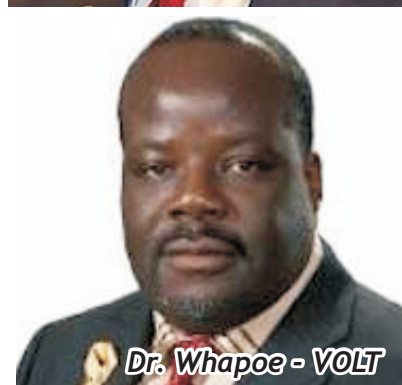
Mr. Cummings - ANC



Amb. Boakai - UP



Mr. Goodridge - TWP



Dr. Whapoe - VOLT

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Weah's Coalition for Democratic Change with 28 percent of the total votes cast in the first round of the election. The UP, led by Ex-vice president Joseph NyumahBoakai, eventually lost the runoff to the CDC.

But there are less challenging parties that have also grouped themselves as friendly opposition or what some may term, regime collaborators, including the relegated True Whig Party and Movement for Economic Empowerment, among others, a move many electorate say would reduce overcrowdedness of the ballot

papers during elections, and thereby make it easier in choosing a candidate of their choice.

However, this is not the first time parties are forming marriages. Prior to the 2017 elections, these very parties, mainly UP, ALP, ANC, MDR and LP met in Nimba County and produced the "Ganta Declaration" that was never upheld during the actual poll.

Liberian electorate this time around, hopes these political unions would become cemented in building a stronger democracy for the country. -*Story by Jonathan Browne*

The NewDawn

French Version Inside
TRULY INDEPENDENT



Sports

With **Emmanuel B. Juduh**

VOL. 10 NO. 87

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020

PRICE LD\$40.00

Covid-19 case update as of May 27, 2020

Liberia COVID-19 Daily Case Update by County
Report as of May 27, 2020

Total Confirmed
269 (3 new)

Active Confirmed Cases
98

Confirmed cases by County

Gbarpolu	6 (0 new)
Grand Bassa	4 (0 new)
Grand Kru	1 (0 new)
Lofa	2 (0 new)
Margibi	25 (0 new)
Maryland	1 (0 new)
Monts.	221 (3 new)
Nimba	7 (0 new)
River Gee	1 (0 new)
Sinoe	1 (0 new)

Cases by Gender

Female	94 (1 new)
Male	175 (2 new)

Total Deaths
27 (0 new)

Total Recovered
144 (0 new)

Deaths by County

Gbarpolu	2 (0 new)
Grand Bassa	0 (0 new)
Grand Kru	0 (0 new)
Lofa	2 (0 new)
Margibi	1 (0 new)
Maryland	0 (0 new)
Monts.	18 (0 new)
Nimba	4 (0 new)
River Gee	0 (0 new)
Sinoe	0 (0 new)

Recoveries by County

Gbarpolu	0 (0 new)
Grand Bassa	0 (0 new)
Grand Kru	1 (0 new)
Lofa	0 (0 new)
Margibi	7 (0 new)
Maryland	1 (0 new)
Monts.	132 (0 new)
Nimba	1 (0 new)
River Gee	1 (0 new)
Sinoe	1 (0 new)

Deaths by Gender

Female	7 (0 new)
Male	20 (0 new)

Recovery by Gender

Female	53 (0 new)
Male	91 (0 new)

Location of Deaths

Death in COVID-19 Treatment Unit	3 (0 new)
Death in health facility	11 (0 new)
Death in community	13 (0 new)

Contacts under follow up
649 (28 new)

3 new confirmed cases, No new death and No new recovery reported as of 10:00 pm, 27th May 2020.

www.nationalphil.org | www.moh.gov.lr | National Public Health Institute of Liberia-NPHIL | @nphil6 | For more info call 4455 (toll free)

NOTE: These data are subject to epidemiological reclassification | Data by: Liberia COVID-19 Incident Management System

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Premier League set to restart on 17 June

The Premier League is set to restart on 17 June with Aston Villa v Sheffield United and Manchester City v Arsenal, subject to government approval.

A full round of fixtures would then be played on the weekend of 19-21 June.

There are 92 matches still to play, and the first to take place will be those the four teams involved have in hand.

All matches will take place behind closed doors and will

be broadcast live on Sky Sports, BT Sport, BBC Sport or Amazon Prime.

BBC Sport will air four live matches for the first time since the Premier League's inception in 1992.

Meanwhile, Sky Sports will show 64 matches live and make 25 available free to air.

Safety guidelines are yet to be issued by the government and decisions will remain subject to the continuing fight against the coronavirus pandemic.



Kick-off times will be as follows (all times BST):

BBC Sport understands that clubs have agreed to a provisional end date of Saturday, 25 July.

It is also understood that finishing the season would require six weekends and three midweek rounds.

Liverpool sit 25 points clear at the top of the table while Bournemouth, Aston Villa and Norwich City are in the relegation places.

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