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Continental News

Nigerians outraged by murder of student in church

There is outrage in Nigeria following the murder of a 22-year-old student, Uwavera Omozuwa in a church.

The hashtag #JusticeForUwa is trending in Nigeria, with her family appealing for help to track down her killers.

Uwavera had been studying in a "quiet" church near her home in Benin City when she was killed, her sister, Judith, told BBC Pidgin.

The student, who had wanted to become a nurse, died in hospital on Saturday, three days after the attack. Judith Omozuwa said

her sister had also been raped.

Her family said they received a call from a woman at the Redeemed Christian Church of God on Wednesday evening.

Uwavera was taken to hospital after a security guard found her, her skirt

torn and her shirt covered in blood, Judith Omozuwa said. However, a police spokesperson in southern Edo State, whose capital is Benin City, told BBC Pidgin that they were treating the incident as a murder, not a rape, case.

The student died following a fight at the church, the spokesperson added, without giving more details. Uwavera had only just been admitted to the University of Benin to study microbiology when she was killed.

She often went to sit and "read" at the church near her house as it was quiet, her

sister added. Unconfirmed reports in local media said a group of men had entered the church, raping Uwavera and hitting her with a fire extinguisher.

On Tuesday, many Nigerians were angered after a policeman allegedly shot dead a 16-year-old girl, Tina Ezekwe, in the commercial capital, Lagos.

The officer was arrested, police said.

On Twitter, many Nigerians expressed concern about the government's failure to tackle gender-based violence, and questioned whether parents were bringing up boys properly. BBC



Uwavera Omozuwa's dream was to become a nurse

Gunmen 'kill dozens' at Burkina Faso market

Some 30 people have been killed in eastern Burkina Faso in a gun attack on a cattle market, reports say.

Gunmen on motorbikes fired into the crowded market in Komienga town around lunchtime on

Saturday, eyewitnesses and residents said.

It is unclear who was behind the attack, but Burkina Faso has seen a recent sharp rise in jihadist violence and inter-communal clashes.

The violence has forced hundreds of thousands to flee

their homes.

Local media earlier reported 20 killed, while quoting sources as saying the death toll could be considerably higher. AFP news agency quoted local residents as saying 30 died. On Friday at least 15 people were killed when suspected Islamist militants attacked a convoy of traders in the north, near the border with Mali. The government blamed the attack on "terrorists", a phrase usually used to describe al-Qaeda and Islamic State-linked jihadists Burkina Faso has been battling in recent years.

Despite occasional government claims of success against the Islamist militants, the insecurity in the north and east of Burkina Faso has dramatically escalated.

Jihadists have often targeted schools, forcing about 300,000 children out of education. BBC



The security forces are struggling to end violence in Burkina Faso

Ethiopian army 'shot man dead because phone rang'

An Ethiopian soldier shot a man dead in front of several people after his phone rang during a public meeting, Amnesty International says.

It is one of many incidents the rights watchdog recorded from a security crackdown in Oromia regional state at the end of 2018 and 2019.

This was the year that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed won the Nobel Peace Prize.

He has been praised for his reforms, but they may have lifted a lid on ethnic tensions.

The BBC has tried to contact the authorities to respond to the report but they have not reacted. Ariti Shununde, 32, was killed during operations to suppress an armed group, the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), according to witnesses quoted by Amnesty International.

The army called for a public meeting in one local area in Oromia and collected all the phones of those who had turned up.

One of the phones then rang and when soldiers asked for the owner to identify himself Mr Ariti stepped forward, an eyewitness is reported to have said.

He was then shot in the back twice, the witness added. The rights group says that it has corroboration from other witnesses.

His family was told to bury Mr Ariti immediately. It says it



has found evidence of the extrajudicial killings of 39 people in Oromia, including Mr Ariti.

Through witness testimony, it details how three other victims were taken out of police cells and shot dead.

In late December 2018 soldiers killed 13 people in the town of Finchawa in what Amnesty International describes as indiscriminate shooting.

The security forces are also accused of rounding up thousands of people they believed were supporters of the OLA.

The OLA is a breakaway faction of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), a former separatist rebel group which laid down arms following peace talks with Mr Abiy. The Oromos, despite being Ethiopia's largest ethnic group, had long complained that they were marginalised from political and economic power.

A wave of protests in Oromia preceded the appointment of Mr Abiy - who is Oromo himself - as prime minister in April 2018. BBC

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 Ngairé Woods
& Leany Lemos

Learning to Live with COVID-19

Leaders in the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul have devised a strategy for living with the virus, based on key indicators, expert consultations, and enforceable processes. And it has done so in full public view. There are lessons here for governments in richer countries that have yet to develop such a plan.

OXFORD/PORTO ALEGRE - One of COVID-19's paradoxes has been the way in which some wealthy, high-capacity countries (particularly the United States and the United Kingdom) failed to contain the virus, while some poorer countries and regions with less capacity (including Vietnam, Greece, and the Indian state of Kerala) swiftly brought it under control. Now that countries must plan beyond their lockdowns, an equally stark contrast has emerged.

In the US and the UK, ambiguous containment regimes without clear exit plans have resulted in a policy stalemate between maintaining unsustainable lockdowns and recklessly opening up the economy. By contrast, policymakers in the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul have used careful planning to learn to live with the virus.

The state began preparing on March 2, when Governor Eduardo Leite tasked his secretary of planning, budget, and management with assembling a data committee to develop and implement a plan for keeping the state's economy going while combating the spread of the virus. In many other parts of Brazil, the virus remains unchecked, and the country now has the world's second highest number of COVID-19 cases and the sixth-highest death toll. Yet, its fifth-most populous state has responded in a way that many rich countries would do well to emulate.

Five components of Rio Grande do Sul's response stand out.

First, Leite focused from the outset on avoiding the worst possible outcome, rather than simply hoping it would not materialize. Before the pandemic reached Brazil, state officials used data from both Japan and Singapore (where the virus's impact was limited) and Italy and Spain (where it was horrific) to generate mathematical projections, and set out to avoid outcomes resembling the latter. The governor then announced restrictions in mid-March before the state had reported its first COVID-19 death, thus buying time to strengthen the health system's capacity while slowing the virus's spread.

Second, state officials took a data-driven approach to tracking the virus, investing not only in collecting more data, but also in improving systems and hiring outstanding talent to assess the information. The data committee divided the state into 20 regions, each of which has a main hospital with an intensive-care unit (ICU), and has monitored 11 indicators in each region every week.

About half of the indicators measure the virus's spread. They include the number of new hospitalized COVID-19 cases (compared to the previous week), the number of active cases relative to recoveries in the last 50 days, and new hospitalizations and deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. The committee also tracks the number of patients in regular and ICU beds with either COVID-19 or acute respiratory distress syndrome, a related lung disease (because COVID-19 cases are typically under-recorded).

The other indicators measure the capacity of each region's health system. They include the number of available ICU beds relative to both the total population and the number of inhabitants aged over 60, as well as the change in ICU occupancy

compared to the previous week.

In addition to intensive data monitoring, the data committee convenes health experts and academics on a pro bono basis and makes their reports public. More than 150 experts from government and academia are currently examining COVID-19's impact on economic activity, social vulnerability, infrastructure, and mobility in the state. Furthermore, the government created a partnership with a university early on to kick off random testing and surveying habits across the state, which is providing a better sense of the real prevalence of the virus.

The third component of the state's response is a simple, specific, and transparent alert system. Each week, the committee distills the 11 indices into a single figure for each region, which places the region in one of four risk categories. Yellow represents low risk, orange is medium, red is high, and black signifies very high risk, with a full lockdown expected in extreme cases. Because the public can examine the data on which the risk classifications are based, the system helps to build understanding and trust.

Fourth, officials carefully examined how to keep the economy functioning, because the already-indebted state could not afford to support out-of-work people for long. The committee has clearly segmented jobs and economic activities in terms of worker safety (given social-distancing requirements) and their economic importance, giving these factors weights of 70% and 30%, respectively. For example, agriculture is relatively safe, because workers are outdoors and a safe distance from one another, and it is also vital for Rio Grande do Sul's economy. All of the information is publicly available.

