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# Continental News

## Europeans feared dead after Burkina Faso abduction

Two Spaniards and an Irish national abducted near a nature reserve in eastern Burkina Faso are believed to have died.

Spain's foreign minister says bodies found in the area appear to be those of two Spanish journalists.

Local security sources say an Irish national was also

killed, though this has not been officially confirmed.

The Europeans were part of an anti-poaching patrol that was ambushed by gunmen near Pama Reserve on Monday. A local soldier was also abducted in the ambush, but further details were not immediately available.

No group said it had carried out the attack.

Burkina Faso is facing a deepening security crisis, like many of its neighbours, as Islamist armed groups carry out raids and kidnappings across much of the region. The patrol on Monday included soldiers, forest rangers and foreign reporters.

Two soldiers wounded in the ambush told the Associated Press news agency

the attack had been launched by jihadists who had outnumbered the 15-person patrol.

One of the soldiers was shot in the leg and the other in his arm, causing it to be amputated, AP reports.

Vehicles and weapons were seized in the attack. Spanish Foreign Minister Arancha González Laya told reporters the Spanish journalists had been filming a documentary in Burkina Faso.

She said authorities were still awaiting final confirmation of their deaths, telling a news conference: "The situation is confusing."

Local sources told media outlets that an Irish national on the patrol had also been killed.

In a statement to the BBC, Ireland's department of foreign affairs said: "The Department is aware of the

reports and is liaising closely with international partners regarding the situation on the ground." The kidnappings are the latest in the former French colony where wildlife reserves used to be popular with tourists. But many of them are in territory now targeted by jihadists.

Militant Islamist groups are believed to be holding several foreigners hostage in Burkina Faso, as well as in the neighbouring states of Mali and Niger, Reuters news agency reports.

The semi-arid region, known as the Sahel, has been hit by an insurgency since the militants captured last parts of northern Mali in 2012 and 2013.

France and other foreign troops have deployed troops to the region but have failed to end the insurgency.

The conflict has displaced nearly three million people. BBC



Burkina Faso's security forces are battling to curb an insurgency

## Italian police arrest suspected Nigerian gang

Italian police have carried out raids across the country, arresting some 30 people suspected of operating for the Nigerian Black Axe mafia syndicate.

Police say they face about 100 charges including drug and people trafficking, prostitution and internet fraud. The gang allegedly used the Bitcoin cryptocurrency to carry out clandestine financial transactions on the dark web. Black Axe emerged from

Nigeria in the 1970s, where they carried out rape, mutilation, and ritual murders.

They went on to build a powerful international network. "There is evidence that the members had a direct connection with the Nigerian gang, drawing on the same vocabulary, symbols and affiliation rituals," Italian police said. Those arrested are accused of using Bitcoins on the dark web to buy the details of cloned credit cards, which were

used for online shopping sprees.

The arrests took place in 14 provinces across the country and included the Black Axe's alleged leader in Italy - a 35-year-old man who lived in L'Aquila, in the central Abruzzo region, Reuters news agency reported.

"This proves the ability of the judiciary and police forces to fight against old and new mafia groups which are trying to extend their criminal reach and expand their business," Interior Minister Luciana Lamorgese said in a statement.

They are one of the most notorious secret societies to have emerged from Nigeria.

The Black Axe surfaced in the 1970s and were originally known as the Neo Black Movement. Its founders said the group's aim was to "liberate" the black race.

But at universities, the group no longer seems to be driven by any political ideology. Instead, Black Axe members are accused of numerous killings and sexual attacks. Other Nigerian secret societies, also referred to as



The suspects are accused of operating for the Black Axe mafia syndicate which emerged from Nigeria in the 1970s

## US presses Ethiopia to act over 'humanitarian disaster'

The US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has urged Ethiopia to address what he described as an impending humanitarian disaster in the northern region of Tigray.

In a phone call with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, he said all troops from neighbouring Eritrea should be withdrawn immediately in a verifiable manner.

