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Continental News

Jihadists 'behead more than 50' in Mozambique

More than 50 people have been beheaded in northern Mozambique by militant Islamists, state media report.

The militants turned a football pitch in a village into an "execution ground", where they decapitated and chopped bodies, other reports said.

Several people were also beheaded in another village,

state media reported.

The beheadings are the latest in a series of gruesome attacks that the militants have carried out in gas-rich Cabo Delgado province since 2017. Up to 2,000 people have been killed and about 430,000 have been left homeless in the conflict in the mainly-Muslim province.

The militants are linked to the Islamic State (IS) group,

giving it a foothold in southern Africa.

The group has exploited poverty and unemployment to recruit youth in their fight to establish Islamic rule in the area. Many locals complain that they have benefited little from the province's ruby and gas industries. The BBC's Jose Tembe reports from the capital, Maputo, that the latest attack was probably

the worst carried out by the militants.

Many people are shocked, and they are calling for a peaceful resolution to the conflict, he adds.

The gunmen chanted "Allahu Akbar" ("God is greatest", in English), fired shots, and set homes alight when they raided Nanjaba village on Friday night, the state-owned Mozambique News Agency quoted survivors as saying. Two people were beheaded in the village and several women abducted, the news agency added.

A separate group of militants carried out another brutal attack on Muatide village, where they beheaded more than 50 people, the news agency reported.

Villagers who tried to flee were caught, and taken to the

local football pitch where they were beheaded and chopped to pieces in an atrocity carried out from Friday night to Sunday, privately-run Pinnacle News reported. Mozambique's government has appealed for international help to curb the insurgency, saying its troops need specialised training.

In April, more than 50 people were beheaded or shot dead in an attack on a village in Cabo Delgado and earlier this month, nine people were beheaded in the same province.

Human rights groups say Mozambican security forces have also carried human rights abuses, including arbitrary arrests, torture and killings, during operations to curb the insurgency. BBC



Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes, many of which have been destroyed, during the three-year insurgency

Ivory Coast president invites rival for talks on crisis

Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara has invited his rival, former President Henri Konan Bédié, for talks following violence sparked by his controversial third-term win.

Opposition leaders boycotted last month's vote and vowed to set up a

transitional government that would organise fresh elections.

They said it was illegal for Mr Ouattara to stand for a third term as it broke rules on term limits, but supporters of the president say a constitutional change in 2016 means his first term effectively did not count.

On Monday the

constitutional court confirmed Mr Ouattara's win. He received 94.27% of votes. No appeal against the presidential election is now possible, according to Ivorian law.

President Ouattara invited Mr Bédié to a "meeting in the next few days for an open and sincere dialogue to help to restore confidence", the AFP news agency reports.

"I would like to reaffirm my availability, today like yesterday, for a sincere and constructive dialogue with the opposition, while respecting the constitutional order," he was quoted by Reuters news agency as saying. Several opposition figures including former Prime Minister Pascal Affi N'Guessan face charges of terrorism and sedition after rejecting President Ouattara's re-election.

At least 40 people have been killed in election-related clashes since August. BBC



Turnout for the election was put at almost 54%

South Africa school brawl over 'racism' condemned

Violence outside a South African school between residents and activists from the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) over alleged racism could be used to "cause racial polarisation", President Cyril Ramaphosa has warned. The EFF said its members were attacked by "right-wingers" while protesting against a whites-only graduation party. The school in Cape Town said it had nothing to do with the event.

White-minority rule ended in South Africa in 1994. In a statement, Mr Ramaphosa said that "the spectacle of parents and protestors coming to blows at the school gate is deeply unfortunate".

"What happened... brings back hurtful memories of a past we should never seek to return to."

He called on all sides to exercise restraint and resolve the tensions peacefully.

A legalised system of racial discrimination, known as apartheid, was abolished in the run up to the country's first democratic election in 1994, when all race groups voted. Racist education policies under the system became a rallying point for anti-apartheid activists.

On Monday, in response to the call by the EFF opposition party for a protest at



Parents and local residents were outside the school on Monday ahead of a planned protest

Brackenfell High, parents, residents and security guards gathered outside the school, the Cape Argus newspaper reports.

Pictures and video being shared online showed EFF members being shouted at and then fighting breaking out, which the police struggled to contain.

One man has been arrested for allegedly firing shots in the air. In a statement, the EFF, which is the second-biggest opposition party in South Africa, said the protest was peaceful and "armed right-wingers" attacked its members "in what was a display of pure white arrogance".

"It must be further noted that since 1994, there has never been a single black teacher at Brackenfell High School, which reveals how entrenched racism is at the school at an institutional level," the party added. 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 are 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 Kegame of Rwanda came from the jungle with his RPF rebels and became a darling of the West, so is President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, who has been a key ally of America since 1986. But why did Charles Taylor fail in wooing the United States? We all need to read between the lines.

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 to people around him, but from afar to understand early warning signals and be able to adjust in time in order to keep pace with Washington.

COMMENTARY

By Dani Rodrik

The Democrats' Four-Year Reprieve

He may not know it yet, but the most important question US President-elect Joe Biden faces is how Donald Trump managed to win an even larger number of votes than he did four years ago, despite his lies, corruption, and disastrous handling of the pandemic. Unless he addresses it, a rude awakening awaits the Democratic Party in 2024.

CAMBRIDGE - As Joe Biden eked out a victory in the US presidential election after a few suspenseful days, observers of American democracy were left scratching their heads. Buoyed by polls, many expected a landslide for the Democrats, with the party capturing not only the White House but also the Senate. How did Donald Trump manage to retain the support of so many Americans - receiving an even larger number of votes than four years ago - despite his blatant lies, evident corruption, and disastrous handling of the pandemic?

The importance of this question goes beyond American politics. Center-left parties everywhere are trying to revive their electoral fortunes against right-wing populists. Even though Biden is temperamentally a centrist, the Democratic party platform has moved considerably to the left - at least by American standards. A decisive Democratic victory would have been a significant boost to the moderate left's spirits: perhaps all it takes to win is to combine progressive economic policies with attachment to democratic values and basic human decency.

The debate is already on about how Democrats could have done better. Unfortunately, their narrow victory does not yield easy lessons. American politics revolves around two axes: culture and economics. On both sets of issues, we can find those who fault Democrats for going too far and those who fault them for not going far enough.

The culture wars pit the country's socially conservative, predominantly white regions against metropolitan areas where so-called "woke" attitudes have risen to predominance. On one side we have family values, opposition to abortion, and gun rights. On the other, we have LGBT rights, social justice, and opposition to "systemic racism."

Many who voted for Trump viewed Democrats' support for this year's street protests against police brutality as condoning violence and tarring the nation as a whole with the broad brush of racism. While Biden was careful to speak against violence, the Democrats became susceptible to charges of moral grandstanding and denigrating the values of the heartland. For others, continued support for Trump merely confirms how entrenched racism and bigotry are, and the Democratic Party's urgent need to fight them.

In terms of economics, many observers, including some centrist Democrats, believe the party turned off conservative voters by moving too far to the left. True to form, Republicans fanned the fears of high taxes, job-killing environmental policies, and socialized medicine. In both major US political parties, the quintessential American myth of the lone entrepreneur who does best when government does the least is still alive and well.

On the other side of the argument, progressives argue that Biden campaigned on proposals that

were hardly radical by the standards of other developed countries. He was, after all, determined to frame the election as a referendum on Trump, not as a test of support for an alternative agenda. Perhaps Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren, with their greater emphasis on jobs, economic security, and redistribution, were more in tune with the aspirations of most Americans.

Given that the election was held in the midst of an increasingly deadly pandemic, it is also possible that voting patterns were driven by a mix of health and economic considerations, only loosely related to these debates. Some Democratic Party insiders believe that voters may have been concerned about the economic costs of the lockdowns and more aggressive COVID-19 policies advocated by Democrats. If so, the above arguments are largely moot.

In sum, it is clear that the election does not resolve the perennial debate about how the Democratic Party and other center-left parties should position themselves on cultural and economic issues to maximize their electoral appeal. But neither does it fundamentally alter the challenge these parties face. Political leaders on the left need to fashion both a less elitist identity and a more credible economic policy.

