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Continental News

Concern of Outright War in Ethiopia Grows as PM Presses Military Offensive

Ethiopia's prime minister stepped up a military offensive in the northern region of Tigray on Sunday with air strikes as part of what he called a "law enforcement operation," increasing fears of outright civil war in Africa's second-most populous country.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has defied calls from the United Nations and allies in the region to negotiate with leaders in Tigray, home of the ethnic group that dominated the federal government before he took power in 2018. Abiy last week launched a military campaign in the province, saying forces loyal to leaders there had attacked a military base and attempted to steal equipment.

Abiy accuses the leaders of Tigray of undermining his democratic reforms.

Government fighter jets have since been bombing targets in the region, which borders Sudan and Eritrea. Aid workers on Sunday reported heavy fighting in several parts of the region, with at least six dead and dozens wounded.

Also on Sunday, Abiy



named a new chief of the army, a new intelligence chief and a new federal police commissioner and foreign minister, changes that analysts said brought close allies into top posts as the conflict escalates. The premier won last year's Nobel Peace Prize for making peace with neighboring Eritrea and for introducing democratic reforms in one of Africa's most repressive countries.

But the democratic

transition he promised is endangered by the Tigray conflict, the International Crisis Group think-tank warned last week.

In a televised address on Sunday, Abiy urged the international community "to understand the context and the consistent transgressions" by the Tigrayan leaders which led the government to undertake "this law enforcement operation".

Tigrayans complain that

Abiy, who is from the Oromo ethnic group, Ethiopia's largest, has unfairly targeted them as part of a crackdown on past rights abuses and corruption.

Forces of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which governs the region, are battle-hardened and possess significant stocks of military hardware, experts say.

They and militia allies number up to 250,000 men, according to the International Crisis Group.

One of the biggest risks is that Ethiopia's army will split along ethnic lines, with Tigrayans defecting to the regional force. There are signs that is already happening, analysts said.

The United Nations raised concerns of reprisals against ethnic Tigrayans amid heightened tension in the

diverse country in a confidential report dated Sunday and seen by Reuters.

Addis Ababa Police Commissioner Getu Aregaw said Sunday that the government had arrested 162 people in possession of firearms and ammunition, on suspicion of supporting the Tigrayan forces.

The suspects were "under investigation", he said in a statement. He did not identify their ethnicity.

The mayor of the capital, Adanech Abiebie, said on Saturday several TPLF members working in her administration had been arrested on suspicion of planning to disrupt the peace.

As Abiy's government mobilizes troops to send to Tigray, other parts of the country roiled by ethnic violence could face a security vacuum, analysts say. VOA

Former Tanzanian MP arrested after fleeing to Kenya

Former Tanzanian MP Godbless Lema spent Sunday night in a police station in Kenya moments after irregularly crossing the border, according to Kenyan media outlets.

There has been a crackdown on opposition

leaders following President John Magufuli's re-election in a landslide victory.

Mr Lema was arrested while being driven by his lawyer to Kenya's capital, Nairobi. He was accompanied by his wife and children.

Kenyan police caught up

with them at a town located about 45km (28 miles) from the border after being alerted by their Tanzanian counterparts, the Standard newspaper reports.

The former MP had reportedly declined to hand over his passport to Tanzanian immigration officials.

His lawyer, George Luchiri Wajackoyah, is quoted by the newspaper as saying he wanted to present the politician to the United Nations Human Rights Commission office in Nairobi.

"Right now, I am with my wife Neema, my 14-year-old son Allbless, Brilliance (daughter) my last born son Terrence. I do not know what tomorrow holds. I am now looking for asylum," Mr Lema is quoted as saying by the newspaper.

Mr Lema was among three opposition leaders who were released last week after being arrested for calling for demonstrations to demand fresh elections. BBC



Ghana daily Covid-19 infections jump five-fold over fortnight



Ghana's new daily coronavirus cases have increased from an average of 25 to 130 over the past two weeks, raising concerns about a possible second wave of the virus in the country.

President Nana Akufo-Addo, in a televised address on Sunday, said the government would step up contact tracing, testing and treatment of Covid-19 cases to stop the spread.

The government has also extended pay incentives for health workers to the end of December - which include tax exemption and a 50% pay rise for Covid-19 frontline workers.

Ghanaians will also continue to enjoy a free water supply to promote regular hand washing.

President Akufo-Addo attributed the increased infections to a disregard of Covid-19 safety protocols, including social distancing and the wearing of masks.

Although large political rallies are banned in the country, campaign activities have heightened ahead of polls in December, with many ignoring the safety protocols.

Ghana's active cases have increased to 1,139 from 398 over the last three weeks. The country has so far registered 320 deaths as of Friday. BBC

EDITORIAL

Rekindling Liberia-America strong relationship

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH WEAH seems very passionate to strengthening traditional and historical ties with the Government of the United States especially, under the administration of U.S. President-elect, Joe Biden.

AT LEAST THAT'S what Mr. Weah said Sunday, 08 November in an Executive Mansion press release issued in Monrovia. "As Liberia's traditional ally, we stand ready to further enhance and rekindle our long, historic and unique bilateral relations," President Weah is quoted as saying.

WHILE IT IS expected of governments around the world Liberian being no exception to seek ways to enhancing bilateral relations with America, the world's greatest democracy, the Weah administration should understand that such commitment are not mere words, but should be demonstrated based on share-core values.

RESPECT FOR RULE of law, democratic rights, human rights and critical opinions, including free speech, accountability and pluralistic media, among others are foundations upon which such cooperation grows, particularly with the United States.

IF UNFOLDING DEVELOPMENTS between this administration and the Government of the United States especially, under outgoing President Donald Trump in the past three years are anything to gauge by, the Weah administration needs to work overtime to restore absolute confidence.

FIRSTLY, THE UNSCRUPULOUS handling of Liberian diplomatic passports under President Weah that saw deviant individuals particularly non-Liberians with internationally questionable characters parading the world as diplomats from Liberia, which led Foreign Secretary Mike Pompeo imposing travel restriction on former Liberian passport director Andrew Wonplo and his immediate family in September "due to his involvement in significant corruption" is one issue that needs to be addressed in its entirety to restore trust.

SECONDLY, MYSTERIOUS DEATHS in the past one month coupled with political violence on the way to senatorial election in December unpleasant situations that attract global attention and beam spotlight on a country's governance process.

PRESIDENT WEAH SHOULD know that mere assurances from the lip would not make any significant difference in U.S.-Liberia relations unless these fundamental concerns are addressed in a transparent manner. More demonstrated actions would be required in the years ahead if Washington would open its doors with red carpet as it did for Mr. Weah's predecessor.

OFF COURSE, FORMER President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf came from the Washington bureaucracy and she understands its twist and turns with a female face. But Paul Kigame of Rwanda came from the jungle with his RPF rebels and became a darling of the West.

PRESIDENT WEAH WOULD need to watch his steps and friends as he tries to get America's attention that he desperately needs to make a mark on the world's stage of global leadership. This means he would have to listen enough not just around him, but from afar to understand early warning signals and be able to adjust in time in order to keep pace with Washington.

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COMMENTARY

By Andrea M. Wojnar

Crises and Contraception

As humanitarian organizations work to provide adequate food, water, and shelter to Mozambique's displaced people, delivering contraceptives may seem to be of secondary importance. But failure to ensure their availability will not only deepen the crisis today; it will prevent Mozambique from reaching its potential tomorrow.

MAPUTO - In Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province, a perfect storm of conflict, cyclones, COVID-19, and cholera has erupted, creating a severe - and escalating - humanitarian crisis. September estimates show that more than 250,000 of an estimated 2.5 million people - 10% of the province's population - are now internally displaced. More than half of children under the age of five are chronically malnourished. And Cabo Delgado province has recorded the country's third-highest number of COVID-19 cases in October.

As humanitarian organizations work to provide adequate food, water, and shelter - in the midst of a pandemic, no less - delivering condoms and other contraceptives may seem to be of secondary importance. But failure to ensure the accessibility of family-planning tools will not only deepen the crisis today; it will prevent Mozambique from reaching its potential tomorrow.

Even before the current crisis, Cabo Delgado's women and girls were highly vulnerable, owing to factors ranging from poverty to highly patriarchal social norms. Such norms - and the gender-based violence (GBV) they enable - inhibit their ability to exercise their agency and rights, and can directly threaten access to and use of contraception.

In 2015, Cabo Delgado had a contraceptive prevalence rate of just 20% - one of the lowest in Mozambique. Not surprisingly, it also had the highest pregnancy rate among adolescents aged 15-19 years (24%).

Now, growing insecurity in northern districts is forcing some health facilities that were once providing sexual and reproductive health services to close, while others lack essential medical supplies, equipment, and personnel. For the more than 125,000 displaced women and girls of Cabo Delgado, the challenge is particularly formidable. Some important innovations have been implemented to help overcome it: for example, mobile-health teams have delivered emergency family planning and reproductive health services to some 60,000 women and girls across multiple provinces, including in Cabo Delgado's most remote areas. But many displaced women and girls are still left out.

Lack of access to well-equipped health facilities - and, thus, family-planning tools - heightens the risk of unintended pregnancies in dangerous conditions, potentially leading to life-threatening obstetric complications. It also leaves GBV survivors without the life-saving care, information, and support - such as woman-only safe spaces, hotlines with trained counselors, or "one-stop centers" that integrate health, social action, police,

and justice services - that they need.

Access to safe and effective family planning is clearly crucial to uphold human rights, facilitate progress on gender equality and women's empowerment, and break the cycle of poverty. It is also one of the smartest, most lucrative investments a developing country can make.

In Mozambique, the World Bank estimates that reducing the fertility rate by just one child per woman of childbearing age could lead to a 31% increase in real per capita GDP growth by 2050. This could be achieved simply by fulfilling the unmet need for voluntary family planning. According to the most recent Demographic and Health Survey, Mozambican women, on average, say that their ideal number of children is almost one child fewer than the current fertility rate.

But GDP growth is only one part of the story. The Institute for Economics & Peace's latest Ecological Threat Register rates Mozambique as the country with the second-highest exposure to such hazards. One factor contributing to this rating is rapid population growth: Mozambique's population is currently on track to double, from 30 million today to 60 million in 2050.

Mozambique has significant assets. Cabo Delgado alone may eventually host some of Africa's largest natural-gas projects, potentially worth more than \$50 billion. This amounts to a powerful potential engine of broad-based growth.

But in order to fulfill the country's potential - as well as to protect girls and women, reduce poverty, and much more - building and supporting human capital is essential. That requires investment in education, training, and health, including safe and reliable access to family-planning tools.