He expressed concerns about ethnic tensions elsewhere in the country.

The Ethiopian government hasn't said anything about the call yet.

The State Department Spokesperson Ned Price said that during the conversation with Mr Abiy, the secretary of state had stressed his support for Ethiopia, but also expressed concerns about human rights abuses in Tigray. He said although the

Eritrean government had said that it would withdraw its troops it hadn't actually done so. "We have heard the Eritrean government's public statement that it will withdraw its forces from Tigray but that must still be implemented in practice. There is no evidence that such a withdrawal is underway and any such withdrawal must be immediate and verifiable," he said.

Mr Blinken's comments may dampen the mood inside the Ethiopian government as they happened on the same day that the government announced with great fanfare the interest of international telecom giants to enter Africa's biggest untapped market.

The secretary's comments also serve as a reminder that the conflict in Tigray began almost six months ago and that there still isn't an end in sight.

confraternities and campus cults, have names like Vikings, Eiyé (a word in the local Yoruba language for bird), and the Buccaneers. They have a chain of command similar to militia groups, use code words and have insignia bearing the favourite weapon of the cult, along with its colour.

Members are promised protection from rival gangs,

but it is mostly about power and popularity.

These secret societies are banned in Nigeria, and hundreds of members have been arrested and prosecuted over the years. Nevertheless, they continue to operate in the country, especially on university campuses, where they still attract new members. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Weah's challenge to officials

**OFFICIALS OF THE** Weah administration seem to be living deceitful lives with their people, disappointing the President each time he tours the country. Recently in Grand Cape County President Weah frowned at Senator Varney Sherman and other lawmakers of the county for not having a home or a place to host official delegation in the county they represent.

**NOW IN GRAND** Bassa County, President Weah was not just disappointed but physically upset with county officials, including superintendent and lawmakers, who were elegantly attired, for hosting him in an unkept town hall during a meeting with citizens. The President faced the unpleasant experience as he ended the third leg of his nationwide tour.

**MR. WEAH:** "LOOK at this, look at this, look at this, look around you, look at this and look at us, look at us (describing how splendidly dressed up they were as compared to the infrastructure they were sitting in and the environment). Sometimes, we should have conscience and be ashamed of ourselves. This place doesn't represent anything. You can't be representing people and bring the President and the entire government here. It is not possible."

**MOVING HIS EYES** around the hall in which the town hall meeting was being held, he lamented that the place was not fit for such gathering and that even their own dress code contradicted everything.

**OFFICIALS OUGHT TO** know that reality always contradicts pretense or false life. The fact of the matter is that the Presidents's nationwide did not come as a surprise. It had been planned for 2020, but was postponed because of COVID-19 and other official engagements.

**EVEN PRIOR TO** the start of the exercise this year, it was formally announced. So we are also surprised that county superintendents and their lawmakers would not prepared adequately to host the President and his entourage. Are Grand Bassa County Superintendent Janjay Vakpah, Senator Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence and her colleague lawmakers from the county saying they couldn't find paint in Buchanan, the provincial capital to give the town hall a facelift for President Weah's meeting with citizens? Quiet disappointing!

**LAWMAKERS SHOULD NOT** only focus on personal projects in their constituents but also the county they represent, especially, when the President is paying an official visit. He should be received and hosted in line with the esteem ascribes to the Presidency.

**LEADERS SHOULD DESIST** from dressing up and parading themselves in public shamelessly while the towns, villages, counties and people they represent remain in appalling conditions. This is not leadership but sheer hypocrisy!

**FROM RIVER GEE**, Grand Cape Mount to Grand Bassa, the story is the same: Neglect and poorly managed infrastructure that does not properly portray the places they represent as leaders. Nevertheless, members of the Liberian Legislature preside over the national budget every year and apportion the national cake, even allotting themselves bigger shares.

**IT'S TIME THEY** change their leader style by placing the people and places they represent above personal interest to demonstrate the true leadership they ought to be.