As Thomas Piketty, among others, has noted, parties of the left have increasingly become the parties of educated, metropolitan elites. As their traditional working-class base has eroded, the influence of globalized professionals, the financial industry, and corporate interests has risen. The problem is not just that these elites often favor economic policies that leave middle and lower-middle classes and lagging regions behind. It is also that their cultural, social, and spatial isolation renders them incapable of understanding and empathizing with the worldviews of the less fortunate. A telling symptom is how easily the cultural elite dismiss the 70-plus million Americans who backed Trump in this election by portraying them as benighted people who vote against their own interests.

On economics, the left still lacks a good answer to the burning question of our time: Where will good jobs come from? More progressive taxation, investments in education and infrastructure, and (in the United States) universal health insurance are critical. But they are not sufficient. Good, middle-class jobs are becoming scarce, owing to secular trends in technology and globalization. And COVID-19 has deepened the polarization of labor markets. We need a more proactive government strategy directly targeting an increase in the supply of good jobs.³

Communities where good jobs disappear pay a price that goes beyond economics. Drug addiction, family breakdown, and crime rise. People become more attached to traditional values, less tolerant of outsiders, and more willing to support authoritarian strongmen. Economic insecurity triggers or aggravates cultural and racial fault lines.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

O-PED

By Manos Antoninis

Why Aren't All Girls in School?

In 1995, the historic Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action promised equal access to education for girls around the world. A quarter-century later, a new report shows that, despite considerable progress toward this goal, much remains to be done.

PARIS - At the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, participants promised to advance the rights of women and girls everywhere. Part of that promise, set out in the historic Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, was to ensure education for all girls. A recent study by UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report examines whether the promise has been kept.

A quarter-century after the conference and coming just after the International Day of the Girl Child on October 11, the good news is that 180 million more girls are enrolled in primary and secondary school than in 1995, and that more girls than ever are staying in school and graduating. There is good news in tertiary education as well: three times more women are studying at university in this generation than the last. In Morocco, for example, just 30 women were enrolled for every 100 men in the early 1990s; today there is parity.

Outcomes matter as much as access. Here, there has been significant progress. In more than 50% of middle- and high-income countries, girls perform just as well as boys in mathematics, and outperform them in 25% of these countries.

But the poorest girls are still left behind. Of the 59 million primary-school-age children around the world who were not attending school in 2018, 12 million - 75% of them girls - had never set foot in a classroom and were unlikely ever to do so. In over 20 countries, most of them in Sub-Saharan Africa, hardly any poor rural girls will graduate from upper secondary school.

For the most marginalized, schools are still unsafe environments where verbal and sexual harassment, abuse, and violence prevail. In many places, high pregnancy rates very often keep girls out of school, perpetuating the cycle of poverty. While the prevalence of early pregnancy fell by one-third among girls aged 15-19 between 1995 and 2020, early pregnancy rates remain high - especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, where one-quarter of 18-year-old girls are already mothers.

It is also essential that comprehensive sexuality education is introduced in all schools. This type of counseling not only helps students resist peer pressure to engage in or accept violence, but also leads to a reduction in early pregnancies. There has been some promising progress in the last few years, such as Sierra Leone's decision in March to overturn a ban on pregnant girls' school attendance. But two countries still enforce a ban on pregnant girls and young mothers in education: Equatorial Guinea and Tanzania.

Other barriers are less serious but hold girls back as well. Consider Rabia Nusrat, who wanted to study engineering ever since she was a child in Pakistan. Despite her parents urging her to select a less male-dominated subject, she insisted and now is the first in her family and community to complete a degree in engineering in Pakistan. But not all girls are equally persistent, and the reality is that not enough teachers and career counselors have the training to help correct the gender imbalance in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. In OECD countries, only 14% of the top-performing girls in science or mathematics are expected to work in science and engineering, compared to 26% of top-performing boys.

School textbooks also perpetuate gender norms that hold girls back. Often, the text and images portray women in traditional homebound roles and less prestigious occupations, while men are depicted as powerful leaders. Such archaic stereotypes have no place in contemporary teaching materials and should be removed.

The UNESCO report also highlights the importance of having more women in leadership positions in the teaching sector. Teaching is a feminized profession, which perpetuates gender-unequal norms regarding labor-market opportunities. Still, the glass ceiling is a reality even here. In 48 middle- and high-income countries, there is a gender gap of 20 percentage points between teachers and head teachers in lower secondary schools. Female leadership does not automatically translate into improvements for girls, but female leaders can change social and gender norms through legislation and policies, and by acting as visible role models for girls.

Next year, the world's governments will sign a new declaration on the rights of a new generation of women at the Generation Equality Forum. Education deserves a central position in this new declaration, because girls continue to be more likely to face the worst forms of exclusion - especially as COVID-19 threatens to push inequalities to extremes.

It is important to celebrate the progress that has been made so far. But we also need to remember how much remains to be done in order to achieve true gender equality in and through education.

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OPINION

By Kent Harrington

America's Alliances After Trump

Donald Trump's reckless contempt for America's allies has weakened the country and created a far more dangerous world. President-elect Joe Biden will need a deft pair of hands to repair Trump's wanton destruction.

ATLANTA - America's allies should be forgiven if they are confused about where American foreign policy is headed. Who isn't, given the go-it-alone recklessness of Donald Trump's presidency? Over the past three years, Trump has sowed strategic chaos, and his foreign policy, if one can call it that, brought new meaning to incoherence. President-elect Joe Biden will be better almost by default. But has Trump changed America so much that the world cannot count on it ever being normal again?

Not only did Trump pursue a love affair with North Korea's nuclear-armed dictator and remain smitten with Russian President Vladimir Putin - a man waging political war on the West. He also championed Brexit and badmouthed America's European allies, when he was not undermining them outright. At the annual Munich Security Conference in 2020, French President Emmanuel Macron and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier both acknowledged that Trump had fundamentally damaged the transatlantic alliance. Their message was clear: If Trump won a second term, the historic partnership that has long constituted the geopolitical "West" would never be the same. Prudent world leaders were doubtless preparing for even more instability and uncertainty had Trump been re-elected.

France and Germany, of course, have many reasons to disagree with the United States, be it on trade relations, Macron's outreach to the Kremlin, or both countries' relatively less confrontational approach to China. Macron, who last November called NATO "brain dead," has made no secret of whom he holds responsible for the alliance's decay and the broader sense of disarray among US partners and allies.

But in Paris and Berlin, as elsewhere in Europe, the reaction to Trump was not just about his bullying, trade tactics, or divisiveness. Europeans saw his administration charting a course that rejected the transatlantic security relationship and its central role in US global engagement more generally. Biden will ditch the unconstrained unilateralism. But even with a new approach, the damage Trump has done won't be repaired easily, or alter views among European leaders that the continent increasingly will need to fend for itself.

Trump's treatment of US allies in Asia has given Europeans ample warning to be prepared for more deterioration in the security relationship. Despite the North Korean nuclear threat and China's growing power, Trump tried to turn America's crucial alliances with South Korea and Japan into pay-as-you-go relationships. Fortunately, Biden understands what Trump doesn't: that US defense pacts with those two countries have underpinned East Asia's stability for 70 years and paid off handsomely for the US. Trump viewed both relationships as "bad deals," and Biden will need to persuade Americans to turn away from his transactional diplomacy.

Moreover, Trump wasn't the first US president to lean heavily on jingoistic rhetoric, and putting the MAGA genie back in the bottle may not be simple for Biden. Both South Korea and Japan can attest to the fact that "America First" was no mere slogan. With the Host Nation Support Agreements that determine the details of America's presence in each country up for renegotiation this year, Trump repeatedly threatened to withdraw US forces from both countries unless they paid more for what he called American protection. Biden will have to work hard to restore Japanese and Korean trust as he seeks to renew these agreements.

In fact, South Korea and Japan already share mutual defense costs, and have underwritten the US military presence in Northeast Asia for decades. South Korea pays more than 40% of the operating costs of US forces stationed there; it also covered 92% of the US command's \$10.7 billion move to new facilities outside of Seoul, and it purchases billions of dollars' worth of US military hardware. For its part, Japan provides \$2 billion per year to support 54,000 US troops; it purchases 90% of its military hardware from US companies, and it has furnished \$19.7 billion (77% of the total costs) for the construction of three major bases.