The United Nations Population Fund estimates that the total investment needed to fulfill the unmet need for family planning globally from now to 2030 is approximately \$68.5 billion. This is a significant sum, but it is far less than what would otherwise need to be spent on maternal and child health care and other social services for women and girls who never wished to be pregnant.

Funding family planning has far-reaching positive multiplier effects on communities and societies, including in humanitarian crises, not least by enabling women and girls to exercise their right to decide whether, when, and with whom to have a child. Such agency, enjoyed by all, forms the foundation of an equitable and productive society. The people of Cabo Delgado and Mozambique deserve no less.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

“Circle of Secrecy” Children, Sexual Abuse, and the Catholic Church in Africa

Thus, when others impose the image of their deity upon you while you abandon your Gods, and accept theirs, you inevitably become their spiritual prisoner — Dr. John Henrik Clarke
From the desk of Dr. BamideleAdeoye, November/December 2020.

In every culture, there is a belief in a supernatural being (Almighty), and the relationship between humans and God requires worship and sacrifice. And, in any recorded human history, humans practiced some form of cultural religion — spirituality, so, culture cannot occur without education, while education is impossible without some form of societal culture.

From the time in antiquity, religion comprised of regular ceremonies centered on a belief in a higher supernatural power (God — the unknown) that created and maintained the order of things in the universe. Over a period, religions focus on the spiritual aspect of God, creation, human, life after death, eternity, and how to escape suffering or to be adjudicated afterlife. That is the reason why every culture made Gods in its image, similarity, and representation in their cultural space.

There is nothing more important in any culture or life than the worship of something. The only question is whether the worship is the right One, done in the right way. However, every religion believes that they are the right One, worship the right way, and their God is best in their cultural space.

Hence, the essence of worship is to establish and maintain a relationship between human beings and their God within their cultural space. Thus, worship can be defined as an extreme form of love, unthinking devotion and adulation for a God. When God is an exaggerated worship of the cultural self. And, God is as the wind, which touches anything and everything. For that reason, religion can be restrictive, repetitious, show regard for something sacred within an organized system of beliefs and practices, leading to a supernatural spiritual experience.

Therefore, the concept of God is an attempt to forge an identity in confrontation with a limited understanding of the unknown universe. That is why Leeming, David Adams attested that the existence of God fulfills a significant human needs. While Gods are symbols of ultimate reality, and their existence provides a sense of significance in an otherwise random universe. So, religion or worshipping is not a European invention introduced to Africa.

Are human traditions and practices hypothesis or scientific, and how can one discover the reality of religion instead of the true religion? In consequence, the term religion is a nineteenth-century experience and derived from within the history of Christian thought itself, rendering the use of the word to describe other forms of thinking, practice, and ritual performance outside the known Christian West. And these rankings have their roots in a history of European interaction with non-European "others" that stretches back to late antiquity — Encyclopedia.com

Religion is the most potent binding force possible that encompasses a people's outlook, traditions, culture, and philosophy of life. In other words, a moral and ethical compass of people in their cultural space.

Subsequently, there is no right or wrong culture nor religion because every culture or religion has a logic of philosophy guiding it. That is why, Critias, an ancient Athenian political figure and author, claimed that religion was created by men to control other men. So what makes one religion superior and another inferior is not vital to the religious practices or beliefs themselves. Instead, such designations are a reflection of the ranking of different religious practices in the world was conjured in a way that met the social needs of Europeans preoccupied with managing a rapidly

expanding colonial enterprise. For example (Quirke, 1992:162):

Egyptian Book of the Dead: "I have not committed adultery; I have not lain with men."
 Exodus 20:14: "Thou shalt not commit adultery."
 Book of the Dead: "I have not stolen."
 Exodus 20:15: "Thou shalt not steal."

Europeans think they have a monopoly of culture, history, intelligence, religion, such that they refuse to acknowledge otherwise and arrogantly label others as inferior. Yet, every race or tribe of people in the world has its spirituality and religions, except for Africa, which gradually dissipated in shame during and after the foreigner's intrusion on the continent.

Every religion is true when thought of metaphorically and less flexible, while you do not have to believe in anything, yet Christianity requires that you believe there was a Christ. When conferring to Hindu philosophy, no one can worship a God but a God. You have to see in yourself some element of the God and what the God represents to you to worship the God. Similarly, to see the goodness in things, we must see God in things. To see the God in things, we must see goodness — Egyptian Book of the Dead.

According to the 2020 Census; AnnuarioPontificio (Pontifical Yearbook), the number of baptized Catholics in the world was about 1.33 billion at the end of 2018. The global Catholic population is projected to grow to 1.63 billion in 2050.

As such, it is the largest Christian ecclesiastical body in the world. Based on this, it is important to have some understanding of the Roman Catholic Church's brief historical philosophies. The Church was split in two by the Great Schism of 1054, dividing Christians between the western, Latin-speaking Roman Catholic Church and the eastern, Greek-speaking Eastern Orthodox Church.

This break gave rise to two fundamental doctrinal contradictions. One was the role and authority of the Pope, while the other was the filioque clause ("and from the Son") of the Nicene Creed. The western Catholics believe that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son while the Eastern Orthodox believe that the Holy Spirit proceeds only from the Father.

The Roman Catholic Bible contains 66 books, the Eastern Orthodox Bible 78 books, while the Protestant Bible has 77 books, and the Slave Bible contains only 14 books. Yet, one Christian God, varied books. The Bible did not arrive by fax from heaven. The Bible is a creation of man. Man, not God, writes history, and history is always from the perspective of the conqueror, not the conquered — Dr. Martyn Percy.

What happened to the lost books of the bible and the forgotten books of the Eden?

In Christianity, worship is the act of attributing reverent honor and homage to God, meaning to bow down to God with total submission.

"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker" Psalm 95:6.

Christianity key points are; (a) Belief in God the Father, Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit, (b) The death, descent into hell, resurrection and ascension of Christ, (c) The holiness of the Church and the communion of saints and (d) Christ's second coming, the Day of Judgement and salvation of the faithful.

The Christian theology is to abide by the holiness of the church, and preach the gospel of "TRUTH", yet the



Dr. BamideleAdeoye, IS & ERM
Research Consultant & Adjunct Prof.

Catholic church did not preach the gospel of truth when it comes to the sexual abuse of children across the world, until forced to do so. They resisted at all levels. Rev. Barton Gingerich noted that, notwithstanding, it is appropriate for any Christian to know the Roman Catholic beliefs and history, if for no other explanation than the church's size and influence. Is the Catholic church about the gospel of Christ (truth) or the gospel of reputation and finance at the expense of children?

What happened to the gospel of truth in the children's sexual abuses by Catholic priests?

A Gospel of Shame, by Frank Bruni and Elinor Burkett, documented sexual abuse in the Catholic church, which was initially published in 1993 and proved that the church hierarchy knew about child molesters for at least a decade. It documents the failure of prosecutors, judges, psychologists, and reporters to monitor bishops, who spend millions of dollars, to protect the Church's image rather than its believers.

Without indicting the Church, Burkett and Bruni argued that the demands of the priesthood and the hierarchical structure decreed by Rome foster a climate perilous to the young. They explained clearly such matters as how obedience to clergy prevented the congregation from going public with accusations earlier; why cops, newspapers, and mental-health professionals haven't pursued priest-molesters as vigorously as other pedophiles; and the loss of faith felt by parishioners who have been reportedly lied to by the Church.

According to Jeremiah 8:8, "How can you say, "We are wise, we have the law of the LORD," See, that has been changed into falsehood by the lying pen of the scribes?

The 2014 U.N. human rights panel concluded and issued a report stating that the Vatican aided and abetted priests to sexually abuse tens of thousands of children worldwide over the decades. An investigation reveals that thousands of Catholic priests accused of sexual abuse, most have become the priest next door. That is the modus operandi of the Catholic church in covering up these atrocities.

Father Greeley estimated that at least 2,500 Catholic priests in the United States have victimized 100,000 children in the last two decades, and author Jason Berry opined that, between 1982 and 1992, sexual abuse cases cost the Catholic Church \$400 million in settlements,



SOLICITATION NUMBER: VA-669-20-00012

ISSUANCE DATE: 11/04/2020
CLOSING DATE/TIME: 11/25/2020 (17:30 local time)

SUBJECT: Solicitation for the Acquisition & Assistance Specialist (OAA), Cooperating Country National Personal Service Contractor (CCNPSC)

Dear Prospective Offerors:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

/s/

Marc Griego
Executive Officer

ATTACHMENT I

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

SOLICITATION NO: VA-669-20-00012

1. **ISSUANCE DATE:** 11/04/2020
2. **CLOSING DATE/TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** 11/25/2020 at 17:30 Monrovia time
3. **POSITION TITLE:** Acquisition & Assistance Specialist
4. **MARKET VALUE:** CCN-11: \$40,344 - \$64,550 (Full Performance)
CCN-10: \$35,104 - \$56,160 (Mid-level)
CCN-09: \$27,502 - \$44,008 (Trainee level)

In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of the US Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia. Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value.

5. **PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** Initial contract will be for one year (with optional years included for extension, not to exceed five years), based on the programmatic needs, funding availability, and performance. This is considered a permanent position.

Employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of series of sequential contract; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.

6. **PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia with possible travel within the country and overseas.

NOTE: ALL ORDINARY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENT PERMITS ALLOWING WORK IN LIBERIA BEFORE BEING ELIGIBLE TO APPLY.

7. **SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility and computer access

8. **STATEMENT OF DUTIES:**

BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION

The Acquisition and Assistance Specialist is located in the Office of Acquisition and Assistance, USAID/Liberia. The function of the Office is to provide Acquisition and Assistance (procurement) support to Mission Technical Offices and to Development Objective (DO) and Assistance Objective (AO) Teams in the Mission and in any Regional Offices that may be supported by the Mission. The primary purpose of this position is to review and recommend approval or revision of requisitions in the Global Acquisition and Assistance System (GLAAS); review and recommend approval or revision of Scope of Work (SOW); perform complex cost and price analysis; analyze proposals and/or quotes received; review contracts and contract modifications; analyze contractor-proposed budgets; recommend revisions to various contract provisions; write Memoranda of Negotiation; and, prepare other required documentation. The Specialist maintains up-to-date contract files and supports award closeouts. As required, the

Specialist provides guidance to on related administrative award modifications. The Specialist is responsible for carrying out day-to-day activities in an independent manner.