Finally, the state government drew up return-to-work protocols for each industry based on consultations with occupational health experts, industry associations, businesses, and workers. By publishing early drafts of protocols and inviting comments, the committee helped to ensure an open and transparent process.

Beyond mandatory measures such as wearing facemasks, cleaning, distancing, and shielding at-risk groups, sector protocols vary depending on the alert level. For example, industry can function at 100% capacity in a yellow region, at 75% under an orange alert, 50% in red regions, and 25% in black regions, with exceptions for essential sectors such as food, energy, chemicals, and health. Retail, which poses a higher contagion risk, may operate at only 50% capacity under a yellow alert, and must close down under a black alert.

While buses and churches have varying seat restrictions depending on the alert level, no mass events are currently permitted. The state is now debating which educational institutions should reopen first, and when, and how to reopen the rest.

Rio Grande do Sul's work-safety policies have now been in place for three weeks. As of the last week of May, less than 20% of the state's COVID-19 ICU beds are in use. The state has 56 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, compared to 720 per 100,000 in Amazonas state, 390 in Ceará state, and 220 in Rio de Janeiro. And its COVID-19 mortality rate is 1.6 per 100,000 inhabitants, far below the rates in Amazonas (42.4) and Rio de Janeiro (23.1).

The New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

O-PED

By Chris Patten

We Are Hong Kong

With his recent decision to impose a draconian new security law on Hong Kong, Chinese President Xi Jinping has ridden roughshod over the Joint Declaration and directly threatened the city's freedom. Defenders of liberal democracy must not stand idly by.

LONDON - In my final speech as Hong Kong's governor on June 30, 1997, a few hours before I left the city on Britain's royal yacht, I remarked that, "Now, Hong Kong people are to run Hong Kong. That is the promise. And that is the unshakable destiny."

That promise was contained in the 1984 Joint Declaration, a treaty signed by China and the United Kingdom and lodged at the United Nations. The deal was clear, and the guarantee to Hong Kong's citizens was absolute: the return of the city from British to Chinese sovereignty would be governed by the principle of "one country, two systems." Hong Kong would have a high degree of autonomy for 50 years, until 2047, and would continue to enjoy all the freedoms associated with an open society under the rule of law.

But with his recent decision to impose a draconian new security law on Hong Kong, Chinese President Xi Jinping has ridden roughshod over the Joint Declaration and directly threatened the city's freedom. Defenders of liberal democracy must not stand idly by.

For over a decade after the 1997 handover, China largely kept its promise regarding "one country, two systems." True, not everything was perfect. China retreated from its promise that Hong Kong could determine its own democratic government in the Legislative Council, and the Chinese government periodically interfered in the life of the city. In 2003, for example, it abandoned an attempt to introduce legislation on issues such as sedition - an odd priority in a peaceful and moderate community - in the face of mass public protests.

Overall, however, even skeptics conceded that things had gone pretty well. But China-Hong Kong relations started to deteriorate after Xi became president in 2013 and dusted off the playbook of aggressive and brutal Leninism. Xi reversed many of his immediate predecessors' policy changes, and the Communist Party of China (CPC) reasserted control over every aspect of Chinese society, including economic management.

Xi toughened the party's grip on civil society and universities, and cracked down on any sign of dissident activity. He demonstrated that his regime's word could not be trusted internationally, for example by renegeing on promises he had made to US President Barack Obama that China would not militarize the atolls and islands it was seizing illegally in the South China Sea. Furthermore, Xi's regime locked up over a million predominantly Muslim Uighurs in Xinjiang and obliterated signs of their culture wherever possible. And, of course, he tightened the screws on Hong Kong.

Last year's protests in the city were triggered by the Hong Kong government's attempt to introduce an extradition law that would in effect have removed the firewall between the rule of law in the territory and communist law in mainland China. The demonstrations were badly handled by Hong Kong's police, whose behavior - including the unchecked use of tear gas and pepper spray - led a small minority of the protesters to resort to unacceptable violence.

An independent inquiry into the reasons for the demonstrations, the mishandling of them by the police, and the behavior of the demonstrators (the overwhelming majority of whom were peaceful) could have helped to calm the community and promote reconciliation. But the proposal was rejected out of hand. In last November's district council elections, Hong Kong's citizens showed whose side they were on by voting overwhelmingly for pro-democracy candidates who had supported the demonstrations.

The protests have stopped in recent months as a result of the city's (successful) measures to combat the coronavirus. But the Chinese authorities clearly expected them to restart, for example to mark the June 4 anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, and no doubt are worried that Hong Kong's democratic parties would go all out for victory in the next Legislative Council elections in September.

This prospect plainly terrified the Chinese government and the hardline officials that it recently put in charge of the territory. The latter had already asserted their determination to curtail Hong Kong's autonomy and had interfered at will in matters that should have been left to the city's government and legislators.

Xi's government has now struck its heaviest blow yet. Taking advantage of the world's current focus on fighting COVID-19 (whose rapid global spread is in part the result of the CPC's secrecy and mendacity), China's rubber-stamp parliament has now bypassed Hong Kong's own legislature and imposed a national-security law on the city. The law covers unspecified crimes such as sedition and secession, and would allow China's version of the KGB, the Ministry of State Security, to operate in Hong Kong, presumably using its customary methods of coercion.

But what is the alleged national-security threat that Hong Kong poses to China's Communist regime? China's leaders fear the very things they promised to Hong Kong in the Joint Declaration, namely the rule of law and the freedoms it protects. The city represents everything Xi's regime hates about liberal democracy, which is why what is happening there is not only a huge challenge for Hong Kong and its people, but also a direct threat to open societies everywhere.

The world simply cannot trust this Chinese regime. Liberal democracies and friends of Hong Kong everywhere must make it clear that they will stand up for this great, free, and dynamic city. Following China's announcement of the new law, over 512 parliamentarians and senior policymakers from 32 countries have signed a statement supporting Hong Kong. The city's freedom and prosperity are at stake; so are the values and interests of open societies around the world.

As the co-signatory to the Joint Declaration, the UK has a special responsibility to show leadership. For starters, Prime Minister Boris Johnson should ask for Hong Kong to be put on the agenda at next month's G7 meeting. He might find inspiration in advice found in the Analects of Confucius: "A gentleman would be ashamed should his deeds not match his words."

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OPINION

By John B. Taylor

The Real Economic Opening We Need

Policymakers around the world already recognize that they need to find a way to reopen national economies safely and in accordance with policies to keep the COVID-19 pandemic under control. Yet not nearly enough has been done to encourage new markets that can operate even under conditions of economic lockdown.

STANFORD - With governments adopting measures to halt the COVID-induced economic downturn and prepare the way for a safe recovery, we need to start focusing on new ways to open up and create markets. So far, this task has been taken up almost entirely by the private sector; but governments need to do more to offer encouragement.

The first step is to observe precisely how markets are opening after months of social distancing and economic lockdowns. According to the most recent US Census Bureau data, non-store (primarily online) retail sales rose by 8% in April, up from 5% growth in March. In contrast, all other major spending categories declined: sales of motor vehicles and parts were down by 12%, grocery stores' sales fell 13%, and spending on clothing and accessories plummeted by 79%. But within these other categories, specific items are booming, including home office essentials and exercise equipment such as Pelotons. As Walmart CEO Doug McMillon recently put it, "Adult bicycles started selling out as parents started to join the kids."

Telemedicine is also exploding as more service providers launch online services and encourage people to switch to virtual care. Increases in bandwidth usage show that patients are responding. The recently announced merger of the cloud communications firm Twilio and the doctor-patient network Zocdoc is just one example of the growth underway. Twilio's usage, measured by peak concurrent participants, has surged by 850% since mid-February (and by 500% in terms of daily video minutes). The firm now plans to launch a free-to-access HIPAA-compliant Zocdoc video service.

On a related note, RadNet CEO Howard Berger sees a big increase in the imaging business, because the surge in demand for telemedicine has pushed doctors to use remote diagnostic tools that require high-resolution videos or photos.