For nearly a year, Trump administration officials have demanded that their South Korean counterparts quadruple their country's current \$1 billion in financial support. Add to that leaks describing possible US troop withdrawals and the announcement in July that 12,000 US forces would leave Germany. Clearly, Biden's administration will need not only to devise a new negotiating strategy, but also to reboot the US security guarantee.

Even with Biden in charge, the currently testy political relationship between South Korea and the US (which walked out on the earlier base talks) means negotiations won't be easy. In Japan, formal talks began last month, and the government has until March 2021 to renew its agreement. Trump's defense officials told their Japanese counterparts to expect the same treatment as South Korea. Biden will certainly change that script as well. But Japan's new prime minister, Yoshihide Suga, likely still expects arduous negotiations, albeit without the take-it-or-leave-it attitude that raised questions about the durability of America's security guarantees.

A simple return to treating allies like allies should go a long way for Biden. Trump demonstrated no concern for his policy's political fallout in Seoul and Tokyo, or for its impact on the political fortunes of South Korean President Moon Jae-in and former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In the interest of security, both leaders tried to pander to Trump's "stable genius" over the last three years, with little to show for it but domestic political embarrassment. Biden's election undoubtedly brought sighs of relief in Seoul and Tokyo.

Sadly, Trump's malignant legacy will survive his departure. With everything from health care to climate change begging for Biden's attention, foreign policy is certain to take a backseat to domestic priorities. For US allies, patience will remain a virtue. Righting the wrongs of the Trump years will take time. As he has said at least since 1990, Trump wanted to reshape America's defense arrangements and radically alter its role in the world. Trump may be a pathological liar, but he kept his word on this issue.

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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

- ISSUANCE DATE: 11/04/2020
- CLOSING DATE/TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS: 11/25/2020 at 17:30 Monrovia time
- POSITION TITLE: Acquisition & Assistance Specialist
- 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.

- 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.

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

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

- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED: Facility and computer access
- 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 Scopes 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 documents 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 analyzes 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.

- "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.

- PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

- 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 may be 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:

Understanding 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 STANDARDS in accordance with US law throughout all phases of acquisition and assistance procurement processes.

POSITION 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 awarders. 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:

- Analytical, writing, and computer skills (15 points)
- Reference checks (15 points)
- Experience (35 points)
- Oral and interpersonal skills (15 points)
- 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:

- A clearly typed application letter which briefly summarizes why you believe you are qualified for this position.
- Resume
- 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.
- 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

School operator frowns at MOE over permit fees increase

By Emmanuel Mondaye

A Liberian educator operating several schools within New Kru Town Mr. Robert Teah has frowned on the Ministry of Education (MOE) for allegedly increasing school operational permit fees in the face of increasing difficulties in the country.

that the decision by the Ministry of Education to increase school operational permit fees allegedly without holding any prior meeting with school owners is a negative signal to the country's educational system.

Further, Mr. Teah says he expects that the Ministry of Education would have taken

in permit fees would compel some learning institutions to shut their doors to the student population of the country.

"Let me tell you here today that the current decision by the Ministry of Education will have a very sad and triggering effect on most jobless parents especially women who do not have the financial ability to contain with high cost of tuition being charged by some learning institutions," he says.

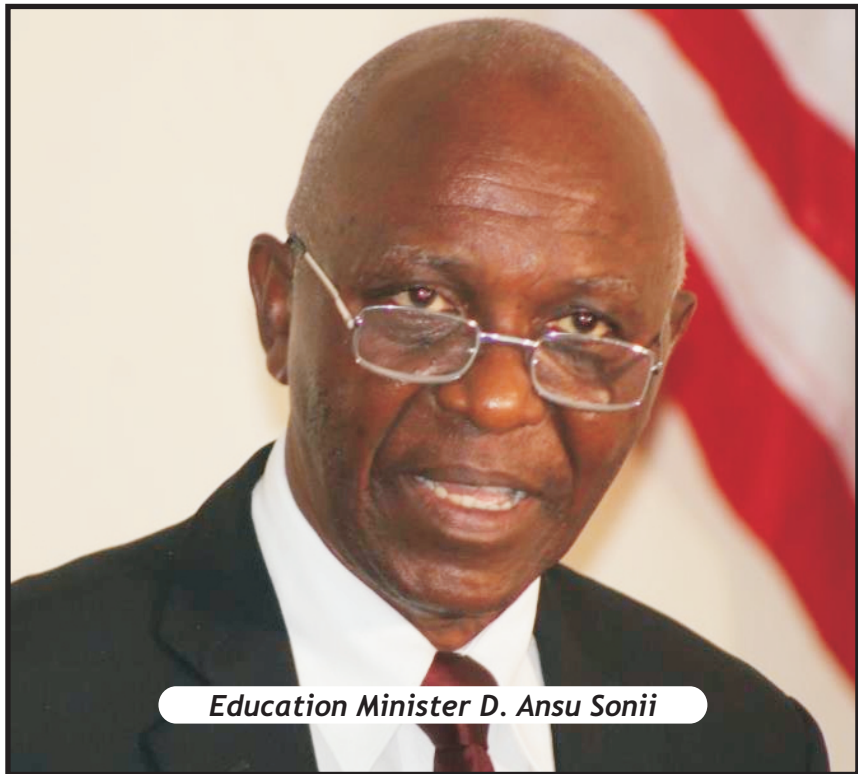
Liberia's educational law requires all schools operating here to pay an annual regulatory fees to the Ministry of Education to enable them to freely operate.

School owners are being required to pay their annual operational or permit fees based on the institution's size.

Information obtained from high-placed sources at the Ministry of Education in Sinkor indicates that some schools are paying between US\$150.00 to US\$1,000 based on the institution's size and the kind of educational services being provided.

Meanwhile, the Liberian educator wants the Ministry of Education to re-consider its decision by returning to status quo until the government can meet with owners of schools to solicit their inputs.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley



Education Minister D. Ansu Sonii

Mr. Teah, a former representative candidate in Montserrdo County District 16 on the ticket of Unity Party (UP), operates schools that are impacting hundreds of underprivileged and less fortunate Liberian children.

In a recent interaction with our reporter, he laments

into consideration how the Coronavirus crisis affected the country's educational sector, having compelled students to be out of schools throughout the period of the health crisis.

Mr. Teah suggests that the decision by the Ministry of Education is counter-productive, saying the increase

Evangelist says Liberians 'ungrateful'

By Lewis S. Teh

The Executive Director of a faith - based institution Emmanuel Love Ministry, Evangelist Donatus S. Nayensuabo says Liberians are ungrateful set of people who turn their back on God and deliberately refuse to preach the full gospel.

"Let me say the reason why this country continues to dwell on a narrow path where ritualistic killings, corruption [are] all on the rampage is because we turn our back [on] God," Evangelist Nayensuabo said Tuesday, 10 November at the program marking the 198th Anniversary of the Gospel Day.

The celebration was held under the theme: "Christ Gospel Our Inheritance," from Acts 7: 7 and is meant for every

devil to work to test their faith before he God shows himself that he needs to be worshiped at all times.

Additionally, Evangelist Nayensuabo explains that the time will come where foreigners will leave their various countries and come to Liberia to settle in search of peace.

But he cautions that for such to happen, citizens in the country must acknowledge that the gospel is Liberia's inheritance, and at such they must ensure the preaching of the gospel in ever connor.

At the same time the evangelist uses the occasion to call on Liberians to know the true essence of which this country was established,



Evangelist Donatus S. Nayensuabo

Health Ministry explains doctors' transfer

By Bridgett Milton

Liberia's chief medical officer and deputy minister of health Dr. Francis Kateh says government has no plan to withdraw doctors from the Phebe Hospital in Bong County, as being speculated in the public.

Speaking to OK fm (99.5) on Tuesday in Monrovia Dr. Kateh said the Phebe Hospital is over 95% supported by the Government of Liberia, including salary for employees unlike other religious hospital like ELWA Hospital in Paynesville.