This position represents the full performance level of a career ladder, beginning at FSN-09. Attainment of this grade level represents that the Specialist has successfully completed substantial training, met agreed-upon objectives and milestones, and has performed at the Fully Successful (or equivalent) level. At this level, it is anticipated that the Specialist will play a significant role in mentoring lower-level trainees, and others, by identifying knowledge gaps and training needs.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

I. Pre-Award

The Specialist provides professional-level procurement planning advice and guidance to USAID/LIBERIA Technical Offices, (DO and/or AO Teams including advice on procurement policy and procedures in the design and implementation of Mission activities. The Specialist coordinates the development of procurement objectives for assigned portfolios in terms of potential implementing partner (IP) organizations, competitive issues, and socioeconomic issues, and identifies and constructs appropriate contract and/or grant instruments.

The Specialist reviews GLAAS Requisitions (REQs) requesting acquisition/assistance for major and complex programs/project/activities and/or services. The Specialist analyzes requirements, and determines instrument selection or procurement approach, if SOWs or other program descriptions are complete, and if the request meets FAR, ADS, AIDAR, and/or other mission, Agency, or USG policies ; ensures that necessary Mission clearances have been obtained, and that waivers and other supporting documentation are complete; recommends revisions regarding SOWs, budgets, classification of terms, reporting requirements, and any special conditions, and ensures that required performance indicators are developed and included in the initial Request for Proposal of Request for Application; and, develops solicitation documentation in accordance with all appropriate regulations, selects and includes correct clauses, and transmits solicitations for proposal using internet-based technology. The Specialist responds to offeror questions during the proposal submission phase, and determines the need for and prepares, clarifying amendments as required for solicitation documents. As necessary, the Specialist holds pre-bid or consultative meetings with partners to fully explain the Agency and counterpart's needs, and to discuss solicitation documents. The specialist applies a high degree of judgement and analysis when deciding among and between competing and often conflicting regulations and objectives, where the activities involved include multi-million-dollar issues, often with significant political and/or legal implications.

II. Proposal Evaluation and Negotiation

The Specialist evaluates applications and offers for responsiveness to particular solicitations, and documents the relative strengths and deficiencies of each proposal; guides DO/AO Teams in the practice of 'best value' selection, and in performance-based technical approaches; and, obtains reports and references, ensuring that past performance of the offeror is relevant and of a high quality. The Specialist ensures that offerors have adequate management, accounting, personnel, and procurement systems, and appropriate corporate leadership, resources, and quality control systems to satisfactorily carryout contracts. The Specialist requests audit reports or pre-award surveys from the Office of the Inspector General, and/or the Defense Contract Audit Agency, and obtains clearance from the Department of Labor and/or the Small Business Administration on a variety of

EEO and workplace issues. The Specialist analyses cost proposals and technical scores from technical evaluation committees; and based on the analysis, establishes the competitive range, and presents documentation for signature to the Contracting Officer/Regional Contracting Officer. The Specialist performs analysis of cost issues, considering economic conditions and factors of material, labor, and transportation costs; examines cost and pricing data submitted by offerors, to substantiate direct and indirect costs and profit; determines reasonableness of costs submitted; ensures data provided is consistent with USAID requirements on eligible geographic sources, and that salary structures are consistent with Agency policy; and, identifies circumstances that may require a waiver. The Specialist coordinates issues of technical weakness and excessive cost with Do/AO Teams prior to commencement of negotiation; and, clarifies and, as necessary, instructs the members of the Team, host-country counterparts, and other Mission staff on the USAID procurement process. The Specialist designs the negotiation strategy; identifies areas subject to negotiation, and consults with technical specialists concerning data submitted by offerors, conducts extensive negotiations on cost and technical issues prior to contract award, presenting USAID issues of concern, and persuading offerors to upgrade technical deficiencies and reduce costs where appropriate; requests submission of Revised Final Proposals, and prepares appropriate contract or grant instruments for award; coordinates the last stages of selection with DO/AO Teams and/or the technical evaluation committee(s); negotiates and awards grants and cooperative agreement with US-based and indigenous PVOs and NGOs, colleges and universities, and other non-profit organization, analyzes transactions to ensure compliance with Agency cost-sharing and registration policies, as well as local laws governing status, and coordinates contracting activities with other government agencies, frequently negotiating and drafting interagency agreements. The Specialist presents award decisions of ultimate contractor/recipient to the Contracting Officer, with all the appropriate supporting documentation, including the development of appropriate performance indicators, in conjunction with DO/AO teams, and, organizes and conducts orientation meetings with selected contractors, to ensure that mobilization efforts will be conducted effectively, and that all terms and conditions of procurement instruments are clear and well-understood by all parties. The Specialist provides support debriefings to unsuccessful offerors.

III. Contract Administration

The Specialist monitors contractor performance in relation to the completion schedule required by the contract or assistance instrument, ensures timely submission of technical progress reports, making periodic visits to contractor work sites, and representing the Office at performance-based meetings held by other Mission Offices, assists any client Missions to development appropriate indicators for work plans, and contract documents, ensures contractors are fully compliant with performance standards contained in the Contract, and seeks corrective action in cases of non-compliance; expedites Change Orders or revisions when circumstances require; and, issues 'show cause' or 'cure notices' and/or recommends termination of contracts for default or for convenience, and negotiates termination settlements.

The Specialist analyses, and takes action to resolve, audit finding, such as cost items questioned and unresolved; supports recommendations with detailed analysis of each cost, category, or element as necessary; prepares necessary documents to resolve all aspects of audits, questioned or ineligible costs, and accounting issues; and, presents documentation to the Contracting Officer/Regional Contracting Officer for signature. The Specialist reviews completed (after full performance) contract files to determine that all contractual actions are satisfied, and that there are no pending administrative actions to be

resolved; ensures that all documents are signed, that there are no litigation actions pending, and that the contract is complete in every respect and ready to be closeout, and, ensures that contracts nearing annual anniversaries or final completion have a completed performance report from the COR/AOR, and submits reports to the Contractor for comment.

The Specialist provides guidance and mentoring to junior-level staff, trainees, procurement technicians, and the clients on basic principles of USG and USAID acquisitions, general procurement management, procurement policy direction, new/changed procurement policies, etc. as required.

As required, the Specialist may be called upon to provide information an advice to the Contracting Officer/Regional Contracting Officer and/or his/her designee on critical procurement issues, or on the effect of new or revised USG, USAID, or host-country requirements. The Specialist attends key mission meetings on the Office as assigned.

9. "Cooperating country national" ("CCN") means an individual who is a cooperating country citizen, or a non-cooperating country citizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the cooperating country.

10. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

11. POINT OF CONTACT:

All application packages are to be submitted:
Acquisition & Assistance Specialist, (OAA)
by email to: LiberiaHR@usaid.gov

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE

Possession of a Baccalaureate Degree or the equivalent of a four-year US College/university (or equivalency accreditation if a non-US institution) degree in Accounting, Law, Business, Finance, Contracts, Purchasing, Economics, Industrial Management, Marketing, Quantitative Methods, or organizational management is required.

Prior Work Experience:

- Entry Level (FSN 9) Relevant Education qualification plus a minimum of four years of progressively responsible, professional experience in any of the following relevant areas: procurement, development assistance, law, paralegal, research, business, or accounting. Preferably at least two years of this experience should have been with an international organization, government, or non-government organization.
- Mid-level (FSN-10) Relevant Education qualification plus a minimum of five years of progressively responsible, professional experience in any of the following areas: procurement, development assistance management, law, paralegal, business, or accounting. Preferably at least three years of this experience should have been with an international organization, government, or non-government organization.
- Full performance level (FSN-11) Relevant Education plus minimum of five or more of progressively responsible work in acquisition and assistance is required. As this position is part of a recognized and established career ladder, a minimum of two years of this experience must have been gained working with the USAID Contracting/A&A Office, with at least one year at the next lower, FSN-10 grade level.

Post Entry Training:

To be hired at FSN-9 trainee/entry level, the incumbent must have met the required educational qualifications, work experience and demonstrated the capacity to develop the skills to perform at the full performance level.

To be promoted to FSN-10 level, the incumbent must have (a) successfully completed all FAC-C training level I and USAID basic training courses covering (i) Assistance and (ii) Simplified Acquisition and (b) have 3 years of related USAID A&A work experience completing at least 50% of the on-the-job Procurement Training Program (PTP) actions contained in the employee's IDP and agreed to work with his/her supervisor through performing on the job actions. Some of the promotion requirements maybe waived at the discretion of the OAA Office Director. The incumbent must meet all education and work experience requirements to be promoted to FSN-10.

To be promoted to FSN-11 full performance level, the Specialist must have demonstrated mastery of the full range of skills by: (a) successfully completed mandatory Federal Acquisition Certification - Contracting (FAC-C) Level II course in accordance with a formal individual development plan (IDP). Or equivalent class hours of other advanced A&A trainings approved by the supervisor in writing. (b) successfully completing 90% of the Procurement Training Program (PTP) actions contained in the IDP and agreed to with your supervisor through performing on the job actions; (c) having completed five years of USAID A&A related experience; (d) attaining at a fully successful performance evaluation.

Language Proficiency:

Level V (Fluent) English and local language proficiency both oral and written, is required.

Knowledge:

Knowledge of US Federal and USAID Acquisitions Regulations, and knowledge and understanding of how to execute and administer a complex acquisition and assistance portfolio is required, particularly as it relates to acquisition through methods of negotiation, small purchase procedures, and that result in standard and established contract types. A good knowledge of host-country and regional markets pertaining to programs/projects/activity requirements for services and commodities, and a good knowledge and understanding of US market and pricing methods is desired.

Skills and Abilities: The ability to plan and administer large acquisition activities and provide adequate acquisition assistance and support for agency programs/project/activities in a timely manner. The ability to apply governing contracting regulations, procedures, and policies to individual complex acquisition and assistance program is required. An ability to deal effectively with high-level representatives of the US and Regional business community, and with colleagues in USAID Missions and/or host governments is required. Skill in the use of most elements of the Microsoft Business suite is required.

Good analytical, negotiating, and time management skills, along with strong proofreading skills and attention to detail, are required. The ability to work calmly and effectively under pressure is essential, as well as the ability to maintain strict CONFIDENTIALITY, and meet all STANDARDS OF CONDUCT/ETHICS STANDRDS in accordance with US law throughout all phases of acquisition and assistance procurement processes.

POSITON ELEMENTS

Supervision Received: The Acquisition and Assistance Specialist works under the general guidance of the Contracting Officer and his/her designee, who makes assignments in terms of the broad range of procurement actions the Specialist will perform. The Specialist works with considerable independence, initiating necessary coordination with requesting Mission CORs/AORs, Technical Offices, and DO and AO Teams, providing policy and strategic guidance on how to best fulfill requirements, and with the OFM and RLO, the staffs of other agencies, and with awardees. The Specialist keeps the Contracting Officer or his/her designee updated through periodic status reports, and through verbal briefings. Completed work is reviewed from the overall standpoint of providing a viable procurement approach for the results achieved, in meeting delivery schedules, and in the selection of appropriate contract methods.