New modes of buying and selling online are also branching into previously unexplored areas such as education and finance, where videoconferencing has been rapidly and widely adopted. According to Zoom Video Communications CEO Eric Yuan, that platform has gone from hosting ten million meeting participants per day last year to 200 million today. And as Ami Joseph of Hedgeye has shown, Zoom's cumulative invoices have increased from around 11 million to 22 million just since March. Other digital-communications platforms are experiencing similar changes.

Many firms are also developing plans to allow for more remote work on a permanent basis. Last week, for example, Mark Zuckerberg announced that, within a decade, more than half of Facebook's 48,000 employees will be telecommuting.

These systemic shocks are causing a major rethink across the economy. It is time for governments to follow up with the appropriate policies to encourage the opening of, and further growth in, new markets. For its part, President Donald Trump's administration has already removed one barrier to telemedicine by announcing that the two major government health insurers, Medicare and Medicaid, will pay the same rates for virtual visits as for in-office appointments. Though the change is temporary, it can and should be extended.

Moreover, on May 19, Trump took direct action to open new markets. In an Executive Order on Regulatory Relief to Support Economic Recovery, he states that, "Agencies should address [the COVID-19] economic emergency by rescinding, modifying, waiving, or providing exemptions from regulations and other requirements that may inhibit economic recovery."

But much more can be done. State governors, along with county and municipal officials, should issue their own executive orders, perhaps modeled on that of the White House. These could cover typical state and local regulatory issues such as occupational licensing, land use, and transactions across state and county lines.

Another obvious step for the United States would be to adopt new legislation to reverse the US Supreme Court's 2018 decision in *South Dakota vs. Wayfair*, under which states impose tax increases on Internet purchases in order to level the playing field with brick-and-mortar stores. Moreover, any new infrastructure legislation should include spending on broadband for the underserved.

Ensuring digital connectivity for those who lack it has become more important than subsidizing roads and bridges, and there are clear opportunities for the US to improve its hardware and software systems. Firms like Alphabet, Google's holding company, have promised to promote remote learning, tele-health, and broadband expansion. As former Google CEO Eric Schmidt pointed out recently on CBS's *Face the Nation*, the past two months have "brought forth ten years of forward change. ... all of a sudden, the Internet is no longer optional." From my own experience teaching economics online, I heartily agree.

Most likely, we are not moving toward a new normal, but rather toward a state of continual change and modernization for as far as the eye can see. To survive and benefit in this new era, the US and other countries must have an economic strategy to open markets, keep them open, and then keep them growing. And no, opening the country is not an alternative to opening markets. We must do both.

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EXPRESION OF INTEREST
Reference: EOI-CCCD/EPA-2020-001

Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Development of Environmental Awareness Module/Curriculum Mainstreaming the Rio Conventions into Secondary Liberian Schools

Submission of EOI Starting Date: 05/25/2020 End Date: 06/12/2020

Assignment Duration: 6 Months Assignment Location: Monrovia

1. BACKGROUND

Liberia is at risk to multiple environmental issues, which may set back development and affect many lives and livelihoods. The main threats include land degradation, fragmentation, deforestation, soil erosion, and pollution. Other challenges include biodiversity loss, due to unsustainable farming practices, unsustainable mining, charcoal production, invasive species, hunting, and unregulated timber extraction. Climate change also poses a real threat to Liberia. The frequency and intensity of weather-related hazards and their impacts are likely to increase as a result of accelerated climate change. Among other threats, Liberia's economy and human health could be threatened by rising temperatures, flooding, coastal erosion and water scarcity. These threats require national awareness and citizen's participation in environmental management and quality control. For this to happen there should be integration of environmental education into the national education. However, currently, there is no secondary school environmental educational curricula mainstreaming sustainable land management, biodiversity and climate change in Liberian schools.

The Government of Liberia is responding to these increased threats through the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Project, which aims to reduce the vulnerability through environmental education. The CCD project is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (the GEF) implemented by the Liberian government through the Environmental Protection Agency in partnership with the United Nations Development Programmes and in collaboration with other government institutions and partners with environmental or natural resource management responsibilities (MOF, MME, FDA, NaFAA, LLA, MOA, etc.).

Under Component 3 of the project, entitled "Improving awareness of global environmental values and knowledge" has identified a number of priority investments to raise environmental awareness of the general public.

Teachers have a critical role to play in the successful implementation of improving awareness of global environmental issues. They help the students make sense of the information available to them, not only in specialized subjects but also in general. Appropriate training on the issues related to Sustainable Land Management, Climate Change impact and Mitigation and Biodiversity sustainability place the teachers in a better position to impart knowledge to students, create and maintain a safe learning environment, and help build a culture of environmentally friendly behavior.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the proposed Consultancy is to develop an Environmental Awareness Module/Curriculum Mainstreaming the Rio Conventions (Climate Change, Sustainable Land Management, and Biodiversity) into Secondary Liberian Schools to develop concern and awareness among secondary Liberian student.

The aim of environmental education module is to clearly show to Liberian secondary school students the economic, social, political and ecological interdependence of the modern world, in which decisions and actions by different countries can have international repercussions and help students to develop skills required for making discriminations in form, shape, sound, touch, habits and habitats. Further, to develop ability to draw unbiased inferences and conclusions.

3. DURATION

The duration of the consultancy is six (6) months. The countdown starts as soon the contract is signed and to produce the deliverables listed in section 7.

4. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The CCD project management team will be contractually responsible for the supervision of the Consultant's assignment, however the Consultant will work closely with the CCD/EPA and other relevant stakeholders to develop the environmental educational curriculum/module in SLM, CC, and Biodiversity. Additionally, the curriculum should include Teacher Guide/Teaching Manual to execute same.

The Consultant will be responsible for carrying out studies, interviews and meetings to develop the outline material/contents, prepare drafts, test, and finalize the teaching material. The Consultant will also carry out any additional services, which the Client may reasonably require relating to the development of the curriculum.

The services shall be carried out in accordance with generally accepted standards of professional practice. It is also understood that it will cover all activities necessary to accomplish the stated objectives of these services while adhering to the aforementioned principles and practices, whether or not a specific activity is cited in these TOR.

5. TASKS

Task 1: Inception Report and Data Collection.

a. Inception Report

Following contract commencement, the Consultant will produce an Inception Report in accordance with the content of Appendix B.

b. Data collection

Review and compile participatory learning tools (interactive games, play models and teaching aids) that would improve the ability of students to understand SLM, CC, and biodiversity issues. Review and compile existing materials that explain the climate change, sustainable land management and sustainable biodiversity from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) perspective, ensuring the incorporation of regional resources.

At the end of this task, an Inception report and a data collection Report will be the deliverable.

Task 2: Develop CC, SLM and Biodiversity curricula for secondary schools (grades 10, 11, and 12)

a. Identify lesson objectives for each of the three Rio Conventions where CC, SLM and Biodiversity concepts contained in the curriculum will fit, taking note of existing information from the Curriculum Unit and other resource personnel.

b. Conduct a series of consultative engagements with students, teachers, educators, curriculum developers and CC, SLM and biodiversity experts/stakeholders/focal points to develop material/content, messages and identify specific curriculum needs.

c. Engage with an expert in educational psychology, to ensure that the lessons provide a positive messaging around human resilience (in the face of CC, SLM and biodiversity).

d. Develop detailed and applicable curricula to integrate and infuse Rio Conventions (CC, SLM, and Biodiversity) for (a) Grade 10-12th of secondary schools.

e. Share the first draft of the school's curriculum and teacher training guide with key stakeholders including Curriculum Unit representatives, Education Officers, Teachers, students, SLM, CC and biodiversity experts, Disaster Management Officers, FDA and EPA.

At the end of this task, a Draft Curriculum for testing and associated report will be the deliverable. Suggested topics can be found in Annex B.

Task 3: Pilot Curriculum and workshops

a. Pilot the curriculum with student focus groups and revise based on the feedback.

b. Compile lessons in the form of a module for each grade (as mentioned in task 2) in secondary schools. Each lesson should include Q&A and child-appropriate discussion questions to stimulate the students' thought processes.

c. Provide a resource list with links and access to all UNFCCC, UNCB, and UNCCD related learning programs that other organizations have developed.

d. Incorporate community engagement activities where work produced in class can be shared with the community to help raise awareness, generate feedback and influence behavior change.

e. Organize the final workshop with the above mentioned stakeholders based on approval of modules by the Client.