He explains due to shortage of doctors at Rennie Hospital in Kakata, Margibi County the Ministry of Health recently transferred two of the nine doctors from Phebe hospital to Rennie to adequately serve the health needs of citizens in the

county.

According Dr. Kateh, one of three medical doctors at Rennie Hospital was recently suspended so the two doctors from Phebe are going to

augment the strength of doctors there.

Liberia has a doctor-patients ratio of 1:1000,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



citizen to preach the gospel in Africa.

According to Evangelist Nayensuabo, people only pray to God whenever they are facing challenges, something he says is responsible for the backwardness of Liberia.

According to him, the day has been set aside for citizens to come together and offer prayer to God.

"If we were celebrating the gospel, we wouldn't be talking about corruption, ritualistic killings, economic hardship and other factors that continue to pull this nation down," he says.

He observes that people are everywhere complaining about touch times, but yet they forget that God allows the

suggesting that preaching and teaching the gospel will move the country forward.

Giving the history of the Gospel Day, J.N Dunbar says the nation was established to worship, serve, glorify, and proclaim the true and living God, and the good of Jesus Christ in Christopolis, Christosethnon in Africa, and the World at large.

According to Dunbar, God established Christopolis as the center of the gospel and the Christian faith in this corrupt world that the everlasting gospel may be preached from it and in all Christosethnon, Africa and the world at large.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Pleebo marketers angry with wholesalers

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland

Marketers in Pleebo, Maryland County are angry with shopkeepers for engaging in retailing.

Speaking in an interview with this paper at the newly constructed Pleebo General

both wholesale and retailing at the same time.

One female marketer, Agnes Weah, said the act of shop owners involving in wholesale and retail poses serious threat to petty traders.

Agnes lamented that since they moved in the newly

from retailing and wholesale.

Agnes noted that it is so difficult to be in business completion with someone who has such advantage saying, "How can we be in such a business in the county? We buy wholesale to sell for little profits and those that we are buying from to sell are also joining us to sell as retailers; how can government allows such a thing to happen."

Another marketer, Theresa Wleh, a resident of Pleebo, regretted the situation, while her colleague, Annie B. Brown, disclosed that this has been a long-time problem.

Theresa narrated that during the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, they made several appeals to local government officials for intervention, but the situation still persists.

"What do you think will be done now my son, from President Ellen time we talked; nothing, do you think things can change now?" She asked.

Both women, including other marketers at the Pleebo General Market are calling on the Weah administration to prevail on shop owners to desist from retailing, as this is undermining their survival. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Market building in Zone #3 on Tuesday, November 10, marketers in separate comments said the modern market has brought relief to them in the county but the government needs to prevail on shop owners to desist from

constructed market, they have faced serious completion from shop owners, causing them to suffer drop in sales and loss of profit.

She blamed government for not doing much to control rice dealers and owners of shops

Energy Security

Cont'd from page 10

to the doubts frequently being expressed due to the latter. Painstakingly, the situation exacerbates as day follows night. Frequent protests and roadblocks in demand of power supply remain cumbersome.

Renewable Energy: A Potential Alternative

Renewable energies could play a role in future energy supply, in particular, wind power in curbing the systemic electricity problem in Liberia. Renewable Energies - wind, solar, or biomass, in particular - are an option that could contribute to reducing dependence on the 88MW, TRANSCO CLSG electrification project, and other smaller turbines in Liberia. Renewable energies can further reassure the confidence of the multinationals to direct their investments to the country without much reliance on electricity.

According to (IEA, 2015), as populations expand, living standards improve, and consumption rises, the total demand for energy is expected to increase by 21% by 2030. That means significant efforts should be directed to diversification backed by innovation. Evidence is drawn from Ethiopia as the first country in Africa to build a power plant that converts waste into energy which turns 1,400 tons of waste per day into energy.

At the same time, growing concerns over climate change are prompting governments worldwide to seek ways to supply energy while minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts. They also strongly influence how effectively the energy sector underpins growth across the economies with natural gas combined cycle or coal power plants. As many economies continue to struggle to regain momentum, policymakers are increasingly interested in the potential benefits of renewable energy deployment on economic growth and job creation. Investment in renewable energies will not only respond to the demand for electricity in Liberia, but it will also ensure energy security and development, rise in the Gross domestic product, welfare, employment, trade balance (including trade in energy products, domestic production, and trade-in equipment).

Therefore, the article recommends that Liberia looks deeply into green energy as an alternative to electricity distribution in the country. To strengthen the country's investment potentials, many efforts be exerted towards energy security as a way of widening the foreign direct investment. The 4th industrial revolution requires individuals, systems, and institutions to be innovative as a means of sustainability. Opening the renewable energy sector to private firms will boost domestic revenue; promote agribusiness and other potential sectors of the economy. State authority should be deeply committed to creating conducive atmospheres and provide tax incentives as a means of encouraging private investment in the sector. While the management of CLSG power-project substations are outsourced to the private sector which ensures efficiency and effectiveness as it is done in many developing economies. These efforts are geared to ensuring adequate energy security as a driver to the sustained economic development of Liberia.

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About the author: Amara Quardu Muhammad Kamara is currently pursuing double masters in Development Studies and Project Management at Mount Kenya University, Kenya, and the University of Kigali, Rwanda. He can be reached at amaraquardumohammed@gmail.com

4Kids International urges Liberian youths to embrace Education

The executive director for 4Kids International Tyson Smith Berry urges youth across Liberia to engage in education for a better Liberia.

He challenges youth to have passion for building themselves especially, thinking about their education.

Speaking at the official launch of the organization in the Monrovia City Hall over the weekend, Berry reminded

that this is the time for youth to retell the story by engaging in capacity-building empowering themselves.

He said the organization has undertaken several projects in schools and communities in Monrovia and its environs and written several project proposals.

4Kids International, according to him, established its branch in Liberia in 2017, reaching out to children and youths through schools, community centers and

community based organizations.

He explained the NGO uses specially-designed activities to enhance quality education, improve health and foster peace among youths and communities.

He disclosed plan to build an academic hub for school-going kids and a youth center to empower Liberian youths.

"4Kids International work in the country to achieve its goals set by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) and buttresses efforts of government", Berry added.

The program brought together government line ministries, stakeholders, Lawmakers, international partners, media practitioners, Civil Society Organizations and hundreds of youths. -**Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Français

Affaire Ja'neh, le verdict de la Cour de la CEDEAO c'est aujourd'hui

Les juges de la Cour de la CEDEAO décideront aujourd'hui sur la plainte de l'ancien juge associé Kabineh M Ja'neh qui réclame plus de 25 millions de dollars américains à l'Etat du Libéria pour dommages et intérêts et sa réintégration à son poste de juge associé de la Cour suprême.

Le Juge Janeh a été destitué de ses fonctions de juge associé de la Cour suprême du Libéria à la suite d'une procédure de destitution qu'il qualifie d'inconstitutionnelle.

Il considère que l'ensemble du procès en destitution, sa condamnation et son remplacement constituent une violation de ses droits à un procès équitable, une atteinte à sa dignité.

Ja'neha fait valoir qu'en vertu du chapitre VII, article 72 (B) de la Constitution libérienne de 1986, il s'est vu garantir l'exercice et la protection de la fonction de juge associé et exhibé une bonne conduite jusqu'à l'âge de 70 ans.

Cependant, les législateurs qui ont porté des accusations contre lui disent le contraire. Ils ont par

conséquent procédé à sa destitution de ses fonctions.