Supervision Exercised: The incumbent may be assigned as a group/team leader but will not serve as a full supervisor. The incumbent is expected to serve as mentor to lower-level trainees, and others, by identifying knowledge gaps and training needs, and providing work guidance to lower-level acquisition staff, and trainees.

Available Guidelines: Guidelines include the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), USAID Acquisition Regulation, (AIDAR), the Automated Directives System (ADS), Contract Information Bulletins (CIBs), US Department of State Standardized Regulations (DSSR), Federal Travel Regulations (FTR), Office of management and Budget (OMB) Circulars, other Mission Orders, and grant format requirements.

Exercise of Judgement: At the full-performance level, the incumbent is expected to apply a high degree of judgement in all aspects of Acquisition and Assistance actions, in particular when advising CORs/AORs and Mission staff, and when interacting with IPs to resolve complex issues arising during program/project/activity implementation. The incumbent exercises good judgement in dealing with visitors and callers; in the analysis of cost, financial, and other characteristics of prospective contractors and grantees; and in deciding what questions need to be asked of technical officials and DO and AO Team representatives and proposed contractors/grantees, in order to ensure achievement of the acquisition objectives on contract, grant, or other assistance instruments. Highly unusual decisions and matters of policy are discussed with the Contracting Officer and his/her designee prior to making a final decision.

Authority to make Commitments: The incumbent independently holds discussions and negotiations with potential contractors and grantees to reach agreement on complex situations and often helps to develop strategies on managing budgets. The incumbent has the authority to conclude complex negotiations and to structure the final terms and conditions of major USAID acquisition and assistance instruments. Upon completion, agreements are approved and signed by a warranted Contracting Officer and/or his/her designee, in order to obligate funds.

Nature, Level, and Purpose of Contacts: The incumbent is in daily contact with staff throughout the Mission, technical office staff, DO and AO Team Leaders, CORs/AORs; grantees, potential grantees, visitors, mid-to high-level officials, VIPs from both the public and private sectors, international organizations and donors, NGOs and IPs in order to exchange and/or collect information, and to provide advice relating to program implementation.

Time Expected to Reach Full Performance Level: One year.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The following are the selection criteria:

- 1) Analytical, writing, and computer skills (15 points)
- 2) Reference checks (15 points)
- 3) Experience (35 points)
- 4) Oral and interpersonal skills (15 points)
- 5) Education and Training (20 points)

Additional Selection Criteria

Management will not allow nepotism, conflicts of interest, monetary considerations, or visa status to be a determining factor in the selection of a successful candidate.

Selection Process

After an initial screening of applications, qualified applicants will be invited to take an analytical, writing, and computer skills test. After the test, candidates will be reviewed, and the most highly scored candidates invited for interviews.

How to Apply

Interested candidates for this position should submit the following:

1. A clearly typed application letter which briefly summarizes why you believe you are qualified for this position.
2. Resume
3. The names and contact details of three references that can attest to your professional qualifications, work experience, and/or volunteer experience. The references must include phone number, titles, and an explanation of their relationship to the applicant.
4. Documentation (e.g. copied of certificates, awards, degrees) that address the minimum requirements of the position.

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

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Ja'neh wants US\$25m from GoL

Justices at the ECOWAS court will today decide whether they will award former Associate Justice Kabineh M Ja'neh over US\$25 million in general damage as compensation and direct the government to restore his position as Associate Justice at the Supreme Court.

Cllr. Janeh was removed as an Association Justice of the Liberian Supreme Court through an impeachment process that he is now challenging as unconstitutional.

He has also asked the Court to declare that the entire impeachment trial, conviction and replacement on the Supreme Court

Madam Annie Yancy Constance.

He was accused by lawmakers for abuse of power, using his influence as Associate Justice to secure a ruling in his favor at the Supreme Court to take possession of the land.

But Ja'neh's lawyers maintained that the claim that their client allegedly manipulated the Supreme Court to rule in his favor in the property case questions the credibility of Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor who served as the head of the Supreme Court and also signed the ruling.

In the suit he filed before the ECOWAS Court, Ja'neh through his Counsel, Mr. Femi Falana alleged that his removal violated his human rights to fair

Liberian Senate on 13 February 2019, he filed a motion to recuse asking that the Chief Justice should not preside over the impeachment trial since he signed the Judgment of the Supreme Court in a case that was listed as one of the grounds for his impeachment.

He submitted that allowing the Chief Justice Francis Korkpor to preside would be tantamount to a conflict of interest with the possibility of bias. His contention was that Chief Justice Korkpor was involved in several facets of the impeachment proceedings and was expected to recuse himself in order to adhere to the tenets of justice.

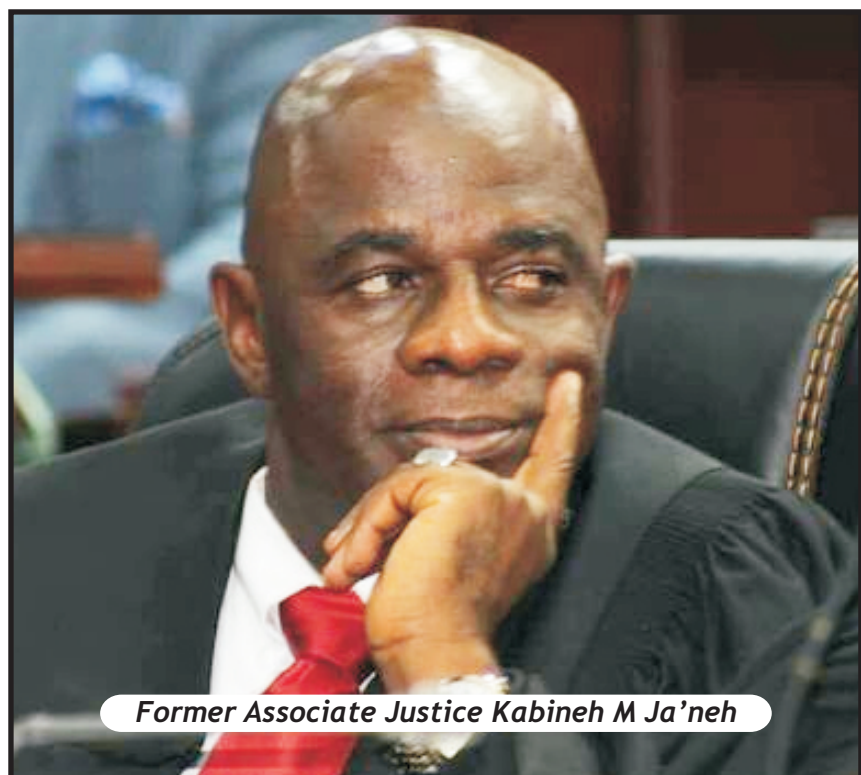
He stated that to his surprise, the Chief Justice denied his application and instead proceeded to preside over the impeachment trial.

He is therefore asking the ECOWAS Court to award general damages in an amount not less than US\$25,000,000.00 as compensation and an order directing the Republic of Liberia to restore his position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia.

He also asked the Court to declare that the entire impeachment trial, conviction and replacement on the Supreme Court constitutes violations of his rights to fair hearing, dignity of his person and work under equitable and satisfactory conditions, among others.

But the Republic of Liberia denied violating the human rights of Ja'neh and submitted that the impeachment was done through a political process which also followed the due process of law as laid down in Section 43 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia.

The State urged the Court to declare that the application is inadmissible because the Community Court is incompetent to review, interpret and apply the national constitution and domestic laws of Member States.



Former Associate Justice Kabineh M Ja'neh

constitutes violations of his rights to fair hearing, dignity of his person and work under equitable and satisfactory conditions, among others.

Ja'neh argues that under Chapter VII, Article 72 (B) of the 1986 Liberian Constitution, he was guaranteed the holding and protection of office as Associate Justice during good behavior until the age of 70.

However, lawmakers here brought charges against him to the contrary and hence his removal from office which he is now challenging.

One of the cases which triggered Associate Justice Ja'neh's impeachment trial in Liberia related to a land dispute involving him and one

hearing and impartial trial, right to work and dignity of person guaranteed by the African Charter on Human and Peoples rights.

He also claimed violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the Liberian Constitution by the purported impeachment, trial, conviction, removal and his replacement.

Further, he alleged that he was subjected to impeachment proceedings with no Prescribed Rules of Procedure, thereby depriving him of his fundamental right to fair hearing as stipulated in the 1986 Liberian Constitution.

According to former Justice Ja'neh, when the impeachment trial commenced at the

Soul Clinic residents reject Thomas Fallah's offer

-Rally for Sen. Darius Dillon

By Emmanuel Mondaye

As the December 8, 2020 special senatorial election draws near, residents of Soul Clinic Community in Paynesville outside Monrovia have vehemently rejected a community road rehabilitation intervention by ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) candidate Thomas P. Fallah in support of Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon.

Scores of residents in Soul Clinic say they have already agreed to support the re-election bid of Senator Dillon because of his advocacy and works since he ascended to the senate.

Martha Thomas, Wilfred Newton, and Jackson Williams, who are leading the Dillon mobilization in the community, stressed that

one community to another, begging residents to rehabilitate their roads something he had never dreamed about since becoming Representative of the county.

The residents said Representative Fallah will receive a disgraceful defeat at the hands of Senator Dillon because they are fully prepared to cast their votes in the latter's favor so he can continue the good works he has started in Montserrado County.

Meanwhile, Representative Fallah recently off-loaded truck loads of crushed rocks in several communities on Bushrod Island as his personal intervention after inhabitants there had severely suffered from deplorable road condition.

Since the National Elections Commission (NEC) declared



Representative Thomas Fallah

Representative Thomas Fallah over the years has demonstrated less interest in their plight, but is now seeking their votes.

According to them, they cannot forsake Senator Abraham Darius Dillon re-election bid because he is a man of substance who always seeks welfare of ordinary Liberians.

They continued that they are motivated to encourage fellow community members to meaningful contribute toward Dillon's One Dollar campaign in support of his re-election, noting that the incumbent senator does not only have the Soul Clinic Community at heart, but Liberians generally.

The residents vowed to do everything humanly possible to ensure Senator Dillon is re-elected as Senator of Montserrado County.

Cogent information gathered by this paper indicates that Representative Thomas Fallah is moving from

political activities opened, according to Martha, Newton and Williams, Representative Fallah has failed to seek wellbeing of local communities and thinks he would win the senatorial seat.