At the end of this task, a Pilot Report which will include the outcomes of the pilot and the stakeholder engagements will be the deliverable.

Task 4: Development of final environmental educational Module.

a. Compile the existing material available on CC, SLM and Biodiversity for integration in curriculum for trainee teachers

b. Develop a CC, SLM and Biodiversity integration module which will be taught to teacher trainees who attend teacher training institutions or at the secondary school level.

c. Organize at least a meeting to disseminate the final modules to various stakeholders, including Curriculum Unit representatives, Education Officers, etc.

At the end of this task, a final project report and the modules will be the deliverables.

6. INPUTS

The Client

a. The Client will provide all curriculum requirement, etc. of the proposed work that might be necessary, applicable and already in the Client's possession for the execution of the work required under these TOR. The Client will not be responsible for data collection of any type;

The Consultant

The Consultant will be required to undertake the various activities outlined in Section 5 of these TOR. The Consultant will provide the office space, manpower, transportation, equipment and software required to carry out the assignment and be responsible for obtaining all additional information for the execution of the services necessary for the module development.

7. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS (Deliverables)

Throughout the preparation of the various tasks of the study, the Consultant shall submit the following documents/outputs (in MS Word) to the Client's satisfaction

a) Inception Report (Task 1a): within four (4) weeks of commencing the works, the Consultant is required to submit an Inception Report. A typical sample template is provided in Annex A.

b) Data collection Report (Task 1b): within four (4) weeks of commencing the works, the Consultant is required to submit a data collection and analysis report.

The Client should forward comments on the report to the Consultant within two (2) weeks of receipt.

(Task 2): Within twelve (12) weeks after acceptance of the Inception and data collection Reports, the Consultant is required to submit a draft curriculum and make a presentation to the Client. The presentation would be in the form of a workshop, where knowledge transfer on all aspects of the development of the curriculum will be the primary objective. The audience will include relevant stakeholders to the subject matter.

The Client should forward comments on the report to the Consultant within three (3) weeks of receipt.

d) Pilot Report (Task 3): within four (4) weeks after acceptance of the Draft curriculum, the Consultant is to conduct the pilot workshop and report.

The Client should forward comments on the pilot report to the Consultant within two (2) weeks of receipt.

e) Final project report and the modules (Task 4): within four (4) weeks after acceptance of the Pilot Report, the Consultant is required to submit final report including the modules to the Client. A typical sample template is provided in Annex C.

8. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE and REQUIREMENT

The lead contractor should be an education specialist with a secondary degree in secondary education, preferably a Master, with 10 years demonstrated progressive experience in developing national education policies, Programmes, and plans as well as the development of secondary school curricula on environmental studies. He/she must have experience in facilitating expert and stakeholder working groups in the collaborative drafting of sector policies. And must have worked in the educational field for at least ten years.

The lead consultant shall select and work with the following experts:

Environmental Sociologist, Biological Diversity, Climate Change and specialist on convention on land degradation. These environmental experts shall support in the environmental awareness development by contributing to the identification and assessment of best practices and innovations for mainstreaming, paying close attention to socio-economic implications. These experts must have at least 10 years of work experience, of which at least the last two (2) years include active involvement in the thematic areas.

ANNEX A

Inception Report Template

The Consultant is free to format the Inception Report to his/her normal presentation, but the report shall contain the following minimum content:

- i. Executive Summary
- ii. Introduction
- iii. Background and description of various project elements
- iv. Understanding of project objectives
- v. Contract signing and project commencement
- vi. Team mobilization and project activities to date
- vii. Data collection
- viii. Data gaps
- ix. Assumptions, Risks and Mitigation Strategy because of data gaps
- x. Comments on TOR
- xi. Design criteria and codes
- xii. Project Organization / Lines of communication
- xiii. Project execution, methodology and scheduling
- xiv. Proposed outlines for interim and final reports
- xv. Appendices e.g. meeting details, Organization Chart, TOR, photographs, etc.

ANNEX B (Content)

1. Climate Change concepts (definitions and examples) Hazard Disaster Vulnerability Capacity Resilience Risk Disaster Management Climate Change Green House Gases (GHGs) Climate Variability Global Warming Mitigation Adaptation Slow onset events Rapid onset events Climate Change concepts, definition of weather and climate what is climate change? Causes of climate change – both natural and anthropogenic, with a focus on anthropogenic impact of climate change – focus on Liberia/ECOWAS Mitigation of climate change – renewable energy, energy conservation, forest conservation Adaptation to adverse impacts of climate change – examples from Liberia and regional – coastal defense, fish sanctuaries, others Liberia's agenda on climate change – What has been done to date, agreements ratified. The Liberian and regional Climate Change Agenda – Policy and legal.

2. Biodiversity concepts (definition and examples) biodiversity and its link to ecosystem, ecosystem services, ecosystem function, biodiversity lost and impact, biodiversity national policy, legal and regulatory framework (national and global), biodiversity sustainability mechanism

3. Preparedness for common Hazards Characteristics of the hazards why these hazards become disasters How to prepare for these hazards to reduce or eliminate the impacts reducing the effects of the hazards

4. Disasters History of significant hazards/disasters which affects Liberia. Review of News items on disasters Statistical analysis of hazards affecting Liberia – damage, loss, cost to various sectors, cost for rehabilitation, GDP loss, loss of lives Cost to various sectors, case studies e.g. The Education sector – loss of instructional time, loss of school supplies, damage to the school buildings, impact on students, impact on staff

5. Sustainable Land Management (concepts and definition) Environmental issues (national and global) Improper waste disposal, Pollution Soil erosion Deforestation – forest, mangroves Land degradation/desertification Drainage, unsustainable land management causes and impact. Policy, legal and regulatory framework

6. Mapping Community maps – identify important features, buildings, routes Evacuation routes Hazardous/high risk locations Important buildings – schools, churches, police stations, clinics/hospitals, shelters, resource centers (vulnerable buildings) GIS and GPS mapping

ANNEX C

Final Report Template

The Consultant is free to format the Final Completed Report to his/her preferred presentation, but the report shall contain the following minimum content:

- a) Title Page
- b) Table of Contents
- c) Acknowledgements
- d) Executive Summary
- e) Background\Aims and Objectives
- f) Methodology (standards used etc)
- g) Implementation
- h) Outputs and Results (including modules)
- i) Outcomes
- j) Conclusions
- k) Recommendations
- l) Lessons learned
- m) References
- n) Appendices

9. Submission Details

The expression of interest with valid company seal and signature should be submitted in hard copy in person. However, anyone who intends to submit EOI online should submit on the 12th of June 2020 (No later nor earlier). Submit your EOI with CV, Technical and Financial Proposal.

ATTENTION:
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or through email (rdooe@epa.gov.lr), indicating in subject area "EOI for Development of Environmental Awareness/Education Module/Curriculum. 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, and 2 local dailies.

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
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CROSS-CUTTING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (CCCD)
Terms of Reference
REFERENCE NO: TOR/CCCD/EPA-2020-003

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

Job Title	Production and Distribution of Updated Codes Pertaining to Rio Conventions		
Division/Department	Environmental Protection Agency/EPA		
Programme/Project Number	GEF ID number: 9390 (Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Project/CCCD)		
Activity Result	Strengthened policy and regulatory framework through improved operational interpretation, enforcement tools, and by-laws		
Assignment	Produce and distribute updated codes, laws and relevant texts pertaining to Rio Convention implementation.		
Location	Monrovia, Liberia		
Reports to	National Project Director Executive Director, EPA	Consultancy Duration:	(10 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, who will produce and distribute of updated codes pertaining to Rio Conventions. This project is in line with the GEF-6 CCD 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 improve 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:

1. Produce and distribute updated codes, laws and relevant texts pertaining to Rio Convention implementation.
 - 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

3.0 SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSESSMENT

The objectives of this review are as follows

- a) Identify and produce environmental updated codes, laws and policies and texts pertaining to the implementation of the Rio Conventions (Climate Change, Land Management, and Biodiversity) in Liberia.
- b) Updated codes, laws and policies and text pertaining to Rio Conventions implementations will cover the period from 2006 to 2019.