**New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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# COMMENTARY

By Stephen S. Roach

## My Worst Forecasting Mistake

**NEW HAVEN** - I have been in the economic forecasting business for close to 50 years. I got my start in the early 1970s, on the research staff at the Federal Reserve in Washington, DC, before taking my crystal ball to Wall Street for over 30 years. For more than a decade, it has been the ivory tower at Yale - still dabbling in forecasting from time to time but mainly teaching, writing, and speaking.

Over that long stretch, my forecasting record has been mixed. There were a couple of memorable calls at the Fed, where I warned of a sharp recession in the mid-1970s and intractable inflation later in the decade. But I look back with the greatest pride on my collaboration with Larry Slifman in building the Fed's first "black box" forecasting model that I believe is still largely in use today. We worked around the clock for several weeks to program linked computer-based spreadsheets (unheard of back then) as a replacement for the single-iteration monthly exercise previously done manually on a Monroe calculator. Our so-called judgmental approach was the point-counterpoint to the Fed's renowned large-scale econometric model.

My Wall Street efforts were more thematic. I continued to forecast but focused more on big-picture developments such as corporate debt and restructuring in the late 1980s, the productivity debate of the 1990s, global healing of a post-crisis world in the early 2000s, and then my sweet spot, China and its impact on the global economy. My Wall Street forecasting record was good enough to maintain job security at Morgan Stanley, although there were several close calls.

Attempting to predict interest rates was my least favorite part of the job. With good reason. I remember walking into the old Morgan Stanley investment banking meeting room and seeing a chart of my predecessor's bond market forecast sitting upside down on the floor. I was determined to avoid that fate. When my favorite bond trader started calling me "dart man," I made an executive decision to disengage and hire an interest-rate strategist. Survival of the fittest, I guess.

I should have known better when I came off the bench as a retired forecaster last summer and penned a piece with the now memorable title of "America's Coming Double Dip." I argued that the post-pandemic rebound - a record 33% annualized pop in GDP in the third quarter of 2020 following an equally sharp 31% contraction in the second period - was nothing more than an arithmetic yo-yo.

But that brilliant insight wasn't really the point. I went on to stress that the nascent recovery was likely to be aborted by a relapse, as had occurred in eight of the preceding 11 recessions since the end of World War II. A few months later, taking comfort from some economic indicators that had broken my way, I committed the most egregious forecasting sin of all: giving a date. I actually wrote that the coming double-dip was likely to occur by mid-2021.

The worst forecasting mistake of my career? It sure seems that way. Rather than the relapse

that I was looking for, there is now widespread talk of an open-ended boom. My well-trained successor team at Morgan Stanley, which has been aggressive and right with their forecast of a V-shaped snapback from the COVID-19 shock, is now calling for a nearly 10% annualized increase in US economic growth in the first half of 2021. That's not exactly the dip that I, their former team leader, was expecting. Had I still been in that chair, the cold sweats of my job-security nightmares undoubtedly would have returned.

Wall Street forecasters quickly learn the rules of culpability. Like bond and stock traders, the "mark-to-market" mindset forces intellectual accountability on economists and, sometimes, even on market strategists. That's when it pays to have a cogent analytical framework that tells you what went wrong and why.

The double-dip call was premised on three considerations: historical precedent, lingering vulnerability, and the likelihood of another shock. The history of earlier business cycles was on my side. And with employment and real output remaining well below pre-pandemic peaks - especially for face-to-face activity in the all-important services sector - there appeared to be a compelling argument for lingering vulnerability. Lastly, with a new surge of COVID infections in November, December, and early January triggering partial lockdowns in about three-fourths of all US states, the case for another shock seemed reasonable. Putting it together, I concluded that it was only a matter of time before another dip would occur.

So, what happened?