They noted that because of the overwhelming support Senator Dillon enjoys from the people of Montserrado County, Fallah has no space in their community adding, they will definitely prove it on 8 December when they storm voting centers in their area to re-elect Sen. Dillon, whom they said represents grass rooters in the new political dispensation in Liberia.

Every community dweller is contributing between US\$1.00 and US\$5.00 in support of Senator Dillon's re-election campaign, which they emphasized, will definitely produce the desired result at the ballot box.

A member of the opposition Liberty Party, Senator Dillon is

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Chief Justice suspects 'invincible hands'

-In reaction to 'Arab style protest'

By Winston W. Parley

Exactly a week after judicial worker Archie Ponpon set himself ablaze over his indefinite suspension following sustained protests against salary cuts, Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. says he sees no reason why judicial workers have to continue protesting if it was about salary cuts, unless there is invincible hands in it.

Addressing the opening of the Criminal Courts at the Temple of Justice Monday, 9 November, he noted that the issue of the salary cuts has already been discussed and it would be paid retroactively with the understanding that it would take effect on the October pay.

"So if it is indeed the cut that hurting you ... there is no reason to continue it, unless now we have invincible hands

aggrieved staffers of their positions due to their protest.

The judicial workers started the protest roughly four months back in demand for the Liberian dollars component of their salaries that had been outstanding for about a year, but it escalated recently and their leader Mr. Ponpon set himself ablaze after judicial authorities indefinitely suspended, transferred and placed some of the protesters under investigation.

Ponpon and few of his fellow aggrieved judicial workers had just been served some writ of arrests Monday, 2 November by court officers when he suddenly walked up the stairs outside the building hosting the Supreme Court and pulled out a bottle filled with gas and a fire litter from under his clothes, setting himself ablaze.

Reacting to the series of protests in which his vehicle

"These are not what we should be doing. All along, nobody has touched them because this is the place of law. The law says one has the right to peacefully assemble ... present their grievances to their leaders. But you must do it, as the Constitution says, peacefully," he continues.

He indicates that what has been happening at the Temple of Justice is not peaceful, adding that the protesters have taken another turn, recalling that they attempted to disrupt the opening of the Supreme Court as well as other programs.

"Then somebody, a Liberian citizen, an employee of the Judiciary should set himself on fire? Ablaze? This is the first time I have witnessed a thing like this. It shocked me!" Chief Justice Korkpor says further.

At the time of the incident, he says he was at a program seating a judge who had been appointed. When he was informed about the incident, Chief Justice Korkpor says he called the personnel director to find out where Ponpon was taken so that he could pay visit there later.

"And the Acting Director of Personnel went there, he was driven away. Oh you have come here to spy to see where he is so y'all can kill him? Kill him for what?" Chief Justice Korkpor asks.

He terms it as a sad situation, explaining that the Finance Ministry has indicated that there will be some retroactive payments to some of the judicial workers which is supposed to take effect on the October pay.

He rejects accusation that he allegedly sent people to Ponpon's house to kill him.

Additionally, Chief Justice Korkpor says it is totally false, claims that the judicial workers have not taken pay for one year.

"This is not true. Judiciary is current with payment. The only month that is due is the month of October which just ended, we are in November now, nobody has taken pay for October," he says.

Earlier on 13 October this year, Finance Minister Samuel Tweah told protesting judicial staffers that the government will restore cuts in their salaries that necessitated their protests over the past weeks, saying each of them would have received US\$153 representing the first three months, in addition to their

BnB launches office in Liberia

By Bridgett Milton

BnB, a technology and licensed remittance company has officially launched its offices in Liberia.

The financial technology company, which is headquartered in Canada, is determined to extend

its operations to all African Countries, with Liberia now joining Sierra Leone and Guinea as a third subsidiary.

Speaking at the launch of BnB Friday, 6 November in Monrovia at its headquarter, the COO of BnB Alpha Ousmane Barry said the organization is led by a team of professionals with expertise in software development and remittance business management.

The chairman of the group Brian Fox, is a former Executive VP of Western Union and

the CEO/Co-Founder, Dr.

customers to send money to their loved ones in 17 African countries including Liberia.

Barry explains that in Africa, they are not only a licensed remittance company, but they are also an aggregator of Money Transfer Companies, Telecommunications Companies, and Banks.

He discloses that some of their strategic partners include MoneyGram, RIA, Small World, GT Bank, MTN, Orange, UBA, OMNEX, Transfast and Wari, among others.

In Sierra Leone and Guinea, BNB has about 400 locations where customers can send and receive money.

According to Barry, BnB as a Fintech Company that focuses on innovation takes into consideration the needs of customers and partners, thus offering them new innovative products and services.



Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr.

for other reasons they want to foster other things," the Chief Justice says.

"Other hands are in there now. Cannot be this way, because when you brought your grievance to us, we were able to listen. The solution is not lying down where the Chief Justice parks his car so that he will not park," he laments.

His comment came Monday after Mr. Ponpon who has been leading aggrieved judicial staffers into weeks of protests against cuts in their salaries set himself ablaze on Monday, 2 November at the Temple of Justice.

Ponpon went to the extreme last week after accusing Chief Justice Korkpor of allegedly using all draconian means to hunt, suspend and relieve

was prevented from parking at one point, Chief Justice Korkpor argues that the solution is not for protester to lie down under his car to prevent his movement, noting that the same thing was done to the Court Administrator Cllr. Elizabeth Nelson and she had to leave her car at the Temple of Justice, board a public transport to go home.

According to Chief Justice Korkpor, on Friday, some people who are not judicial workers went to disturb the West Point Court, saying this tells him that "this is more than just asking for the money that was cut from you."

"You cannot disturb court proceedings, go and stop people from going to court, like what has been happening at the Monrovia City Court here. The judge wrote me," he says.



OumarRafiou Barry, holds a Ph.D. in Engineering from the University of Toronto and has been a Professor of Engineering at some of the best universities in the USA.

"BnB is here to partner with all relevant stakeholders (banks, Telco and wallet operators) in the financial industry to revolutionize remittance business by enabling customers have access to their funds digitally" Mr. Barry notes.

He adds that they are technology - driven company with wide range of solutions for an efficient financial sector.

Currently, BnB has about 100 plus employees, 80% of them are based in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia and the other 20% are based in North America.

In Canada, BnB is a 100% cashless remittance company used by thousands of

BNB was successful in becoming the first Financial Technology Company to develop and launch an app that enables customers to digitally pick up their remittances and deposit them in a bank account or mobile wallet, from anywhere in the world.

Also speaking on behalf of the MD of UBA Liberia, Mr. David Ojo says UBA is pleased to partner with BnB. He says in Liberia UBA is a driving force in technology.

Ojo adds that what BnB has come to offer is one of the programs that UBA will like to add up in its industry and be part of it.

For his part, Prince Chesson of Lone Start Cell MTN thanks BnB for the partnership, saying their partnership with BnB has to do with integration of the money system.

"To admit BnB has a very good technology," Chesson

Français

Le Libéria compte désormais 2,4 millions d'électeurs, selon la NEC

Environ deux millions quatre cent quatre-vingt-trois mille et trois cent cinquante (2 483 350) Libériens ont été enrôlés pour voter lors des prochaines élections sénatoriales et du référendum du 8 décembre, a fait savoir la commission électorale nationale (NEC).

Animant un point de presse le vendredi 6 novembre, la présidente de la NEC, Davidetta Browne Lansanah, a révélé que ce chiffre représente l'ensemble de toutes les personnes enrôlées

sur la liste électorale, y compris les deux cent quatre-vingt-dix-neuf mille neuf cent soixante-neuf (299, 969) nouveaux inscrits.

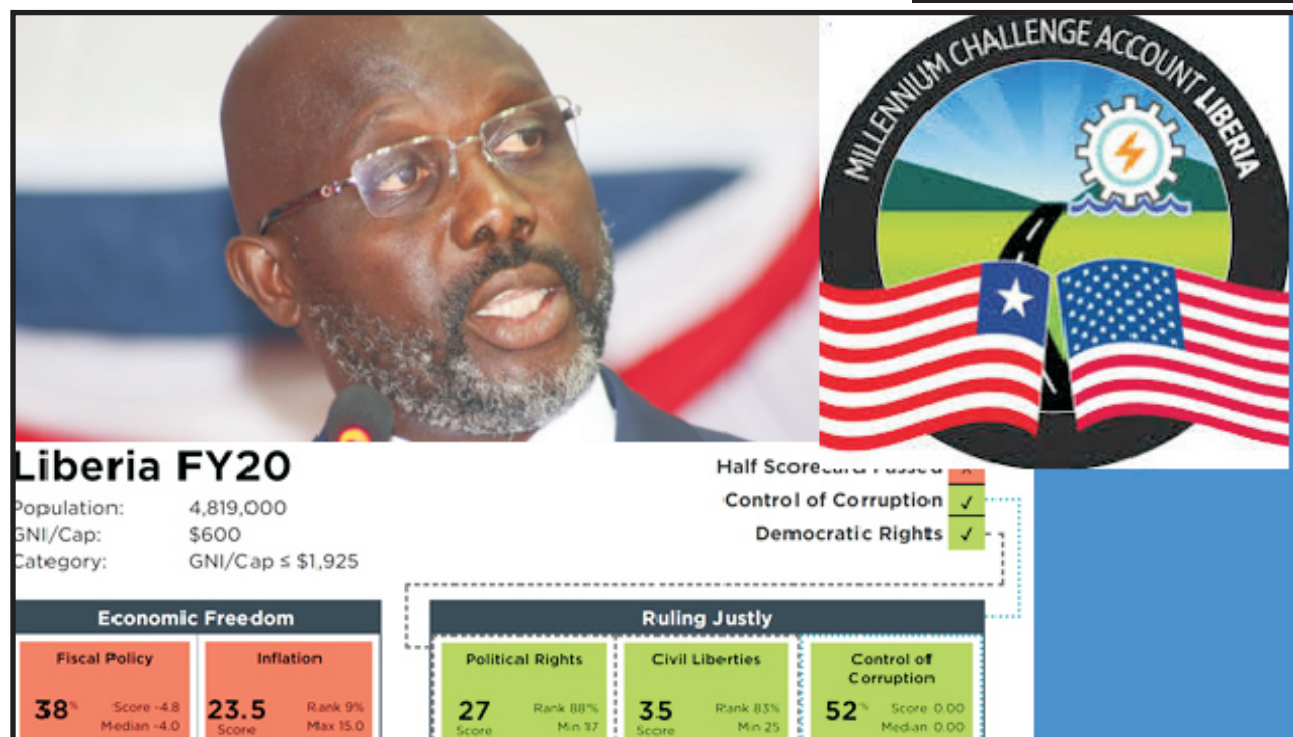
Elle a déclaré qu'avant l'opération de mise à jour de la liste électorale, le nombre d'électeurs inscrits dans le centre de données du NEC était de deux millions, cent, quatre-vingt-trois mille trois cent quatre-vingt-un (2, 183, 381).