Functional Competencies:

- o 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.
- o Have a considerable knowledge of the value of Rio Conventions to sustainable development and considerable knowledge of Liberia's environmental governance infrastructure.

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. Inception Report
2. Produce updated codes, laws and relevant texts pertaining to Rio Convention implementation in Liberia
3. 1000 copies of Updated codes, laws and relevant texts pertaining to Rio Convention implementation are printed

QUALIFICATION

Candidate must have at least ten (10) years of progressive work experience and good understanding of Liberia's governance system (codes, laws, policies, and relevant texts). The candidate must have a minimum Master's Degree in Environmental studies or related field.

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

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or through email (rdoo@epa.gov.lr), indicating in subject area "Terms of Reference" to produce and distribute of updated codes, laws and relevant text pertaining to Rio Conventions implementation. 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 TOR will be considered for evaluation. The application package must include CV, and 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
 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

viteae (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)	total for	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.

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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.
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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:
ATTENTION:
Rebecca E. Doo
Assistant Manager, Procurement
Environment Protection Agency (EPA)
4th Street, Sinkor
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia
P.O. Box 4024

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 and local dailies.

Français

Dillon sera-t-il visé par une enquête sénatoriale ?

Le sénateur George Tengbeh du comté de Lofa souhaite que la plénière du Sénat libérien ouvre une enquête sur le sénateur Abraham Darius Dillon, pour avoir prétendument dénigré le Sénat.

La communication de Tengbeh, qui est apparue au Sénat le jeudi 28 mai, affirme que le comportement délibéré et intentionnel de Dillon a jeté une mauvaise image sur le Sénat libérien et les sénateurs.

Il a expliqué que le 20 mai,

le sénateur Dillon a accusé 23 sénateurs, qui ont apposé leur signature sur le budget du COVID-19 d'avoir reçu des pots-de-vin, le mettant au défi de fournir des preuves.

Selon Tengbeh, il y a quelques semaines, Dillon a trompé le public en disant qu'il avait reçu 6 500 \$ US comme fonds opérationnel. "Le sénateur Dillon sait très bien qu'il a reçu plus que cela ; il sous-estime le montant qu'il a reçu", a-t-il ajouté.

Cependant, Dillon a été crédité pour avoir annoncé la nouvelle, car personne dans le

public ne savait que les sénateurs du Capitol Hill avaient reçu chacun 6500 \$ US immédiatement après avoir approuvé l'état d'urgence dans une résolution commune jusqu'à la sortie du sénateur de l'opposition.

Pour Tengbeh, Dillon est un malhonnête, qui n'a pas sa place au Sénat libérien. « Il aurait dû dire au peuple combien il a reçu exactement ».

Selon lui, le règlement du Sénat exige un décorum

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Mariages d'engagement ou de convenance ?

Les principaux partis politiques de l'opposition se sont engagés dans un mariage qui semble être une complaisance deux ans avant les prochaines élections présidentielle et législatives de 2023.

Quatre partis politiques de l'opposition qui se sont présentés séparément aux élections de 2017 et ont été battus par l'actuel président George Manneh Weah ont récemment élaboré un cadre qui leur permettrait de présenter un seul candidat contre la coalition au pouvoir, à savoir la Coalition pour le changement démocratique, lors du prochain scrutin que les partisans et les proches du CDC considèrent comme gagné d'avance.

L'ancien parti au pouvoir, le Parti de la liberté, le Congrès national alternatif et le Parti de tous les libériens, voilà les partis membres de la nouvelle alliance politique intitulée « Collaborating Political Parties

(CPP) ».

La semaine dernière, le CPP a publié un document conceptuel dans lequel il a déclaré que seuls les membres du CPP devraient être nommés à des postes au sein du gouvernement, si la collaboration venait à gagner la prochaine présidentielle. Un

point qui n'est pas passé inaperçu et a été l'objet de large condamnation de la part du public. Les quatre partis n'ont eu d'autres choix que d'invalider le document publié en ligne et de publier immédiatement une clarification selon laquelle il

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Et les autres, ne sont-ils pas aussi vulnérables ?

Les Libériens se sentent de plus en plus désenchantés quant aux critères faisant de certains citoyens des gens vulnérables par rapport aux autres et donc qualifiés pour bénéficier de la ration alimentaire distribuée par l'Etat du Libéria dans le cadre du confinement dû à la propagation du coronavirus.

En croire les autorités, 2,5 millions de citoyens sont considérés les plus vulnérables à travers le pays. Le comité directeur de la distribution de nourriture COVID-19 a déclaré que la nourriture était spécifiquement destinée aux orphelinats, aux hôpitaux, aux aveugles et aux handicapés physiques, notamment aux détenus du Groupe des 77 et aux personnes âgées, entre autres.

Mais certains Libériens, en colère, estiment que les critères de définition des citoyens les plus vulnérables et ceux qui le sont moins est une tentative délibérée de la part du gouvernement d'empêcher certains citoyens d'avoir de la nourriture. Pour eux, l'ensemble du pays est touché par la pandémie due au nouveau coronavirus, donc tout le monde devrait bénéficier de la ration alimentaire dont le budget est de 30 millions de dollars américains.

Tandis que le bruit s'intensifie chaque jour, au fur et à mesure que la distribution se poursuit, les autorités semblent déterminées à poursuivre leur plan, comme quoi les ressources sont insuffisantes pour desservir l'ensemble de la population de plus de 5 millions d'habitants.

La vérité est que le gouvernement, en collaboration avec des partenaires internationaux, dont notamment l'OMS, le FMI, la Banque mondiale et l'USAID, nourriture à la main, veut verrouiller chaque communauté pour procéder au test de dépistage du COVID-19.

C'est donc à juste titre que les habitants lésés insistent que, si une communauté entière doit être totalement confinée pendant la distribution de nourriture pour procéder au test de dépistage, alors il faut que tout le monde bénéficie de la nourriture, pas seulement ceux qui sont considérés comme les plus vulnérables.

Voilà donc les autorités embourbées dans un borbier qui risque de leur coûter très cher et de les hanter politiquement beaucoup longtemps après la distribution de la ration alimentaire. Ils pourraient payer cher dans les urnes au cours des prochaines élections.

Notre humble conseil aux autorités est d'écouter le peuple et revoir sa copie, car tout le monde compte le jour de l'élection. C'est tout le peuple, et pas seulement les plus vulnérables, qui vous a donné le pouvoir.

Le riz est une denrée politique au Libéria et tout gouvernement qui accède au pouvoir devrait le savoir. Les politiciens utilisent le riz, la principale denrée alimentaire du pays, pour gagner les cœurs des électeurs pendant la période de campagne, donc quand un gouvernement annonce qu'il distribue de la nourriture aux citoyens en pleine crise sanitaire mondiale, mettre en place un critère comme celui-ci est pour le moins troublant.

À bien y penser, le président George Manneh Weah avait annoncé la gratuité de l'électricité pour les maisons pendant la période de confinement et l'état d'urgence, mais rien de cela ne s'est concrétisé, bien que le président ait déclaré que le gouvernement avait mis à disposition un total de 4 millions de dollars américains à la société à cet effet.

Être sélectif dans une population très appauvrie, où la majorité des citoyens survivent avec moins d'un dollar par jour, n'est pas seulement une insensibilité absolue, c'est aussi contre-productif.

Français

Dillonsera-t-il visé par

parfait pendant les séances, mais Dillon al'habitude constante de déranger et n'a aucun respect pour les autorités quand ces dernières le rappellent à l'ordre.

Il a également déploré le fait que Dillon décrit généralement les sénateurs comme des pourris. "Je pense que Dillon n'appartient pas à cette institution pourrie".

Le législateur de Lofa a rappelé que récemment, Dillon s'en est pris à la personne du sénateur du

comté de Grand Bassa Jonathan Kaipay dans sa ville natale, mettant en cause sa réputation et sa dignité.