Basically, the shock turned out to be short-lived - also for three reasons: vaccines, human nature, and Bidenomics. Just as Americans signed up for shots, COVID infection rates plunged to just 26% of their early January peaks. That development, together with a sharply accelerated vaccination trajectory, pointed to sooner-than-expected herd immunity and a prompt end to the pandemic. Second, dismissing worrisome new COVID variants, impatient Americans and their compliant political leaders are breaking with recommended public health restrictions. And, third, the fiscal floodgates have been opened as never before: the \$900 billion package of late 2020, followed by the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan in March, and now a proposed \$2 trillion-plus of additional stimulus for infrastructure writ large dubbed the American Jobs Plan.

With the end of COVID in sight, all this has turned into a powerful pro-cyclical fiscal stimulus, which, together with ongoing unprecedented monetary accommodation, has made the boom a one-way bet. And those ever-fickle economic indicators that were heading down late last year have now broken to the upside with a vengeance.

In the end, the confluence of science, politics, and the indomitable human spirit left my out-of-consensus double-dip call in tatters. It wasn't my first forecasting mistake, but it is probably the most glaring. Mea culpa is an understatement. Back to the ivory tower.

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA)  
MONTERRADO COUNTY)



IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW  
MONTERRADO COUNTY SITTING IN ITS  
MARCH TERM, A.D. 2021.

**BEFORE HIS HONOUR: J. KENNEDY PEABODY...ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING**  
IN RE: ELIZABETH K. WALLOE-BIMBA  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA  
.....PLAINTIFF  
VERSUS  
ROLAND F. BIMBA  
ALSO OF THE SAME ADDRESS

DIVORCE FOR INCOMPATIBILITY OF TEMPER

**WRIT OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, TO THE SHERIFF/DEPUTY SHERIFF OF MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION THE ABOVE NAMED RESPONDENT/DEFENDANT(S) IN THE ABOVE ENTITLED CAUSE OF ACTION, TO APPEAR BEFORE THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, SITTING IN ITS MARCH TERM, A.D. 2021, SAME BEING THE 15TH DAY OF MARCH, A. D. 2021, AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 A.M.

YOU ARE FURTHER ORDERED TO SUMMONS THE RESPONDENT/DEFENDANT (S) HEREIN TO FILE HIS ANSWER TO THE PLAINTIFF(S) COMPLAINT, ON OR BEFORE THE 15TH DAY OF APRIL, A.D. 2021, THAT UPON THEIR/HIS/HER FAILURE TO APPEAR, JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE RENDERED AGAINST HIM/HER/THEM.

MEANWHILE, YOU WILL RETURN THE ORIGINAL WRIT OF SUMMONS TO MY OFFICE ON/OR BEFORE THE 15TH DAY OF APRIL, A. D. 2021, WITH THE OFFICIAL RETURNS ENDORSED ON THE BACK OF THE ORIGINAL AS TO THE MANNER OF ITS SERVICE.

COURT'S SEAL

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT  
THIS 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, A.D. 2021.

ELLEN HALL-KAMARA  
CLERK OF COURT

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA ) IN THE CIVIL LAW COURT, SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,  
MONTERRADO COUNTY) MONTERRADO COUNTY, SITTING IN ITS SEPTEMBER  
TERM, A. D. 2020.

**BEFORE HIS HONOUR: KENNEDY PEABODY .....RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE**

Elizabeth K. Walloe\_Bimba , City of Monrovia,  
County Of Monterrado, Republic of Liberia.....PLAINTIFF  
VERSUS

*Handwritten notes and signatures*  
DIVORCE FOR  
INCOMPATIBILITY OF  
TEMPER & ABANDMENT

Roland F. Bimba also of the same address.....DEFENDANT

**PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT**

AND NOW COMES, Plaintiff in the above entitled cause of Action most respectfully complains of the Defendant in manner and forms as follows to wit:

1. That Plaintiff and Defendant are citizens of the Republic of Liberia; and currently the Plaintiff is residing in the City of Monrovia, Monterrado County, Republic of Liberia; while the Defendant living in Foya City, Lofa County, Republic of Liberia
2. Plaintiff submits and says that because the marital vow between the above named couple has become difficult and irreconcilable; as such the marriage relationship has deteriorated such that cohabitation between them has become worrisome and difficult, most especially with an unabated departure of the Defendant from the plaintiff and the Children. Now that Defendant has left without prior arrangement and/or marital discussion, as couple, the only best reasoning any reasonable person may arrive at is that the Defendant has abandoned the Plaintiff, hence the complaint as the only available option to Plaintiff, having failed after all efforts made to get back her husband.
3. That as a result of the abandonment, the relationship between the parties referenced hereinabove has become difficult and unbearable, most especially when Defendant has left without effectively relating to the Plaintiff and their children.
4. That under our law, abandonment and incompatibility of temper are grounds for a party to request a court of competent jurisdiction to sanction a divorce between parties to a marital contract and/or agreement, as in the instant case where the Defendant has abandoned the Plaintiff and children and he is living elsewhere without the Plaintiff's knowledge, consent and/or prior arrangement, hence this complaint.
5. Plaintiff submits, avers and says that she has no other reason or reasons for filing in for this divorce, excepts that of abandonment, her husband leaving her without prior arrangement to live elsewhere, and that all planning and efforts made to reunite with the husband proved futile.

WHEREFORE AND IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, Plaintiff prays this Honorable Court for a Decree, dissolving the marriage contract entered into by Plaintiff and Defendant, and declaring them two separate and distinct persons both in law and equity, as if such marital contract was never entered into by the Parties. Plaintiff also prays this Honorable Court to grant unto her such other and further relief as the law directs and deems legal.

Respectfully submitted:  
The above named Plaintiff  
By and thru herself and/or her legal  
Attorney.

Counselors/Attorneys-At-Law

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, A. D. 2020.  
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REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA ) IN THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE FOR  
MONTERRADO COUNTY) AND IN MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

Elizabeth K. Walloe\_Bimba , City of Monrovia,  
County Of Monterrado, Republic of Liberia.....PLAINTIFF  
VERSUS  
Roland F. Bimba also of the same address.....DEFENDANT

DIVORCE FOR  
INCOMPATIBILITY OF  
TEMPER & ABANDMENT

**PLAINTIFF'S AFFIDAVIT**

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME, a duly qualified and commissioned Justice of the Peace for and in Monterrado County, Republic of Liberia, Madam Elizabeth K. Walloe-Bimba, Plaintiff in the above referenced case who made OATH according to law and facts that all and singularly the allegations of both law and facts that are set forth and contained in the foregoing, Plaintiff's Complaint are true and correct to the best of her knowledge and belief and as to those matters of information, she verily believes them to be true and correct.

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED TO  
BEFOREME THIS 28<sup>th</sup> DAY  
OF July, 2020.



Justice of the Peace, Mont. Co., R. L.

Elizabeth K. Walloe-Bimba /AFFIANT

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# Teaching is not a job, but a calling

## -Liberia's Education Minister Sonii

By Valery Guhena

Liberia's Minister of Education, Professor D. Ansu Sonii, describes the teaching profession as a calling, rather than a job, stressing that teaching goes beyond simply doing a job.

"The short coming of teaching here [is that] somehow people believe that teaching is a job. I have categorized teaching to be a calling. Teaching goes beyond doing a job. It is because of teaching the entire civilization has transitioned from yesterday to today..." Minister Sonii says.

The Minister spoke at the launch of the newly refurbished French institute, Alliance Française Center on 94 UN Drive, Mamba Point in Monrovia, Thursday, April 22, 2021.

He recalls experience from the Liberian Civil War when Liberians sought refuge in neighboring countries, especially French-

formal training.

He wonders now that the crises are over, how Liberia would survive in the midst of nations "who understand what we say but we don't understand what they say?"

Minister Sonii says this why he is optimistic about the reopening of the Alliance Française institute to help train French teachers for Liberia, pointing that President George Weah "speaks well the French language and understands what he (Weah) says, because some people speak but they do not understand what they say."