La patronne de la NEC a expliqué que c'est le nombre obtenu après le nettoyage de la liste électorale de 2017,

comme mandaté par la Cour suprême.

On peut rappeler qu'en 2017, au terme du premier tour de l'élection présidentielle, le Liberty Party qui était alors dirigé par feu Me Charles Brumskine, avait déposé un recours à la Cour suprême du Libéria, dénonçant des irrégularités graves et des fraudes électorales, suite à sa troisième défaite consécutive depuis 2005.

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



La tempête cause des dommages à la faculté de médecine de l'UL

La faculté de Médecine de l'Université du Libéria (UL) a été sévèrement touchée par le gros orage qui s'est abattu sur la ville de Monrovia le vendredi 6 novembre.

Selon les autorités de l'université, des documents essentiels, des ordinateurs et

d'autres appareils électriques ont été détruits par l'eau. Elles se sont toutefois dites convaincues que les dégâts n'arrêteront pas le semestre académique.

Les dégâts ont principalement touché la direction sur le campus à Congo

Town, y compris la salle de conférence.

Le président de l'Université du Libéria, le révérend Dr Julius Sarwolo Nelson, s'est rendu sur le campus vendredi matin pour évaluer l'impact des dégâts. Le directeur des opérations du plan de l'université, M. Jefferson Walker, s'y est également rendu.

Selon Mme Fati Walters Zeaglor, assistante exécutive de la faculté de médecine de l'Université du Libéria, les dégâts ont été causés par l'orage qui s'est déchaîné tôt vendredi matin sur la capitale économique et politique du Libéria.

Elle a exprimé l'espoir que l'administration interviendra le plus rapidement possible pour procéder à la réparation de l'équipement électronique et qu'il n'y aura aucun délai, car il y a peu de chance que les documents détruits par la pluie soient récupérés.

"J'espère et je pense que ce sera une réparation

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Le Président Libérien George Weah félicite le Président élu Américain Joe Biden



Le président George MannehWeah a félicité le président élu américain Joe Biden après sa victoire à la récente élection présidentielle de ce pays, disant que « le Libéria est prêt à renforcer ses relations bilatérales historiques avec les États-Unis ». Avant sa victoire historique, Biden fut vice-président de l'ancien président Barack Obama.

M. Weah a également félicité la sénatrice Kamala Harris, qui a été élue première femme et première noire vice-présidente des États-Unis. Il s'est dit convaincu que l'élection de la vice-présidente élue Harris servira d'inspiration à toutes les femmes et personnes de couleur pour qu'elles puissent devenir ce à quoi elles aspirent avec détermination, engagement et travail acharné.

Le président Weah a déclaré que le président élu américain assumera la direction des États-Unis à un moment très difficile, alors que le monde est confronté à une crise sanitaire sans précédent. Il a appelé les Américains à continuer à

promouvoir «la paix et l'unité ». Le chef de l'Etat faisait ainsi allusion à l'environnement politique qui s'est polarisé du fait de la période électorale.

«En tant qu'allié traditionnel du Libéria, nous sommes prêts à renforcer et à raviver nos relations bilatérales longues, historiques et uniques», a déclaré le président Weah. Les deux pays entretiennent une relation spéciale de longue date qui remonte aux années 1800, lorsque l'Amérique a joué un rôle crucial dans la fondation du Libéria.

Le renforcement des liens entre les deux pays ces dernières années a donné lieu au soutien américain aux institutions libériennes, comme moyen de contribuer à la consolidation de la démocratie libérienne. Mais il y a également eu une coopération dans d'autres domaines, notamment l'éducation, la santé et les infrastructures.

M. Weah est parmi tant d'autres dans le monde à avoir déjà félicité le président élu des États-Unis.



The late student Mohamed N. Kamara

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Français

Le Libéria compte désormais 2,4

La Cour suprême, dans son jugement, avait demandé que la liste électorale fût nettoyée avant l'organisation des élections subséquentes. Récemment, la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP), une plateforme des quatre principaux partis de l'opposition (le Parti de la liberté (LP), le Parti de l'unité(UP), le Parti libérien (ALP) et le Congrès national alternatif (ANC))a déposé une requête en mandamus devant la Cour suprême pour l'annulation de l'opération de mise à jour de la liste électorale. Mais le recours a été rejeté par la haute cour de justice.

« Nous sommes heureux d'annoncer la fin de l'opération de mise à jour de la liste électorale de 2020 », a déclaré Mme Browne-Lasannah. Selon elle, le nombre total de femmes inscrites nouvellement est de cent, dix-huit mille neuf cent vingt-trois, (118, 923), soit environ 39,6% du total des inscrits, contre cent, quatre-vingt-un mille quarante-six (181, 046) hommes, c'est-à-dire 60,4%.

Cependant, ce nombre, a-t-elle indiqué, n'est que provisoire et qu'il pourrait changer en raison de l'opération de nettoyage de la listeélectorale qui est toujours en cours.

« Nous sommes également heureux d'informer le peuple libérien que l'exposition des listes électorales s'est achevée le 31 octobre 2020 comme prévu et que les

résultats de cet exercice sont en cours de traitement par le centre de données », a déclaré le président du CEN.

Madame Lansanah a également profité de ce temps pour annoncer que le programme d'appui électoral des Nations Unies et les experts en données de la CEDEAO dans le pays travaillent en étroite collaboration avec la commission pour assurer un nettoyage professionnel et technique de la liste.

La patronne de la NEC a souligné que ces experts en données soutiennent actuellement le personnel du centre de données de la NEC pour améliorer la qualité de la liste électorale en vue des prochaines élections, dont le référendum constitutionnel de 2020.

« L'équipe travaille depuis deux semaines maintenant et a fourni des informations préliminaires aux partis politiques et autres parties prenantes sur l'état de votre liste électorale et le travail qu'ils accomplissent, avec l'équipe du centre de données de la NEC, pour préparer la liste électorale pour les élections du 8 décembre. C'est un plaisir pour moi d'annoncer que les experts de l'ONU et de la CEDEAO ont donné beaucoup de crédit auxresponsables de la base des données de la NEC vu le niveau d'expertise et de professionnalisme dont ces Libériens ont fait preuve avant même l'arrivée des experts internationaux», a-t-elle déclaré lors de la conférence de presse.

La tempête cause des dommages

immédiate parce que le président de l'université était ici ce matin pour venir évaluer lui-même les dégâts», a déclaré Mme Zeaglor.

M. Jefferson Walker, directeur des opérations de planification à l'Université du Libéria, a déclaré que son équipe évaluait les dommages pour savoir de quoi ils s'agissait.

M. Walker a indiqué que « quand la pluie diminuera,

mon équipe fera une petite estimation qui, je l'espère, auraété effectuée le jour même de l'incident ».Au cours des travaux de l'équipe, M. Walker a déclaré que les occupants des bureaux touchés devront être transférés dans un autre bâtiment.

L'orage du vendredi a fait beaucoup de dégâts matériels dans la capitale. Des toits entiers des maisons ont été arrachés, des gens sont devenus sans abris.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Andrea M. Wojnar

Crises et contraception

MAPUTO - Un véritable raz de marée de catastrophes s'est abattu sur la province du Cabo Delgado au Mozambique. Des conflits, des cyclones, une épidémie de COVID-19 et de choléra se sont déclarés provoquant une crise humanitaire de plus en plus aiguë. Les estimations de septembre font état de 250?000 réfugiés sur une population intérieure estimée de 2,5 millions de personnes soit 10 % de la population de cette province. Plus de la moitié des enfants de moins de cinq ans souffre de malnutrition chronique. Et la province de Cabo Delgado a enregistré le 3e plus grand nombre de cas de COVID-19 au pays en octobre.

Pendant que les organisations internationales à vocation humanitaire conjuguent leurs efforts pour assurer à la population une alimentation adéquate, de l'eau potable et des habitats décents en pleine pandémie, rien de moins – la distribution de préservatifs et d'autres moyens de contraception pourrait sembler superflue. La crise n'est pas seulement aggravée aujourd'hui par une accessibilité réduite aux outils de planification familiale?; elle empêchera le Mozambique d'atteindre son potentiel demain.

Déjà avant la crise actuelle, les femmes et adolescentes de Cabo Delgado étaient très vulnérables, en raison de facteurs allant de la pauvreté à des us et coutumes de la structure patriarcale. Ces coutumes – et les violences sexistes qu'elles facilitent – restreignent leur capacité d'exercer leur libre arbitre et leurs droits et peuvent directement compromettre l'accès et le recours aux moyens de contraception.

En 2015, le taux de prévalence des moyens de contraception au Cabo Delgado ne dépassait pas 20 % – l'un des plus bas au Mozambique. Sans trop de surprise, cette région présente le plus haut taux de grossesse parmi les adolescentes âgées de 15 à 19 ans (24 %).

À l'heure actuelle, l'insécurité grandissante dans les districts du nord provoque la fermeture de certains centres médicaux qui assurent des services-conseils en santé sexuelle et génésique, tandis que d'autres établissements subissent des pénuries en matériel, en fournitures et en effectifs essentiels. Pour les 125?000 femmes et adolescentes chassées de leur foyer au Cabo Delgado, le danger est particulièrement redoutable. Certaines innovations importantes ont été mises en œuvre pour pouvoir le surmonter : par exemple, des équipes volantes de santé ont assuré des services d'urgence en planification familiale et en santé génésique à environ 60?000 femmes et adolescentes dans plusieurs provinces, notamment dans les régions les plus éloignées du Cabo Delgado. Mais bon nombre de femmes et d'adolescentes chassées de leur foyer sont encore laissées pour compte.

Le manque d'accès à des établissements de santé dotés de matériel médical – et, donc, de moyens de planification familiale – augmente les risques de conditions dangereuses, entraînant des complications obstétricales potentiellement mortelles. Pour sauver leur vie, les survivantes de violences sexistes ont besoin de soins, d'informations et d'assistance – comme des lieux sûrs réservés aux femmes, de l'assistance téléphonique de conseillers qualifiés, ou des centres à guichet unique

intégrant services sanitaires, sociaux, policiers et juridiques – ce qu'elles ne reçoivent pas.