Tengbeh accuse Dillon d'avoir ridiculisé le Sénat et fait de ce corps une risée publique, affirmant que la direction du Sénat devrait inviter le sénateur de Montserrado à une enquête, et s'il est reconnu coupable, que la loi suive son cours.

Pendant ce temps, la direction du Sénat a accusé réception jeudi de la plainte déposée par le sénateur Tengbeh.

Mariages d'engagement

s'agissait d'un projet de document de réflexion et que le document officiel, en cours de finalisation, n'avait pas été publié.

Parmi les quatre partis, seul l'ancien parti au pouvoir, le Parti de l'unité dirigé par l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai, s'est approché de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique de M. Weah avec 28% des suffrages exprimés au premier tour de l'élection, avant de perdre au second tour.

D'autres partis, les moins importants, ont aussi formé soit des alliances d'opposition ou rejoint les

rangs de la mouvance au pouvoir. C'est le cas par exemple du True Whig Party ou encore du Movement for Economic Empowerment.

Cependant, ce n'est pas la première fois que les partis politiques forment des alliances politiques. Avant les élections de 2017, ces mêmes partis s'étaient rencontrés dans le comté de Nimba et ont produit la « Déclaration de Ganta » qui n'a rien donné lors du scrutin.

L'électorat libérien, cette fois-ci, espère que ces unions politiques seront cimentées dans la construction d'une démocratie plus forte pour le pays.

Côte d'Ivoire : Pour préparer une victoire de Gon depuis Bouaké, des secrétaires en mission

Le coordonnateur régional associé RHDP de Gbêkè 2, Louis Habonouan veut une forte contribution du département de Bouaké dont il est le superviseur, à la victoire du candidat Amadou Gon Coulibaly, au soir du 31 octobre prochain. Pour ce faire, il a doté vendredi dernier, les secrétaires de sections de matériel roulant pour mener à bien les missions à eux assignées.

C'était au cours d'une rencontre avec l'ensemble des responsables du parti dudit département, au QG de la caravane "Je vote RHDP" en plein cœur du quartier commerce. À l'occasion, Louis Habonouan a expliqué le sens de son geste en ces termes, « Nous avons acquis 38 motos pour les secrétaires de sections. Les 10 secrétaires de la délégation Bouaké commune rurale, viennent de recevoir les leurs et les autres seront distribuées incessamment. Ces engins roulants doivent servir à faire un travail de fourmi sur le terrain. L'objectif principal pour nous, est et demeure la victoire du candidat du RHDP, le premier ministre Amadou Gon

Coulibaly (AGC) au premier tour des élections présidentielles d'octobre 2020. »

À l'en croire, cette victoire passe nécessairement par l'acquisition des documents administratifs relatifs au vote. C'est pourquoi, il a mis en mission ces responsables locaux à l'effet d'amener les populations de sa sphère géographique à s'approprier ce processus d'obtention des pièces en vue de leur participation effective au scrutin, le moment venu.

« Ensemble, nous devons travailler dans les villages, les quartiers et les hameaux pour que nos parents aient les papiers nécessaires. Nous voulons que le peuple baoulé apporte sa pierre à la victoire de notre candidat Amadou Gon Coulibaly. On doit sentir véritablement la contribution du pays baoulé en général et plus particulièrement celle du Gbêkè. Il faut que nos parents manifestent leur joie de voir le petit fils du patriarche Péléforo Gon Coulibaly occuper le fauteuil présidentiel. La candidature d'Amadou Gon Coulibaly a une résonance singulière pour le peuple baoulé », a déclaré le PCA de l'ONEP, originaire de Brobo.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Ngaire Woods
& Leany Lemos

Apprendre à vivre avec le COVID-19

OXFORD/PORTO ALEGRE - L'un des paradoxes du COVID-19 réside dans la façon dont certains pays riches et à forte capacité (en particulier les États-Unis et le Royaume-Uni) ont échoué à contenir le virus, tandis que certains pays et régions les plus pauvres à plus faible capacité (dont le Vietnam, la Grèce et l'État indien du Kerala) l'ont rapidement maîtrisé. À présent que les pays doivent se projeter au-delà de leur période de confinement, on constate un contraste tout aussi frappant.

Aux États-Unis et au Royaume-Uni, des régimes de confinement ambigus sans plan de sortie clair ont abouti à une impasse politique entre maintien de confinements non durables et réouverture imprudente de l'économie. En revanche, les décideurs de l'État de Rio Grande do Sul au Brésil ont opté pour une planification minutieuse afin d'apprendre à vivre avec le virus.

L'État a commencé à se préparer le 2 mars, lorsque son gouverneur Eduardo Leite a chargé son secrétaire à la planification, au budget et à la gestion de constituer un comité des données chargé d'élaborer et de mettre en œuvre un plan pour maintenir l'économie de l'État tout en luttant contre la propagation du virus. Dans de nombreuses autres régions du Brésil, le virus n'est pas contrôlé et le pays compte à présent le deuxième plus grand nombre de cas de COVID-19 au monde et le sixième plus grand nombre de morts. Pourtant, son cinquième État le plus peuplé a réagi d'une manière que de nombreux pays riches feraient bien d'imiter.

Cinq composantes de la réponse du Rio Grande do Sul se distinguent.

Tout d'abord, Leite s'est concentré dès le départ sur la prévention du pire résultat possible, plutôt que simplement sur l'espoir qu'il ne se concrétise pas. Avant que la pandémie n'atteigne le Brésil, les représentants de l'État ont utilisé des données en provenance du Japon et de Singapour (où l'impact du virus était limité) et d'Italie et d'Espagne (où son impact était terrifiant) pour effectuer des projections mathématiques. Ils ont entrepris d'éviter des résultats comparables à ceux de ces deux derniers pays. Le gouverneur a ensuite annoncé des restrictions à la mi-mars, avant que l'État ne signale son premier décès dû au COVID-19, ce qui lui a permis de gagner du temps pour renforcer la capacité du système de santé tout en ralentissant la propagation du virus.

Deuxièmement, les représentants de l'État ont adopté une approche axée sur les données pour dépister le virus, en investissant non seulement dans la collecte de davantage de données, mais également dans l'amélioration des systèmes et le recrutement de talents exceptionnels pour évaluer les informations. Le comité des données a divisé l'État en 20 régions, chacune ayant un hôpital principal avec un service de soins intensifs et a surveillé 11 indicateurs hebdomadaires dans chaque région.

Environ la moitié des indicateurs mesurent la propagation du virus. Ils comprennent le nombre de nouveaux cas de COVID-19 hospitalisés (comparés à ceux de la semaine précédente), le nombre de cas actifs par rapport aux cas de guérison au cours des 50 derniers jours, et les nouvelles hospitalisations et les nouveaux décès pour 100 000 habitants. Le comité suit également le nombre de patients en soins ordinaires et en soins intensifs, soit atteints de COVID-19, soit de syndrome de détresse respiratoire aiguë, une maladie pulmonaire apparentée (parce que les cas de COVID-19 répertoriés sont généralement recensés à la baisse).

Les autres indicateurs mesurent la capacité du système de santé de chaque région. Ils comprennent le nombre de lits de soins intensifs disponibles par rapport à la population totale et au nombre d'habitants de plus de 60 ans, ainsi que la variation dans l'occupation des soins intensifs par rapport à la semaine précédente.

Outre une surveillance intensive des données, le comité des données réunit des experts et des universitaires de façon bénévole et rend leurs rapports publics. Plus de

150 experts issus du service publics et du milieu universitaire étudient actuellement l'impact du COVID-19 sur l'activité économique, la vulnérabilité sociale, les infrastructures et la mobilité au sein de l'État. En outre, le gouvernement a créé dès le début un partenariat avec une université afin de lancer des tests aléatoires et d'enquêter sur les usages dans l'ensemble de l'État, ce qui fournit une meilleure idée de la prévalence réelle du virus.