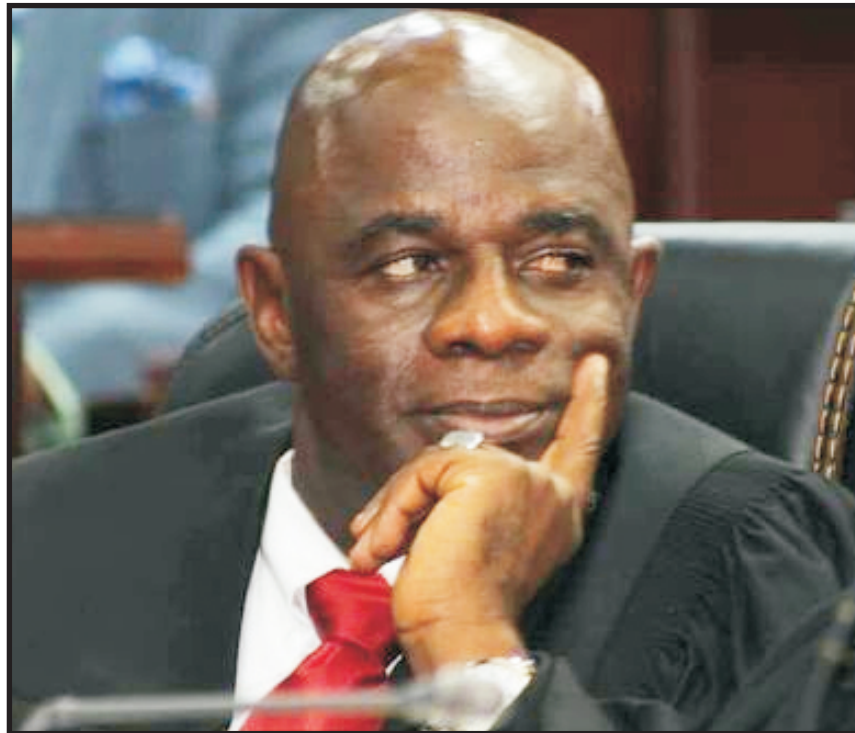
L'une des affaires qui a déclenché le procès en destitution du juge associé Ja'neh au Libéria concerne un différend foncier qui l'opposait une certaine Mme Annie Yancy Constance.

Il a été accusé par les législateurs d'abus de pouvoir, lui reprochant d'avoir utilisé son influence en tant que juge associé pour obtenir une décision en sa faveur à la Cour suprême pour prendre possession du terrain.

Mais les avocats de Ja'neh ont soutenu que l'affirmation selon laquelle leur client aurait manipulé la Cour suprême pour se prononcer en sa faveur dans l'affaire des biens remet en question la crédibilité du juge en chef Francis S. Korkpor qui a présidé la Cour suprême et a également signé le jugement.

Dans la plainte qu'il a déposée à la Cour de la CEDEAO, Ja'neh, par la voix de son conseil Me Femi Falana,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



L'ancien président malien Amadou Toumani Touré (« ATT ») est mort en Turquie, à l'âge de 72 ans

L'ex-chef de l'Etat, qui a dirigé le pays de 2002 à 2012 avant d'être renversé par un coup d'Etat militaire, est mort en Turquie, à l'âge de 72 ans.

L'ancien président malien Amadou Toumani

Touré (« ATT »), qui a dirigé le pays de 2002 à 2012 avant d'être renversé par un coup d'Etat militaire, est mort dans la nuit du lundi 9 au mardi 10 novembre en Turquie, à l'âge de 72 ans, ont rapporté un proche et un médecin. «

Amadou Toumani Touré est décédé dans la nuit de lundi à mardi en Turquie, où il était évacué pour des raisons sanitaires », a annoncé à l'Agence France-Presse (AFP) Oumar Touré, neveu du défunt.

Amadou Toumani Touré avait subi récemment « une opération du cœur à l'hôpital du Luxembourg de Bamako, qu'il a créé. Tout semblait aller bien », a indiqué sous couvert d'anonymat un médecin de l'hôpital. « On a décidé ensuite de l'évacuer sanitaire. Il a voyagé sur la Turquie très récemment par un vol régulier. Malheureusement, il est décédé dans la nuit de lundi à mardi », a-t-il ajouté.

Le nom d'Amadou Toumani Touré était associé à la transition démocratique du Mali. Militaire de carrière, « ATT » faisait partie du groupe d'officiers

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Ce qu'il faut faire pour renforcer les relations avec l'Amérique

Le président George Manneh Weah semble très passionné par le désir de renforcer les liens bilatéraux traditionnels et historiques entre son pays et le gouvernement des États-Unis, en particulier, sous l'administration du président élu Joe Biden.

En tout cas c'est l'impression que donne M. Weah quand il déclare dans un communiqué de presse publié à Monrovia que : « En tant qu'allié traditionnel du Libéria, nous sommes prêts à renforcer et à raviver nos relations bilatérales longues, historiques et uniques ».

Le Libéria, comme la plupart des gouvernements du monde entier, recherche des moyens pour renforcer ses relations bilatérales avec les États-Unis d'Amérique, la première puissance du monde. Mais l'administration Weah devrait comprendre que ce n'est pas si simple que cela, il ne suffit pas de faire des déclarations, il faut plutôt le démontrer sur la base des valeurs démocratiques.

Le respect de l'état de droit, des droits démocratiques, des droits de l'homme et des opinions critiques, y compris la liberté d'expression, la responsabilité et le pluralisme des médias, entre autres, sont les fondements sur lesquels une telle coopération se développe, en particulier avec les États-Unis.

Si l'on s'en tient aux rapports qui existent déjà entre cette administration et le gouvernement des États-Unis, en particulier sous l'administration du président sortant Donald Trump au cours des quatre dernières années, il va de soi que l'administration Weah fasse assez d'efforts pour restaurer la confiance absolue.

Premièrement, le traitement peu scrupuleux des passeports diplomatiques libériens sous le président Weah laisse à désirer, étant donné que des criminels notoires, qui ne sont même pas des Libériens et qui ont des passés douteux sur le plan international, parquent dans le monde comme des diplomates Libériens.

Cela est si flagrant que le secrétaire d'Etat américain Mike Pompeo imposés des restrictions de voyager à l'ancien directeur des passeports libériens Andrew Wonplo et sa famille immédiate en septembre « en raison de son implication dans une corruption importante ». Voilà un problème qui doit être traité dans son intégralité afin de restaurer la confiance.

Deuxièmement, des morts mystérieux au cours du dernier mois associés à des violences politiques relatives aux élections sénatoriales de décembre sont des situations désagréables qui attirent l'attention du monde entier et mettent en lumière le mauvais processus de gouvernance du pays.

Le président Weah devrait savoir que des simples mots prononcés ici et là ne changeront rien de significatif dans les relations américano-libériennes. Il faut que ces préoccupations fondamentales soient plutôt traitées de manière transparente. Des actions plus concrètes seront nécessaires dans les années à venir au cas où Washington ouvrirait ses portes et dresse un tapis rouge en faveur de ce régime comme il l'a fait pour le prédécesseur de M. Weah.

Bien sûr, On peut dire que l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf venait de la bureaucratie de Washington et elle comprend les rouages et est par-dessus une femme. Mais Paul Kagame du Rwanda est venu de la jungle avec ses rebelles du FPR et est devenu un chouchou de l'Occident.

Le président Weah devra surveiller ses pas et ses amis s'il veut attirer l'attention de l'Amérique dont il a désespérément besoin pour marquer la scène mondiale. Cela signifie qu'il devrait écouter suffisamment non seulement autour de lui, mais de loin pour comprendre les signaux d'alerte précoce et être capable de s'adapter à temps afin de suivre le rythme de Washington.

Français

Affaire Ja'neh, le verdict de la Cour

a allégué que sa destitution violait ses droits humains à un procès équitable et impartial, le droit au travail et la dignité de la personne garantis par la Charte africaine de l'homme des peuples.

Il dénonce également une violation de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, ainsi que de la Constitution libérienne par la prétendue procédure de destitution, de poursuite, de condamnation, d'expulsion et son remplacement.

Il croit avoir fait l'objet d'une procédure de destitution sans règlement de procédure prescrit, le privant ainsi de son droit fondamental à un procès équitable tel que stipulé dans la Constitution libérienne de 1986.

Selon l'ancien juge Ja'neh, lorsque le procès a débuté au Sénat libérien le 13 février 2019, il a déposé une motion de récusation demandant que le juge en chef ne préside pas le procès puisqu'il a signé le jugement de la Cour suprême pour lequel il était mis en cause. Pour lui, le fait que le juge en chef Francis Korkpor préside le procès en destitution constitue un conflit d'intérêts avec possibilité de partialité. Selon lui, le juge en chef Korkpor était impliqué dans plusieurs aspects de la procédure de destitution et qu'il devait se récuser afin de se conformer

aux principes de la justice.