Earlier, the newly accredited French Ambassador in Monrovia, Michael Roux, said activities of the Alliance Française Center will provide new opportunities for Liberian youth to study, travel, do business and work abroad in French-speaking countries.

Amb. Michael Roux says the Alliance Française will help provide intensive



Minister Ansu Sonii (Center) flanked by French diplomats

speaking countries, including Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal, but they faced language barrier.

Stressing the importance of the French language, Minister Sonii notes that many Liberians during the civil war suffered language barrier "Because places they could have crossed easily, they couldn't. Especially, when you meet someone across the border, who does not understand your language; how do you communicate? That person across the border is not in need; it is you who are travelling in need. How do you express that need? There was a barrier."

He underscores the need for Liberians to take the French language serious, but regrets lack of professionally trained French teachers in Liberia, noting that majority of the French teachers in schools are those who were compelled to speak French during the crises and are now teaching without a

French training courses for Liberian students who are interested in studying in French-speaking countries before they leave Liberia, adding that the Government of France through the Agence Francaise de Development (AFD) has sent forty (40) Liberian students to the Houphouet Boigny Polytechnic Institute in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, on scholarship for studies in various fields, but those students were forced to do intensive French courses for six to 12 months before starting their actual studies.

He reveals that negotiations are currently ongoing to offer French training courses for the Armed Forces of Liberia, as Liberian troops are now involved in peacekeeping missions around the world, including the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and others are assigned at the various borders with Guinea and la Cote d'Ivoire, two neighboring French-speaking countries.  
Editing by Jonathan Browne

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To provide consultancy to develop and validate 15-year resource mobilization strategy for the sustainability of the Environmental Knowledge Management System (EKMS)

Terms of Reference  
REFERENCE NO: EOJ/CCCD/EPA-2021-003

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

<b>Job Title</b>	National Consultant		
<b>Division/Department</b>	Environmental Protection Agency/EPA		
<b>Programme/Project Number</b>	GEF ID number: 9390 (Cross -Cutting Capacity Development Project/CCCD)		
<b>Activity Result</b>	Resource mobilization strategy		
<b>Assignment</b>	Develop and validate 15-year Resource Mobilization Strategy for the sustainability of the Environmental Knowledge Management System (EKMS)		
<b>Location</b>	Monrovia, Liberia		
<b>Report to</b>	National Project Director Executive Director, EPA	<b>Consultancy Duration:</b>	2 Months

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

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

The EPA and the UNDP through the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Project intend to recruit the service of a National Consultant, to develop and validate 15-year Resource Mobilization Strategy for the sustainability of the EKMS. This project is in line with the GEF-6/CCCD Strategy objective 1, 3, and 5 which call for countries to: a) integrate global environmental needs into management information systems and monitoring; b) integrate MEA provisions into national policy, legislative, and regulatory frameworks; and c) update NCSAs, respectively. The goal of this project is for Liberia to make better decisions to meet and sustain global environmental obligations. This requires the country to have the capacity to coordinate efforts, as well as best practices for integrating global environmental priorities into planning, decision-making, and reporting processes. To this end, the objective of this project is to strengthen a targeted set of national capacities to deliver and sustain global environmental outcomes within the framework of sustainable development priorities. The project will be carried out via four linked components. Component 1: calls for the establishment of an integrated Environmental Knowledge Management System to meet global environment and sustainable development priorities. Component 2: focuses on enhanced institutional and technical capacities to mainstream, develop, and utilize policies for implementation of the three Rio Conventions; Component 3: works to improve environmental attitudes and values for the global environment; and Component 4: is the updating of the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA). The project will take an adaptive collaborative management (ACM) approach to implementation, which calls for stakeholders to take an early and proactive role in the mainstreaming exercises, as well as to help identify and solve unexpected implementation barriers and challenges. By taking an ACM approach, project activities and outputs can be more legitimately modified and adapted to maintain timely and cost-effective project performance and delivery. As a National Implementation Modality (NIM) project, its management team will be seated at the EPA.