La troisième composante de la réponse de l'État est un système d'alerte simple, spécifique et transparent. Chaque semaine, le comité fait la synthèse des 11 indices en un seul chiffre pour chaque région, ce qui place la région dans l'une des quatre catégories de risque. La catégorie jaune représente un risque faible, l'orange un risque moyen, la rouge un risque élevé et la noire un risque très élevé, avec un confinement complet à mettre en place dans les cas extrêmes. Comme le public a accès aux données sur lesquelles sont fondées les classifications de risques, ce système contribue à renforcer la compréhension et la confiance.

Quatrièmement, les représentants politiques ont soigneusement examiné les modalités d'un maintien du fonctionnement de l'économie, parce que l'État déjà endetté ne disposait pas des ressources suffisantes pour venir en aide aux personnes sans emploi pendant bien longtemps. Le comité a clairement segmenté les emplois et les activités économiques en termes de sécurité des travailleurs (compte tenu des exigences de distanciation sociale) et d'importance économique, donnant à ces facteurs une influence de 70 % et 30 %, respectivement. Par exemple, l'agriculture est relativement sûre, parce que les travailleurs sont à l'extérieur et à une distance sûre les uns des autres. Ce secteur d'activité est également indispensable à l'économie du Rio Grande do Sul. Toutes les informations sont accessibles au public.

Enfin, le gouvernement de l'État a élaboré des protocoles de retour au travail pour chaque secteur d'activité, sur la base de consultations auprès des spécialistes de l'hygiène du travail, des associations industrielles, des entreprises et des travailleurs. En publiant les premières ébauches de protocoles et en invitant les intervenants à formuler leurs commentaires, le comité a contribué à assurer un processus ouvert et transparent.

Au-delà des mesures obligatoires telles que le port de masques faciaux, l'hygiène, la distanciation et la protection des groupes à risque, les protocoles sectoriels varient en fonction du niveau d'alerte. Par exemple, l'industrie peut fonctionner à une capacité de 100 % dans une région jaune, à 75 % en cas d'alerte orange, à 50 % dans les régions rouges et à 25 % dans les régions noires, à l'exception de secteurs essentiels comme l'alimentation, l'énergie, les produits chimiques et la santé. Le commerce de détail, qui présente un risque de contagion plus élevé, peut fonctionner à seulement 50% de sa capacité sous alerte jaune et doit être fermé en cas d'alerte noire.

Bien que les autobus et les églises aient des restrictions de fréquentation variables selon le niveau d'alerte, aucun événement de masse n'est actuellement autorisé. L'État débat actuellement sur les institutions d'enseignement qui doivent rouvrir en premier, et sur le moment et la méthode de réouverture du reste de ces institutions.

Les mesures de sécurité au travail du Rio Grande do Sul sont en vigueur depuis trois semaines. Depuis la dernière semaine de mai, moins de 20 % des lits de soins intensifs pour le COVID-19 sont occupés dans cet État. L'État compte 56 cas pour 100 000 habitants, contre 720 pour 100 000 dans l'État d'Amazonas, 390 dans l'État de Ceará et 220 à Rio de Janeiro. Son taux de mortalité dû au COVID-19 est de 1,6 pour 100 000 habitants, bien inférieur aux taux d'Amazonas (42,4) et de Rio de Janeiro (23,1).

Les dirigeants de Rio Grande do Sul ont mis au point une stratégie pour vivre avec le virus, fondée sur des indicateurs clés, des consultations d'experts et des processus ayant force exécutoire. Cette démarche a en outre été mise en place en toute transparence. Les gouvernements des pays riches qui n'ont pas encore élaboré un tel plan pourront en tirer des leçons pour leur propre compte.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CBL reduces Monetary Policy rate by 25%

The Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), says it has approved a reduction in monetary policy rate to 25%.

The approval comes three months after the CBL's Board of Governors had earlier approved to maintain the monetary policy rate of 30% in February.

months) at the adjusted policy rate of 25%, and to promote the marketing of said instruments to encourage subscriptions by investors. An awareness campaign on electronic payments, including mobile money, will also continue, while the Remittance Split Policy will remain suspended," A CBL press statement issued over the weekend said.

the global economy adversely affected financial markets, commodity prices, and business and consumer confidence and led to a revision of global economic forecast for 2020 to negative 3.0%.

The Domestic Economy

The Liberian economy, which contracted by 2.5% in 2019 reflective of underperformance of the non-mining sectors, is further expected to be weighed down by the COVID-19 pandemic, largely on account of supply-side constraints.

On the bright side, however, inflation during the quarter moderated to 23.7%, from 25.8% for the 4th quarter of 2019 with projection for 2nd quarter falling further to 19% with the bandwidth of plus or minus two percent.

Credit growth remained generally low, induced mainly by fall in US dollar related credits by 6.3%. This fall is explained as a precautionary measure, brought on by a 2.3% rise in non-performing loans, which accounted for 19.7% of all loans.

Prompted by the above developments in both the global and domestic economy, the CBL's Board unanimously acceded with approval of reduction in the monetary policy rate and support for promoting the CBL Bill and electronic payments systems aimed at engendering lower inflation in the 4th quarter of 2019, with the confidence that this trend would continue throughout 2020.



The move is indicative of what the Bank says is a reflection of its success in reducing inflation from slightly above 30.0% in October 2019 to an average of less than 25% during the first quarter 2020.

"The Board of Governors also decided to continue the issuance of shorter tenor instruments (2 weeks, 1 and 3

The announcement of the new monetary policy rate, the CBL notes is predicated on both global and national economic developments.

Global Developments

The outbreak of COVID-19 wreaked havoc on the world economy, dampening growth prospects with an estimated output loss of approximately US\$9.0 trillion. The downturn in

US-based group presents US\$800.00 to burnt child

The CEO of the Pockets of Miracle Foundation, Miracle Gbayee, on Saturday, 30 May presented US\$ 800.00 to Ms. Benetta Smith, grandmother of seven - year - old boy known as Martin, who recently sustained burns from a fire incident in Matadii Estate.

CEO Gbayee says the cash presented is part of the foundation's own way of helping the less fortunate across Liberia.

On 30 April this year, fire burnt down the residence of little Martin and his grandmother, leaving him to sustain major fire injury on his hand.

Since the unfortunate fire incident in the impoverished community of Matadii Estate,

outskirts of Monrovia, little Martin continues to hope for outside assistance from humanitarians, especially for his medication and education.

Fortunately, his condition didn't go unnoticed, as the Pockets of Miracle

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Victim Martin

Black Star club remember fallen president

Several members of 1st division club Liberia Black Star FC, have mourned the demise of their late president, Pennoh Wleh Bestman, and visited home of the deceased's family in a show of solidarity.

The late Bestman, also a former Vice President of the Liberia Football Association (LFA), died in April and was laid to rest recently.

In addition to sympathizing with the bereaved family, the members, who included: Ledgerhood Rennie, Hadrian Sebwe, Michael Kojo, Musa Sillah, and Dionysius Sebwe, also provided assorted food items to the family.

Receiving the items on behalf of the Bestman family, Ma Esther Bestman, mother of the deceased, recalled her late son's love for Black Star, truly dedicating himself to promoting football and giving young people opportunity to excel in the sport.

She thanked Black Star for the donation and their involvement in her son's funeral, and promised the family's support and collaboration with the club in future activities.

Also in remarks, Mr. Nimely Bestman, older brother of the deceased, recounted the deceased's unwavering commitment and inseparable



Late Pennoh Wleh Bestman

Presenting the items on behalf of the club, Mr. Rennie praised the late Bestman for his invaluable contribution and service to the club under his leadership.

Currently serving as Director General of the state-owned Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS), he assured the bereaved family that Bestman's passion for football will live on, stressing that Black Star and Pennoh Bestman are inseparable despite his death.

He pointed out that the donation was not the last as he assured the family the donation would be done periodically.

bond with Liberia Black Star.

He then thanked the club for the generous donation to the Pennoh's household, thus promising to work with Black Star during the Annual Pennoh Bestman Football Tournament.

Liberia Black Star FC was founded on March 15, 1980, in South Beach Community, Central Monrovia. The club has had a number of presidents who provided critical leadership at different periods during its progress, from non-division status to Liberia Football Association (LFA) 1st Division.

The late Bestman was President from 1992 to his death on April 15, 2020.