Il a déclaré qu'à sa grande surprise, le juge en chef avait rejeté sa demande et avait plutôt présidé le procès.

Il demande donc à la Cour de la CEDEAO d'accorder des dommages-intérêts généraux d'un montant d'au moins 25 000 000 \$ US à titre de compensation et une ordonnance enjoignant à la République du Libéria de rétablir son poste de juge associé de la Cour suprême du Libéria.

Il a également demandé à la Cour de déclarer que l'ensemble du procès de mise en accusation, la condamnation et le remplacement à la Cour suprême constituaient des violations de ses droits à un procès équitable et une atteinte à sa dignité.

Mais la République du Libéria a nié avoir violé les droits de l'homme de Ja'neh et a soutenu que la destitution avait été faite dans le cadre d'un processus politique qui suivait également le respect de la loi conformément à l'article 43 de la Constitution du Libéria de 1986.

L'État a exhorté la Cour à déclarer la requête irrecevable parce que la Cour communautaire est incompétente pour contrôler, interpréter et appliquer la constitution nationale et le droit interne des États membres.

L'ancien président malien

ayant renversé Moussa Traoré en 1991 après la mort d'une centaine de manifestants pour la démocratie. Porté à la tête de cette junte, il avait organisé des élections l'année suivante et transmis le pouvoir à un président

civil, ce qui lui a valu le surnom de « soldat de la démocratie ». Il avait ensuite quitté l'armée avec le grade de général pour se faire élire président du Mali en 2002, avant d'être réélu en 2007.

(...)

COMMENTAIRE

Par Dani Rodrik

Quatre ans de sursis pour les Démocrates

CAMBRIDGE - Pendant que Joe Biden remportait péniblement la victoire à l'élection présidentielle américaine après plusieurs jours de suspense, les observateurs de la démocratie aux États-Unis sont restés perplexes. Confortés par les sondages, beaucoup s'attendaient à une victoire écrasante pour les Démocrates, à l'issue de laquelle le parti gagnerait non seulement la Maison-Blanche mais également le Sénat. Comment Donald Trump a-t-il pu conserver le soutien d'un si grand nombre d'Américains - obtenant même davantage de voix qu'il y a quatre ans - malgré ses mensonges flagrants, ses manœuvres évidentes de corruption, et sa gestion désastreuse de la pandémie ?

L'importance de cette question s'étend au-delà de la politique aux États-Unis. Partout à travers le monde, les partis de centre-gauche s'efforcent de raviver la flamme électorale contre les populistes de droite. Bien que Biden soit par tempérament centriste, le programme du Parti démocrate s'est considérablement déplacé vers la gauche - du moins selon les repères américains. Une victoire écrasante des Démocrates aurait conféré un élan majeur aux esprits de la gauche modérée : peut-être suffisait-il finalement d'allier mesures économiques progressistes et attachement aux valeurs démocratiques ainsi qu'à la dignité humaine.

Un débat existe d'ores et déjà sur la manière dont les Démocrates auraient pu faire mieux. Malheureusement, leur victoire étroite ne produit pas d'enseignements évidents. La politique américaine tourne autour de deux axes : culture et économie. Sur ces deux ensembles d'aspects, certains reprochent aux Démocrates d'aller trop loin, et d'autres de ne pas aller assez loin.

Des conflits culturels opposent les régions socialement conservatrices et principalement blanches du pays aux régions métropolitaines dont les attitudes « branchées » se développent jusqu'à prédominer. D'un côté, les valeurs familiales, l'opposition à l'avortement, et le droit de porter une arme. De l'autre, les droits LGBT, la justice sociale, et l'opposition au « racisme systémique ».

Beaucoup de ceux qui ont voté pour Trump ont considéré cette année le soutien des Démocrates aux manifestations contre la brutalité policière comme un cautionnement de la violence, comme un affront généralisé contre une nation qualifiée de raciste. Là où Biden a pris soin de condamner les violences, les Démocrates ont eu tendance à faire preuve de démagogie morale, et à dénigrer les valeurs de la nation. Chez d'autres électeurs, le soutien indéfectible à Trump confirme simplement combien le racisme et l'intolérance sont ancrés dans le pays, et la nécessité urgente pour le Parti démocrate de combattre cette mentalité.

Sur la question économique, de nombreux observateurs, dont certains Démocrates centristes, pensent que le parti a effrayé les électeurs conservateurs en s'orientant trop loin à gauche. Comme à leur habitude, les Républicains ont alimenté la peur d'impôts trop élevés, de politiques environnementales nuisibles à l'emploi, ainsi que d'une médecine socialisée. Au sein des deux grands partis politiques américains, le mythe américain typique de l'entrepreneur libre, de celui qui s'en sort le mieux quand l'État intervient le moins, est aujourd'hui encore bien vivant.

À l'autre extrémité de l'argument, les plus progressistes considèrent que Biden a fait campagne sur des propositions tout sauf radicales en comparaison avec d'autres pays développés. Biden a en effet cadré l'élection comme une sorte de référendum contre Trump, plutôt que comme la sollicitation d'un soutien à l'appui d'un programme alternatif. Peut-être Bernie Sanders ou Elizabeth

Warren, qui ont davantage insisté sur l'emploi, la sécurité économique et la redistribution, étaient-ils en phase avec les aspirations d'une majorité d'Américains.

L'élection ayant eu lieu au beau milieu d'une pandémie de plus en plus meurtrière, il est également possible que les tendances de vote aient été animées par un mélange de considérations sanitaires et économiques, relativement éloignées de ces débats. Certains insiders du Parti démocrate pensent que les électeurs ont peut-être redouté le coût économique des éventuels confinements et des politiques plus agressives préconisées par les Démocrates contre le COVID-19. Dans ce cas, les arguments précédemment évoqués deviennent insignifiants.

En somme, il apparaît clairement que l'élection ne résout pas l'éternel débat autour de la manière dont le Parti démocrate et les autres partis de centre-gauche devraient se positionner sur les questions culturelle et économique pour maximiser leur pouvoir d'attraction électorale. Mais elle ne transforme pas non plus fondamentalement les défis auxquels ces partis sont confrontés. Il incombe aux responsables politiques de gauche de façonner à la fois une identité moins élitiste, et une politique économique davantage crédible.

Comme l'observe notamment Thomas Piketty, les partis de gauche ont eu tendance à devenir ceux des élites métropolitaines instruites. Leur base ouvrière traditionnelle s'érodant, l'influence des intérêts professionnels, financiers et d'affaires au niveau mondial a augmenté. Le problème ne réside pas seulement en ce que ces élites privilégient souvent des politiques économiques qui laissent de côté les classes moyenne et moyenne inférieure ainsi que les régions à la traîne, mais également dans le fait que l'isolement culturel, social et géographique de ces élites les rend incapables de comprendre et de s'identifier à la vision que les moins fortunés portent sur le monde. Un symptôme révélateur de ce mal s'observe dans la facilité avec laquelle l'élite culturelle a snobé les plus de 70 millions d'Américains qui ont soutenu Trump dans cette élection, en les dépeignant comme des ignorants prêts à voter contre leurs propres intérêts.

Sur le plan économique, la gauche manque encore aujourd'hui d'une réponse convaincante à la question brûlante de notre époque : où aller chercher des emplois de qualité ? Imposition plus progressive, investissements dans l'éducation, l'infrastructure, et couverture santé universelle aux États-Unis sont autant d'objectifs essentiels, mais qui ne suffisent pas. Les emplois de qualité pour la classe moyenne se font rares, en raison des tendances séculaires de la technologie et de la mondialisation. Le COVID-19 accentue par ailleurs la polarisation sur les marchés du travail. Nous avons besoin d'une stratégie gouvernementale plus proactive, directement axée sur l'accroissement de l'offre d'emplois satisfaisants.

Les communautés au sein desquelles disparaissent les emplois de qualité payent un tribut qui s'étend au-delà de la sphère économique. Toxicomanie, éclatement des familles, et criminalité sont en hausse. Les individus deviennent plus attachés aux valeurs traditionnelles, moins tolérants avec les étrangers, et ont davantage tendance à soutenir des dirigeants autoritaires à poigne. L'insécurité économique crée ou aggrave par ailleurs un certain nombre de lignes de fracture culturelles et raciales.