Pour protéger les droits de la personne, faciliter le progrès sur l'égalité des sexes et donner les moyens aux femmes de s'émanciper et briser le cycle de pauvreté, il est évidemment essentiel d'assurer l'accès à des services de planification familiale sûrs et efficaces. C'est également le domaine le plus judicieux et le plus productif où investir dans un pays en développement.

La Banque mondiale estime qu'au Mozambique la réduction du taux de fertilité d'un seul enfant par femme en âge de procréer pourrait entraîner une hausse de 31 % de la croissance du PIB par habitantd'ici 2050. On pourrait y parvenir simplement en comblant le besoin de planification volontaire des naissances. Selon la plus récente Enquête démographique et sanitaire, les Mozambicaines mentionnent que le nombre idéal d'enfants seraient, en moyenne, inférieur d'un enfant par rapport au taux actuel de fertilité.

Mais la croissance du PIB n'est pas le seul élément à considérer. Le dernier registre des risques écologiques de l'Institute for Economics & Peace évalue le Mozambique comme étant le pays avec la deuxième plus haute exposition à cette catégorie de dangers. La démographie galopante du pays contribue à cette deuxième place au classement : sur sa trajectoire actuelle, la population du Mozambique devrait doubler, de 30 millions aujourd'hui à 60 millions en 2050.

Le Mozambique détient cependant des atouts importants. La province de Cabo Delgado à elle seule pourrait receler l'un des plus importants projets d'extraction de gaz naturel en Afrique, dont la valeur pourrait dépasser 50 milliards \$. Ceci constitue une filière de croissance des plus porteuses.

Or, pour réaliser le plein potentiel du pays – tout en assurant la protection des adolescentes et des femmes, la réduction de la pauvreté et bien d'autres objectifs louables –, il est indispensable de renforcer et de soutenir son capital humain. Il faut pour cela investir dans l'éducation, la formation et la santé, mais aussi dans l'accès sûr et fiable aux moyens de planification des naissances.

Le Fonds des Nations unies pour la population estime que les investissements totaux nécessaires pour combler les besoins en planification familiale dans le monde jusqu'en 2030 sont d'environ 68,5 milliards \$. Le montant est considérable, mais il devrait être inférieur à ce qu'il faudrait déboursier en soins de santé maternels et infantiles et en autres services sociaux pour les femmes et adolescentes qui n'ont jamais désiré leur grossesse.

Le financement de la planification familiale produit de vastes effets multiplicateurs positifs sur les collectivités et les sociétés, particulièrement en cas de crises humanitaires, encore plus en donnant les moyens aux femmes et aux adolescentes d'exercer leur droit de décider d'avoir un enfant ou non, à quel moment de leur vie et avec quel partenaire. Un tel libre arbitre, à la portée de tous et toutes, forme le fondement d'une société équitable et productive. Les habitants de Cabo Delgado et du Mozambique le méritent tout autant.

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“Circle of Secrecy”

Cont’d from page 4

legal expenses, and medical treatment of clergy. A more conservative figure of 2,600 (CBS News 2019) priests molested and abused children in America. In just 20 years, the scandal had cost the church \$1.3 billion. However, according to Jay Report (2004), commissioned by the US Bishop, says more than 4,000 US Roman Catholic faced sexual abuse allegations in the last 50 years, in cases involving more than 10,000 children - mostly boys.

“They have acted shamefully; they have done abominable things, yet they are not at all ashamed, they do not know how to blush. Hence they shall be among those who fall; in their time of punishment, they shall stumble, says the LORD.” Jeremiah 8:12.

Information published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as of May 31, 2019, indicated that 7,002 (5.9%) of the 118,184 priests who worked from 1950 through June 30, 2018, were accused of sexual abuse of minors. The American church alone has paid out an estimated \$3 billion in awards and settlements.

What is the scale or scope in Africa?

In 2018, Sheehan, Andy exposed part of the 884-page document: “All victims brushed aside, in every part of the state (US), by the church leaders who preferred to protect the abusers and their institution above all. The main thing was not to help children, but to avoid the scandal.” Priests were raping little boys and girls and the men of God who were responsible for them not only did nothing: they hid it all.”

“They have treated lightly the injury to the daughter of my people. “Peace, peace!” they say, though there is no peace.” Jeremiah 8:11.

Bishops and other leaders of the Roman Catholic Church in Pennsylvania covered up child sexual abuse by more than 300 priests over a period of 70 years, persuading victims not to report the abuse and law enforcement not to investigate it, according to a searing report issued by a grand jury.

A delegate of the Roman Catholic Church at the Stockholm congress declared that exploitation of children is the “most heinous of crimes” and a “result of profound distortion and the breakdowns of values.” “A United Nations representative said it “is an assault on children on all fronts . . . , is totally vile and is the most contemptible violation of human rights imaginable.” Yet, the Catholic Church has been severely affected by such practices among its own clergy – Awake! 1997

Child abuse can significantly deteriorate the children’s sense of dignity, identity, and self-esteem is demoralized, and their ability for trust is withdrawn. Their physical and emotional health is at risk, their rights violated, and their futures are jeopardized.

How many Catholic priests victimized children in Africa, or were they swept under the rug?

Betrayal, a book by a team of Boston Globe reporters revealed how the Boston Archdiocese of the Catholic Church re-assigned a pedophile priest to different parishes for over a decade, despite knowing he had abused children. The explosion of the scandal led to 176 priests over 28 states of the US to resign or be removed from their post. And John J. Geoghan, a formal priest was accused of molesting an estimated two hundred Boston-area children, he was later sentenced to 9 - 10 years in prison.

How many priests have been brought to justice, and found guilty in Africa?

Nearly 1,700 priests and other clergy members that the Roman Catholic Church considers credibly accused of child sexual abuse are living under the radar with little to no oversight from religious authorities or law enforcement, decades after the first wave of the church abuse scandal roiled U.S. dioceses, an Associated Press investigation reported.

Marci Hamilton, who runs the Philadelphia-based think tank CHILD USA, a nonprofit working to end child abuse, said the church clearly knew the consequences of letting former priests move on quietly after abuses were reported but did so to shield the church and

protect its image. “They cover it up, they run the statute of limitations, and then they wash their hands of them. It’s like they had a firecracker and they threw it into the public square.”

Jason Berry’s book, “Lead us not into Temptation”, posited that the Catholic church is a haven for homosexual, and in one particular archdiocese, forty percent were gay, forty percent straight, and twenty percent nonsexual. The system of law operated by the Vatican has allowed serious sex offenders to escape punishment and must be abandoned, says a prominent US lawyer.

What is the case in Africa?

So far, 29 U.S. Catholic dioceses and religious orders have filed for bankruptcy protection during the ongoing sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic church, 26 dioceses, and 3 religious orders according to BishopAccountability.org (2020), which tracks sexual abuse cases in the church.

How many Catholic churches went out of service or commission in Africa?

That is the state of Africa’s religiosity, spiritual prisoners to foreign gods. Hence these abuses were muted by Africans and African States due the false benefits from the Catholic missions. While countries all over the world challenged the children sexual abuses in their countries, Africa muted because Africa is a beggar state, thus, Africa has become an abused state of people sexual, spiritually and physically. Even though we are defined by courage and redeemed by character rather than religion, when God is an exaggerated worship of the cultural self. Africa still holds on to this foreign religion to the detriment of her children.

When will Africa stand up to the reality of these abuses?

Archbishop Abel Gabuza of Durban in South Africa vied that sexual abuse is taking place in African families is “one of the best kept secrets” and not talked about. Archbishop Abel Gabuza emphatically stated that there should be a willingness to do away with cover-ups, and let go of the silence, confront perpetrators, while serious steps taken to eradicate such an abuser from the priesthood.

In line with Sister Hermenegild Makoro, the secretary-general of the South African Catholic Bishops’ Conference (SACBC), 35 cases of clerical abuse of minors have been reported in South Africa since 2003, but only seven were being investigated by the police.

What happened in the early days, from the dawn of the intervention of the Catholic mission in Africa?

As far back as the mid-60’s, a priest in a secondary school in Ijebu Ode, Nigeria, sexually abused boys under his care as the principal of the school. There are several Catholic schools and missions in Nigeria, how many other children were victimized in those institutions by their priests?

What happened to the Catholic priests, the boys, and justice for the priests’ crimes in Nigeria?

Agreeing with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., justice delayed is justice denied. Your silence will not free you. Africa became the dumping ground for rogue priests from the West, since Africans are spiritual prisoners without voice and respect for their people, couple with the enclosure of the mind syndrome, in other words, spiritual inferiority complex, and mental deficiencies. Yet, Africa has diversities of superior religions unharnessed.

Is there any tracking done in Africa to monitor the Catholic priest’s raping little boys and girls? If not, why not?

These are the pertinent questions to be asked by Africa and the Catholic church. What provisions and implementations are in place to combat and discourage abuse by these rogue priests? What support systems and compensations are available to the abused and their families? How is the church monitoring their system of records to know if any newly posted priest is not an abuser from their previous locations? Are there any comprehensive background checks on newly posted priests to Africa? Is there an international and national system of records (database) for rouge priests?

When did Pope Francis abolished the highest level of secrecy used to protect pedophiles within the Catholic Church and changes to what the Vatican considers child pornography?. In accordance with the pope’s ruling, information on abuse cases must be protected by church leaders to ensure its security and integrity. But the high degree of confidentiality imposed by pontifical secrecy no longer applies.

In another ruling, Pope Francis raised from 14 to 18 the age that pictures of individuals can be considered child pornography for purposes of sexual gratification by whatever means or using whatever technology.

The Vatican told bishops around the world to report cases of clerical sex abuse to civil authorities even where local laws don’t require it — a step that abuse victims and their advocates have demanded over the decades in which the scandal has roiled the Roman Catholic Church. But the new instructions are not binding and were not enshrined in the church’s canon law, prompting criticism that the Vatican still gives bishops too much leeway in judging the conduct of their priests.

“An you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.” John 8:32

Christopher White of Crux publication posited that as the number of African Catholics continues to soar, one Kenyan nun warns African Catholics that they must first “clean house on abuse” when it comes to the issue of clergy sexual abuse before exhibiting greater leadership in the global Church. She argued that personal trauma begets institutional trauma, the self-woundedness, must be acknowledged so that the cycle of abuse does not continue.

Are the bishops willing to expose these abusers, particularly in Africa, in light of Africa’s religiosity, culture of silence and respect for foreign religions?

What a questionable and disturbing comment by Archbishop Abel Gabuza of Durban in South Africa, who admitted that it is not easy for a bishop to denounce one’s priest who engages in such behavior? What are the challenges of reporting the truth, when the truth is its own defense?