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CPP vows to resist Dillon's removal

The Collaborating Political Parties or CPP says it vehemently objects and will oppose any attempt to silence, suspend or remove Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon from the Senate.

"This is a planned and determined effort to silence critical and independent voices in the Senate, and eventually remove them. Dillon, being the loudest opposition voice in the senate, is the primary target", observes CPP Chairman, Alexander Cummings.

The CPP in a press statement notes that the current investigation in the Liberian Senate is intended to silence Dillon's advocacy for the interest of the Liberian people, force him into censorship, and eventually remove him from that body.

The opposition

our democracy. Shame on the Senate for this reckless vendetta against Dillon, and shame on us the Liberian people if we allow this to happen, and do nothing", Chairman Cummings, continues.

The statement recalls that the threat to remove Sen. Dillon began on the day of his induction when Senate President Pro-Temp, Albert Chie of Grand Kru County, did the dishonorable thing of threatening Dillon with removal from the Senate for declaring his assets and urging other senators to do the same.

It quotes Pro-tempore Chie as threatening Dillon, "...the power to remove you from here is not with the Liberian people; it is with us here; we alone have that power.... here we are master of our own rules."

However, Dillon courageously continued to publicly expose and condemn the actions of the Senate, including huge salaries and

investigated and removed from the Senate. We call on all well-meaning Liberians to stand against this injustice and ensure that Sen. Dillon remains in the Senate to continue fighting for you. We must never allow injustice to prevail", the statement, signed by secretary general Aloysius Toe, reads.

The current campaign to silence Dillon was initiated by Senator George Tengbeh of Lofa County, who has written Plenary of the Liberian Senate to investigate the opposition senator for allegedly denigrating the Senate.

Tengbeh's communication which appeared on the Senate floor Thursday, May 28, alleged that 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



Pro-Temp, Albert Chie



CPP Chairman, Alexander Cummings



Senator Darius Dillon

collaboration includes the Alternative National Congress (ANC) the former ruling Unity Party (UP) the All Liberian Party (ALP) and the Liberty Party (LP).

It expresses grave disappointment over the decision of the Liberian Senate to investigate Senator Darius Dillon for making comments critical of the Senate's operations.

CPP acknowledges the bravery of Sen. Dillon to expose bribery in the Senate, which understandably caused embarrassment to Senators, but maintains that this is done in the best national interest of Liberia.

It says Dillon has shown other lawmakers that they can no longer remain silent thus, putting the comfort of their colleagues over the interest of the people.

"Any attempt by the Senate to muzzle Dillon's right to free speech as guaranteed by the Liberian Constitution is an attack on

benefits of senators, and corruption in the senate on a number of occasions, and recently objecting to the passage of the recast budget before debating it.

The CPP strongly condemns the Senate, for it terms harassment and intimidation of Dillon for doing the right thing.

It further notes that Chie's insistence to remove Dillon from the Senate unless he (Dillon) plays by secret and corrupt rules and joins the bandwagon of corruption is abominably disgusting and a betrayal of the Liberian people.

According to the CPP, Pro-Tempore Chie's alleged failure to exercise leadership and ensure the independence of the Senate, has led to seemingly corruption-induced actions by the Senate, including the unconstitutional removal of an Associate Justice, and the surreptitious confirmation of many questionable executive appointees, often under allegations of bribery.

"He is the one who should be

US-based group

Cont'd from page 10

Foundation's office in Monrovia makes financial intervention in the tune of US\$800.00 to Ms. Benetta Smith, Martin's grandmother.

They were residing in a zinc shack in the community when the fire disaster consumed their home.

Following the incident, picture surfaced on the internet and quickly grabbed the attention of the CEO of the Pockets of Miracle Foundation, Miracle Gbayee who immediately established contact with the victims.

While presenting the US\$ 800.00 to little Martin and his grandmother, Madam Miracle Gbayee, through a proxy, expresses serious concern over the health conditions of the little kid.

Madam Gbayee says her foundation is happy to always be there to help people in need.

She thanks everyone who contributed toward the donation for little Martin.

Receiving the donation, Martin's Grandmother Ms. Benetta Smith commends the Pockets of Miracle Foundation and partners for the assistance, promising that the amount will be used for its intended purpose.

Miracle Gbayee is a Liberian International Comedian and Humanitarian.

Miracle Gbayee's Pockets of Miracle Foundation is deeply involved in helping the less fortunate as well as the disadvantaged.

Of recent, the foundation donated food items to the Ministry of Health for people who were quarantined as a way of helping government to combat the Covid-19.

Bad news

Starts from back page

"The church has become lukewarm; our society is pregnant with evil", Dr. Gbelly noted.

"The news we are concerned about today is your daughter is dead. FelJA, bad news - Sally is dead; Press Union of Liberia, bad news; First Assembly of God Church, bad news; family, bad news", he lamented as relatives, friends, and sympathizers wailed in the edifice.

Mourners and various

organizations eulogized the deceased as loving and friendly.

The late Journalist H. Sally Gaye worked for the New Dawn Newspaper as Sports Reporter. She died on May 17, 2020 at the ELWA Hospital in Paynesville following a protracted sickness. She was a prospective graduate of the United Methodist University in Monrovia. -Story by Jonathan Browne

Gov't wants Oliver

Starts from back page

arrangement for them to meet at the place of the incident."

In a murder case investigators seek to establish that the accused had planned with malice and criminal intent to take the life of another person prior to the killing of that person as a reason for levying a murder charge which carries maximum penalty of death or life time imprisonment upon conviction.

The judge said despite prosecution's resistance, he granted defendant Dillon bail "because in the mind of the court the critical elements of murder did not exist which are premeditation and malice

afford thought."

Last year Judge Willie said after he granted defendant Dillon bail due to his determination that the elements for murder did not exist in the case, the prosecution, however, took him on certiorari before Justice in Chambers Joseph N. Nagbe who subsequently reversed his (Willie's) decision of granting Dillon the bail.

The Justice in Chambers, Associate Justice Nagbe then ordered that the case be sent back to Court "A" for trial, following which the prosecution demanded Judge Willie's recusal.

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Gov't wants Oliver Dillon rearrested?



charged Mr. Dillon, an employee of the Ministry of Transport's Coordinator for Decentralization for the alleged murder of one Emmanuel Koffa, Jr., which occurred on 12 April, 2019 in Gardnerville.

On 18 November 2019, Criminal Court "A" Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie recused himself from the alleged murder trial of Mr. Oliver Dillon, the brother of opposition Montserrado County Sen. Abraham Darius Dillon, insisting that the "court cannot change its view" that the elements for murder were not present [in the case].

The police reported that the incident scene was infested with criminal gangs who rain terror on peaceful residents to take away their belongings, and also indicated that "there is no history of quarrel or misunderstanding between the victim [Emmanuel] and accused [Dillon] and there was no

question if the government wants the re-arrest of the accused.

This paper has made an inquiry with an authority at the Judiciary for this story, and it was confirmed that the State has filed some papers regarding the case.

The government here

By **Winston W. Parley**

This paper has reliably learnt that Liberia's Solicitor General Saymah Syrenius Cephas has filed papers before the Supreme Court of Liberia in the case brought against Mr. Oliver Dillon for an alleged murder, raising a



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Bad news in Liberia

- Rev. Dr. Edwin A. Gbelly

A senior Liberian clergyman has lamented that the country is engulfed with bad news, noting that while the citizenry are struggling to survive, officials here are sharing money.

The Rev. Dr. Edwin A. Gbelly, Superintendent of the Assembly of God Church in Liberia also lamented that

corruption has permeated the society, eroding its fabric.

Delivering the funeral discourse of the late sports reporter H. Sally Gaye Saturday, May 30th at the Gardnersville Wesleyan Church in Stephen A. Tolbert Estate, Gardnerville outside Monrovia, Dr. Gbelly said another bad news is students sit on the floor to learn despite a budget for education



in the national budget.

Preaching on the theme, "Bad news in a good company" with text from Mark 5: 22; 35, he said, both the nation and the church of Liberia need help, for the people are dying.

Liberia is plagued by barrage of economic and social challenges, including bad governance, corruption, domestic and sexual base violence and rape, among others.

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