Il appartient aux partis de gauche d'élaborer des solutions planifiées face à ces problèmes économiques profondément ancrés. Or, les solutions technocratiques ont leurs limites. Bien des passerelles devront être bâties pour remédier aux fissures dont les élites culturelles sont en grande partie responsables. À défaut, les Démocrates pourraient bien connaître à nouveau un réveil douloureux dans quatre ans.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Energy Security and Investment: Recipe for Economic Development in Liberia

By Amara Quardu Muhammad Kamara

Developing economies are fast moving to achieve energy security as a recipe for economic development and sustainability. They have instituted reforms on energy policy and investment in green energy aimed towards cheap, available, and sustainable energies in consonance with the Paris-Agreement on climate change and environmental protection. Unlike Liberia, energy consumption is dominated by biomass with a share of more than 80% of the used primary energy sources with woody biomass being used for domestic cooking and heating. In 2004, it was estimated that over 95% of the population depends on firewood and charcoal for cooking and heating needs and palm oil for lighting. The most recent Census (2008 data, published in 2009) shows that 70% of the urban population use charcoal for cooking and 5% of the rural population; 91% of the rural population use firewood for cooking and 21% of the urban population. In Monrovia, the percentage of households using charcoal is even higher, 85%. Around 2% of the population has access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking (World Bank, 2014).

These conditions are largely a consequence of the destruction of Liberia's hydroelectric dam and the diminished capacity of the Liberia Electricity Corporation, which provided as much as 191 MW of power before the war.

Liberia's low supply of electricity presents significant challenges to the attainment of economies of scale for firms and economic sectors. Scale economies are generally intense in the use of electricity. Firms in vegetable and agro-processing, for example, are not competitive in the absence of reliable and affordable electricity supply. This may partly explain why value-addition industries are currently stymied in Liberia and have created significant barriers to growth relative to revenue generation.

Aside from its cost implications, the electricity constraint may also be impacting economic diversification, which has been touted as a major strategy toward achieving inclusive growth. The International Finance Corporation's (IFC's) Liberia Sector Prioritization has noted that "processing will increase the value of primary exported commodity but Liberia has been unable to capture this opportunity". The reality is that both the development of agro-processing value chains and the manufacturing of local consumables for the mining sector are heavily intense in electricity. These outcomes appear to be hindered by the lack of adequate electricity infrastructure, raising the opportunity costs of gains from multi-sector integration and dampening the potential for job creation and poverty alleviation (Liberia Constraints Analysis, 2013).

This means that significant sectors of the economy are affected by the ripple effect of energy insecurity despite the upgrading of the facility at Mount Coffee capacity of 88MW hydroelectric and 36MW Diesel facility on Bushrod Island, the condition remains a worrying challenge; deeply affecting domestic productions and the service industry. It is worth noting that multinationals consider primarily the host country's infrastructure components especially the energy sector which guarantees investment portfolio. This challenge could simply be attributed to insufficient transmission and distribution infrastructure, administrative weakness in the management of the electricity supply, energy regulatory policy, and the overdependence on hydro generation without seasonal water storage. These

challenges have continued to cause uncertainty of electricity supply in Liberia thereby mounting persistent tensions- protests and roadblocks- on the streets of Monrovia and its environs in their stubborn quests for state authority to be deeply committed to the provision of stable, effective, and efficient electricity.

Energy security is to ensure that energy supplies are available, sufficient, affordable, and sustainable; conserving and raising energy efficiency; rationalizing pricing and taxation systems; improving energy sector governance; and diversifying energy supplies with continuous availability of energy in sufficient quantities, and at reasonable prices (World Bank, 2017). When fully diversified, this can potentially lead to the sustainability of energy supplies and onward economic development by creating the corridors for investment. Energy security can ensure a great impact on big firms, increase the productivity of Small and medium enterprises and as well as improve service industries in Liberia. One major sector that relies squarely on energy consumption is the hospitality industry. Though it is regarded as a catalyst for economic growth by contributing to GDP growth through taxes and has a huge capacity for employment, the sector consumes much electricity. Access to cheap, stable, and affordable electricity can statistically influence revenue generation, employment opportunities, and the expansion



of the economy. For example, Liberia's industrial zones will depend on energy security for local production.

Investment Potentials in Liberia

There is an increasing requirement for energy security as a means of creating sustainable economic corridors in Liberia. At present, the largest growth sectors of the Liberian economy include financial institutions: commercial banking, investment banking, leasing, and insurance, and mining, real estate, agribusinesses, local manufacturing industries, and tourism and hospitality; telecommunication, amongst others play cardinal roles in ensuring the macroeconomic stability of Liberia. Firms in the mining and manufacturing industries continue to incur losses due to reliance on private electric power for production and operation. This situation has significantly affected investment potentials in Liberia, where the government of Liberia for the past years has recorded minimum growth in the Gross domestic product as a result of losses in revenue generation. For example, committing energy support to multinational corporations like Arcelor Mittal, Golden veroleum, Firestone, Bea Mountain, and the service industry can deeply resuscitate the country's struggling economy by increasing the potentials of the private sector.

A strong energy system serves as the basis for growing much of the domestically driven economy and also provides a bridge for foreign investors to enter the country and provide high growth margins in direct relationship to the industries that they serve. An effort to transition to a digital economy requires adequate investment in energy and to ensure the stable provision of electricity. Energy security is essential in driving Liberia's macroeconomic framework by encouraging investment in manufacturing industries for local production and export strategy, boost the hospitality industry and tourism, and as well promote foreign direct investment; which similarly lays the foundation for industrial zones in Liberia.

Could Transco - CLSG Project Ease the Demand for Electricity Supply in Liberia?

It is no secret that the electricity demand is the top-notch priority in the Mano river regions specifically Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. Development practitioners argue that anything that is not tangibly sustainable is equally not developmental, which is the case of energy insecurity in these regions. As cardinal on ECOWAS' agenda, the development of the West African Power Pool (WAPP) Master plan commits to addressing these daunting challenges.

Transco-CLSG, an ECOWAS regional supranational company is implementing and developing the Interconnection power line for the region. This project involves the construction of a 1,357-km-long double circuit high voltage (225 kV) line to connect the national networks of the four countries. As part of the project, a high voltage power line is being built to connect the four countries and increase the efficiency of the power supply for economic growth in the region. This project would potentially break the stubborn barriers to the accessibility of electricity as a result of perceived administrative ineptitude.

The project will help establish a dynamic electric power market in the West African sub-region and secure power supply for participating countries that have a comparative advantage in importing power rather than producing it at high costs using their national systems. The project, estimated at an overall cost of UA 331.51 million, net of taxes, is being implemented and soon to be commissioned. An estimated 24 million inhabitants are expected to have reliable electric power at a competitive cost and contribute to improving the welfare of the beneficiaries and lead to the development of social and income-generating activities. The project will raise the average electricity access rate in the four countries from 28% in 2012 to 33% by 2017 (ADB Group, 2013).

This can be easily translated that over 80% of Liberia's population can potentially benefit from this multinational project, thus contributing to rural sector support programs for the locals. The Transco-CLSG project, when implemented, has the potential to contribute to Liberia's economic recovery by expanding the investment potentials of multinationals that heavily rely on energy. Also, local industries will increase production capacity which can impact the domestic economy.

However, there are mingling doubts and insinuations that the current team of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) to effectively manage the distribution of electricity from CLSG's substations to the end-users, referencing its inadequate and inefficient management of the sector. Best practice examples and conventional wisdom will somehow hold

Reinstate Ja'neh

Justices sitting at the ECOWAS court in Abuja, Nigeria have ordered the Liberian Government to reinstate former Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh or grant him the right to retire with full pension.

And not only that but also pay him USD200, 000 (two hundred thousand dollars) in reparation for the moral prejudice he suffered for the violation of his rights.

Earlier release from the court had indicated that the impeached Associate Justice of the Supreme Court had sought the Liberian Government to cough out US\$25 Million in compensation.