For the past thirty years, it has been an uphill battle both from Africans and the secrecy of the Catholic institutions (churches and schools) educating Nigeria and Africa about these atrocities. However, according to Jim Rohn, the more you tell your story, sooner or later, it will fall on the right ears.

Yet, these issues persist in the country and on the continent at large. And who would rise up for those invisible voices? The answer is blowing in the wind, to borrow the lyrics of Bob Dylan. Likewise, the answer is in the womb of time.

Thus, the goal of the “circle of secrecy” is a wakeup call for Africa on the issue of Catholic sexual abuses and the atrocities on Africa’s children by the priests who were supposed to protect them.

However, until Africa raises her voice against children’s sexual abuse, Africa will always be victimized by the Catholic Church.

In conclusion, the greatest sin (tragedy and atrocity) Africa perpetuated on the African States was the acceptance of foreign languages and religions. It has devastating effects on Africa’s psyche and caused irreparable effects on what makes Africa and her Africanness. Therefore, Africa must repent and ask for forgiveness, be-re-introduced to her Gods, and languages for redemption. If not regained soon, it will cause irreversible damage for generations to come, and Africa will eventually cease to exist as we know her today.

To know is to understand. To praise Gods, we must praise life. To honor Gods we must make of the world something good. To be Gods, we must hold goodness in each pore — The confession, Egyptian Book of the Dead.

Being decent, orderly, religious is helpful to others and pleasing to one’s God, and to worship with excellence, however, it must be undistracting excellence. People go to worship to give God glory, meet with God, and to receive blessings from God, instead of being brutalized, abused, and deceived, under the veil of the “Man of God” banner.

How long can Africa remain in denial and hold the Catholic church accountable for these atrocities?

Are human customs and practices hypothesis or scientific, and how does one find the truth of religion, rather than the true religion should be the fundamental question? And, Africa must learn to unlock the potentials of her Gods.

Twehway heads Tyler's campaign

By Ethel A. Tweh &
E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Bomi County District One Representative Edwin Melvin Snowne, who is vying for the senate, alarms here that the managing director of the National Port Authority Bill Twehway, heads the campaign team of his [Snowe's] main rival, former speaker Alex Tyler in the county.

According to Rep. Snowe, when MD Twehway was appointed by the ruling Coalition chairman Mulbah Morlu to head the CDC campaign team in Montserrado County, he rejected on grounds that such preferment could breach the code of conduct for public officials.

Under the Code, appointed officials with desire for elected position are to resign two years prior to election, and that appointed officials should not use public assets such as vehicles and other

to campaign for him.

According to him, Snowe has sensed his defeat and is bent on making wide allegations.

But speaking on Truth Breakfast show (FM 96.1) on Monday, 09 November Rep. Snowe revealed that Twehway along with General Services Agency Deputy Director William Dakel and Transport Minister Samuel Wlue were in Bomi County campaigning for Tyler and threatening the people of Bomi that they risking losing development if Tyler is not elected the next senator there.

He adds that these officials were seen in Bomi County, using the Ministry of Transport's motorbikes to carry on campaign activities.

"Twehway rejected the position in Montserrado and accepted to run a campaign for Tyler in Bomi County as though Bomi is a bush and the news from there cannot be brought to town. He even opened a radio station for Tyler campaign activities." Re. Snowe details.

support CDC candidates in the senatorial race.

Rep. Snowe wondered why a ruling party that should protect the interest of all Liberians would make such statement, terming it unacceptable and unwarranted in contemporary Liberian politics.

He says Liberians should be given the opportunity to choose candidates of their choice instead of imposing on their will.

He explains that those in the ruling establishment are his friends but the right thing should be done warning, if the governing party failed to follow the laws of the land, he would always go on the radio to remind them respectfully.

"The CDC's chairman Morlu is a good friend of mine but to make such statement like that is wrong and I think we all should discourage it. Working [for] the government as a Liberian is fundamental right of all Liberians," he reminds.



Rep. Edwin Melvin Snowne



NPA MD, Bill Twehway

logistics to campaign in an election.

But Snowe raises red flag that after Twehway had rejected said role in Montserrado, the NPA boss is allegedly in Bomi County campaigning for Tyler, telling citizens of the county if they don't vote for Tyler in special senatorial election, there would be no development in their county.

He further claims MD Twehway told the people he has a direct mandate from President George Manneh Weah to campaign for Tyler in Bomi County.

But the spokesperson for the National Port Authority Malcom Scott denies his boss involvement in Tyler's campaign. Speaking to this paper Monday in Monrovia via mobile phone Mr. Scott however, admitted MD Twehway had gone to Bomi to visit his friend, Tyler and not

He stresses the need to respect the rule of law, noting that not because people are in power so they should do anything they want to do against the law. "There will be a tomorrow. Those who were part of the CDC for a long time can still freely talk to opposition unlike the ones that just joined; if you're not for their party, they don't bother with you and don't even speak to you."

Snowe himself, a former speaker of the House of Representatives, says Liberia should be at a maturity stage where people from different political parties can join hands and work together for the betterment of the country noting, everyone cannot be for one party.

At the same time he strongly criticizes the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change and its national chairman, Mr. Mulbah Morlu for recently calling on all government employees to

Rep. Snowe served as speaker for the 52nd Legislature under the administration of ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, but was impeached for grandstanding with the Executive and subsequently succeeded by Alex Tyler, who came from the former ruling Unity Party.

Besides, he is a close friend of President George Manneh Weah and served as president of the Liberia Football Association under jailed former President Charles Ghankay Taylor when the ex-soccer icon was in the middle of his professional career.

Now an Independent candidate, he along with archrival Tyler and others are vying to unseat incumbent Senator Sando Dazoe Johnson in Bomi County. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

CPP will defend

Starts from back page

have a transparent, violent free election, the CPP will win all the 15 seats in the upcoming December 8 senatorial election across the fifteen counties."

Coming from the corporate world, Mr. Cummings vied for the presidency in 2017 thru his Alternative National Congress, but lost to Mr. George Manneh Weah like the rest of the three parties making up the CPP.

The Collaboration is a conglomeration of the Alternative National Congress, All Liberian Party, Liberty Party and the former ruling Unity Party of ex-Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakia.

"Look, let me say this; the CPP can win all of those fifteen seats in the upcoming December 8, senatorial election, but that depends if this government through the National Elections Commission will conduct the election in a free, transparent, and fair manner."

At the same time he

expresses frustration in the recent Supreme Court's dismissal of a writ of mandamus filed by the CPP saying, "We were very disappointed in the decision of the Supreme Court, because this is a court in 2017 [that] mandated the cleaning of the voters roll."

He recalls an ECOWAS team came to Liberia in 2017 and admitted that the voters roll was marred by fraud and needed to be cleaned up adding, in June of this year a joint resolution from the Legislature signed by the President makes it a law to have the VR cleaned of multiple registrants.

He points that none of those ever happened, something, he says frustrated the CPP, and became disappointed in the High Court's decision, which he describes as trivialization of its duties to uphold rule of law and the Constitution of Liberia. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

CBL announces infusion

Starts from back page

"Of the 4-billion Liberian Dollars printed in 500-Bills, only 50-percent-meaning half of the 4-billion printed has been infused in the market which represents the ratio of about 1-to-10 of new to old banknotes in circulation", the banksaid.

The CBL attributed the current Liberian Dollar liquidity problem to several factors including the effects of COVID-19 on the economy, but

said it has begun working with various stakeholders including the International Monetary Fund, the National Legislature and other players to find a lasting solution.

The Central Bank renewed its appeal to the public to focus on using other mediums of payments, like mobile money and POS to carry out daily financial transactions which will ease the burden of having direct access to liquidity.

Chief Justice suspects

Cont'd from page 7

October pay.

"We're giving three months in October, and I didn't make any firm commitment in terms of timing, but I did say that we will continue to search and overtime continue to meet them," he said.

Meanwhile, Chief Justice Korkpor notes that what is at stake is the national program of harmonization under which everyone was affected by cuts in their salaries, adding that this is what some of the judicial employees have been protesting for so that the government can put back.

"Members of the Supreme Court did not initiate the cut. Central government under the program for which a law was passed. It hurts all of us. My

money was cut, the judges' money was cut, justices' money was cut," he says.

"But to believe that the money that was cut is being deposited in the accounts of the Chief Justice and Associate Justices, as being alleged, is unfortunate," he adds.

According to Chief Justice Korkpor, he understood the workers' situation because when your money is cut, it leaves a gap and affects your ability to put bread on the table.

On the basis of this concern he says the judicial workers were entertained in a meeting and a committee was setup which led the Finance Ministry officials to explain how the package was put together.

CPP will defend herself

-Chairman Alexander Cummings



By Lewis S. Teh

The Chairman of the Collaborating Political Parties and Standard Bearer of the opposition Alternative National Congress Mr. Alexander B. Cummings has vowed that the CPP will defend herself if attacked in the upcoming December 8th special senatorial election.

"I don't want to be

provocative in anyway, but we in the CPP will defend ourselves if anyone attack us", chairman Cummings vows and underscores, "We want violent free elections, because we will exercise our franchise in a non-violent way, but it's up to the GOL [Government of Liberia] to ensure that the December 8 elections are free, fair, transparent and violent free."

He gave the caution over the

weekend while appearing on Prime FM in Monrovia where he discussed wide range of national issues relating to conduct of the December 8 special senatorial and representative by-elections and the CPP's participation, among others.

When asked whether there were internal wrangling within the CPP, Mr. Cummings said in any collaboration, there would always be disagreements, different point of views, saying, "it may surprise people to know that we in the CPP talk regularly especially, heads of political parties.

He said sometimes partisans of the Collaboration get carried away and express those frustrations, but as of now, they are focused on supporting all 15 candidates contesting on the CPP tickets, "and I'm confident that if we

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CBL announces infusion of L\$ at commercial banks

The Central Bank of Liberia has announced that it is taking measures in keeping with its statutory mandate to ensure that adequate Liberian Dollars are provided to the population through the commercial banks in the country.

The CBL is currently infusing liquidity in the Commercial Banks to address the shortage, but says it will be done gradually so as to

maintain a low inflation volatility aimed at protecting the purchasing power of ordinary citizens.

In a Statement Monday issued through the Ministry of Information Cultural Affairs and Tourism, the bank said the current restrictive operational autonomy granted it under the CBL Act constrains the bank from taking measures to effectively address the increasing demands of Liberian Dollar Liquidity.



"We had requested the printing of 75-billion Liberian Dollars in 2019, but the legislature only approved 4-billion at the time. This means with increasing demands from several factors to include economic and population effects, dollarization, mutilation and economic precautions the need now for the printing of more liquidity cannot be overemphasized" the bank asserted.

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