Handling down the judgment Tuesday November 10, Justice Edward Amoako Asante further ordered the Liberian Government to restore and pay to Cllr. Ja'neh all his withheld entitlements, including salaries, allowances

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 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

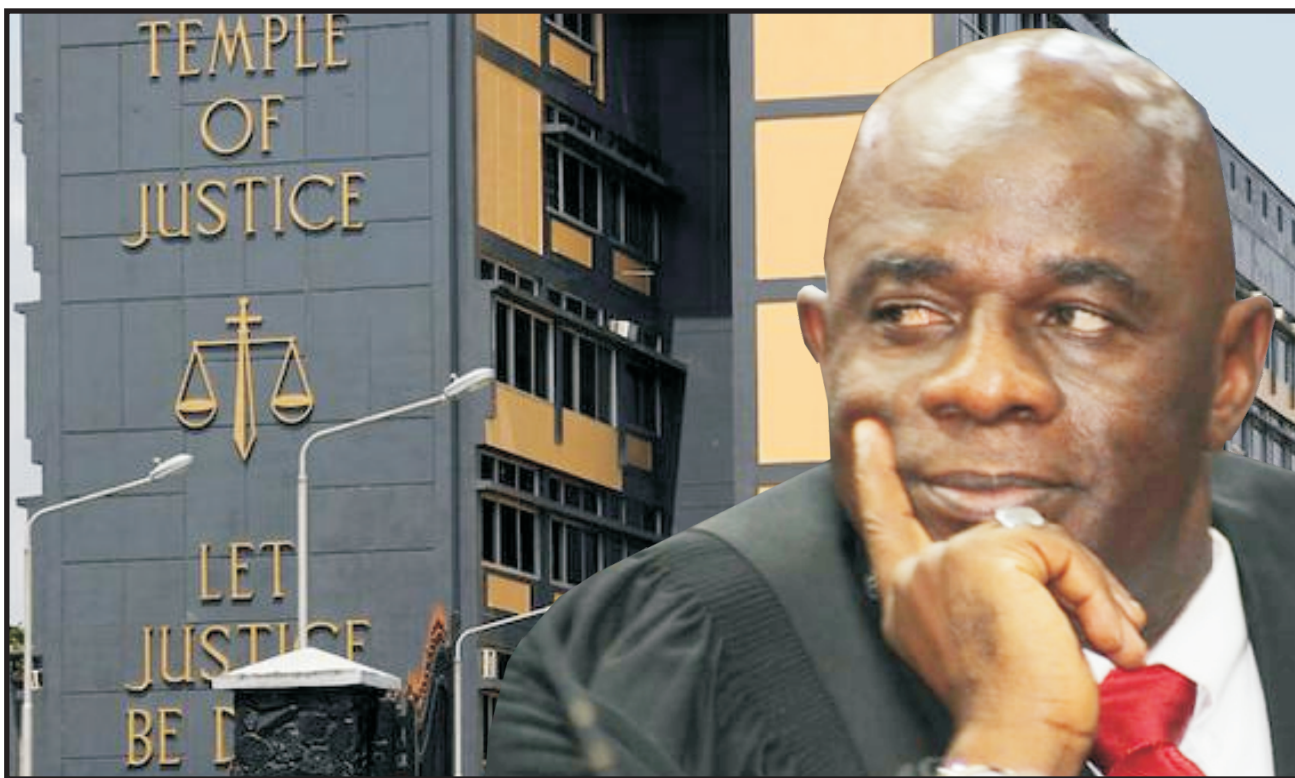
bias. His contention was that Chief Justice Korkpor was involved in several facets of the impeachment proceedings and was expected to recuse himself in order to adhere to the tenets of justice.

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

In the 73 page judgment, a panel of three judges of the Court led Justice Asante said the Court found the matter admissible and within its Jurisdiction contrary to the argument of the government, stating that it has clearly established violation of the Applicant's right to fair hearing and right to work.

His allegation of bias against Chief Justice Francis Korkpor who presided over the impeachment trial at the Liberian Senate was dismissed by the court as unsustainable.

But the Liberian



and pension benefits from the date of the his impeachment to the date of notification of the court's judgment.

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

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 Madam Annie Yancy

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 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

Government, represented by the Solicitor General, Cllr. SaymaSyreniusCephus denied violating the human rights of the former Associate Justice and claimed that the impeachment of the proceeding 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.

However, the ECOWAS court has given the Liberian Government up to six months to report on the enforcement of its judgment.

Health Ministry explains

Cont'd from page 7

according to date from the Ministry of Health, making it one of the countries in West Africa with serious health challenges.

Asked whether government is planning to recall all doctors from Phebe Hospital by December, he said such information is baseless.

"That is not true, why will we want to hamper the health needs of Bong County? The government has sole responsibility to cater to all of its citizens that fall within the country's limit so there is no way the government is thinking of moving all of the

doctors from Phebe", Dr. Kateh clarifies.

Recent reports coming out of Bong County said the Ministry of Health has recalled two doctors from the Phebe Hospital in reaction to hospital board's decision to reject transfer of Dr. Jefferson Sibley.

But Dr. Kateh said government took the action based on where urgent needs are and for now, Rennie Hospital has limited doctors, so they decided to move quickly in redeploying two doctors there to save lives. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

GOL extends licensing

Starts from back page

extenuate the risk associated with investment in the petroleum sector.

In addition to the extension of the bid round, LPRA has also announced new changes to the commercial terms as a mean of incentivizing investment in Liberia. These changes include the adjustment of requirements for signature bonus from a minimum of 8 million United States Dollars payable in one tranche to a more flexible option. Under this new adjustment, there will be no minimum requirement thereby allowing companies to submit bids describing their proposal for

signature bonus. This allows the industry to determine the signature value for each block based on submissions. In addition to designating the signature bonus as a biddable item, LPRA has announced that interested bidders will have an opportunity to negotiate a payment schedule with the Government of Liberia. Also, LPRA has modified the mandatory 2D seismic data purchase requirement for the entire Harper Basin to require interested bidders to license 2D seismic data for the particular block (s) of interest. -Press release



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GOL extends licensing round, 2020

-Incorporates New Flexible and Attractive Commercial Terms



The Government of Liberia (GOL), through the Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority (LPRRA), has announced an extension of the time frame for the Liberia License Round, 2020 affecting nine (9) blocks in the highly prospective Harper Basin.

Launched in April 2020, the license round attracted interests from diverse players

within the industries with expectation of closure by October 2020. The Government previous announcement set the deadline for Pre-qualification on October 31, 2020 with qualified candidates required to submit final bids by February 2021.

However, due to the devastating impact of the COVID-19 and the drastic slump in oil prices over the designated

period, the Government has announced an extension of the deadline for pre-qualification from October 31, 2020 to March 31, 2021 while the new deadline for submission of bids by qualified companies will now run from April 30, 2021 to May 31, 2021. Thereafter, LPRRA will issue notice of awards to companies whose bids have been accepted and evaluated as most responsive and invite same to formalize a petroleum sharing agreement.

The new adjustment is to allow interested parties the opportunity to absorb the shock of the virus and low prices while reanalyzing their investment portfolio. In a critically challenging period like this, the government believes that is the best and most responsible thing to do in order to accommodate and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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Premier League could hear new five substitutes plea

A growing number of managers are not happy they can only make three substitutions in 2020-21, after being allowed five when last season resumed.

The Premier League is the only major competition to return to three.

Some leading managers believe the current substitution limit is contributing to injury problems.

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp and Manchester City counterpart Pep Guardiola have both said the decision is partly responsible for a spate of muscular injuries across the top flight.

BBC Sport understands the matter has been put to the 20 clubs twice - and on neither occasion did the proposal get the minimum requirement of 14 clubs to support it. On the last occasion, 11 clubs were in favour.



West Ham boss David Moyes said on Friday he had changed his mind after initially backing the return to three substitutes.

However, Aston Villa manager Dean Smith believes the Premier League should stick to allowing the use of three substitutes.

Speaking to BBC Radio 5 Live after his side's 3-0 win at Arsenal on Sunday, Smith said: "I only made one change in the 88th minute. The intensity was there from our players.

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