**Activity Summary**  
This first component of the project focuses on the establishment of an environmental knowledge management system by integrating and reconciling relevant existing systems. A key feature of this system is that it seeks to use the latest tools and innovations, including technological, to access and create new knowledge that would allow for better decisions to be made to protect the global environment. Not only will this component seek to develop this institutional mechanism, its objective will also provide for a comprehensive assessment of training needs to manage data and information is undertaken to ensure a good design of a long-term training Programme and curriculum. Particular attention will be given to training on the use of the EKMS and environmental data, information, and knowledge for integrating as a result of lessons learned through its early implementation (i.e., trainings) and is intended to be applied for post-project trainings.

**Terms of Reference for a Consultancy Service for**  
Develop and validate 15-year resource mobilization strategy for the sustainability of the EKMS  
This TOR defines the scope and requirements of an individual consultancy service to develop a new resource mobilization strategy for the sustainability of the EKMS

**2. Objectives**  
The main objective of this national consultancy is to develop and validate 15-year resource mobilization strategy for the sustainability of the EKMS.

**3. Scope of work**  
The scope of the consultancy service shall include reviewing existing documents of resource mobilization, developing an operationalization mechanism and providing technical support/guidance for resource mobilization. It will also involve preparation of a catalogue of donors (appropriate to the EKMS objectives).

- 4. Tasks to be performed**  
Specific tasks of the consultancy will include:
- Read documents and consult with CCCD Project team to better understand the vision, mission and focus of the Environmental Knowledge Management System and any past resource mobilization efforts (including the existing strategy), best practices, lessons learned and challenges encountered.
  - Conduct a detailed analysis of potential global and local donors to map the feasibility of securing thematic funding. Map donors' strategic areas of interest, funds available, and grantees, funding windows, requirements and guidelines and interest in funding key areas. Along these lines, also explore opportunities for partnerships (and mobilizing & leveraging resources) from other partners like private sector
  - Recommend how to develop and maintain strategic partnerships and engagement with key donors, (past, present and future), including preparation of a specific strategy for involvement of the private sectors.
  - On the basis of the analysis from above, develop a 15 year resource mobilization strategy with priority funding targets, and responsibilities over the next 15 years.

- Provide coaching in the development/initial implementation of resource mobilization strategies. This includes preparation of concept notes to approach donors.
- Facilitate resource mobilization strategy validation stakeholder meeting

**5. Duration of the task**  
The duration for this short term consultancy work will be for 40 working days commencing from the date of signature of the contract and the tasks will be completed by the 30 June 2021.

**6. Supervision, Reporting and Deliverables**  
The consultant will be directly supervised by and will be reporting to the National Project Director through the CCCD Project team/Program Manager. The consultant is expected to provide regular updates of progress to the bi-weekly management meetings.

The following deliverables are expected from the consultant:

- A work plan showing the assignment's important processes, activities and milestones
- A comprehensive resource mobilization strategy that includes an overview of the situation, an analysis of past fundraising experience, explores future opportunities and strategies, details workflow processes and outlines a time-bound action plan

- An annex that maps donor interests, priorities, funding windows and points to clear actions that should be taken to mobilize funds and develop/maintain relationships with these donors

- An annex that outlines a series of fundraising materials that need to be produced to secure funding/raise for the system sustainability
- An action plan that outlines clear time lines for the action proposed
- A plan for building the capacity of key staff in mobilizing and leveraging resources and developing and maintaining partnerships

**7. Qualifications and experiences required**  
Developing a resource mobilization strategy requires a high level technical/professional expertise and proven experience. The individual Consultant interested in this work is required to have at least the following qualifications:

- Education: Holder of at least a Bachelor's Degree in the social or natural sciences, economics, development studies or related field.
- Experience: At least five years' experience in the development sector, preferably in fundraising, resource mobilization and partnership building. Sound understanding and application of development management or strategic planning concepts, methodologies and tools
- Language: Fluency in spoken and written English is essential.
- Excellent interpersonal, communication, presentation and writing skills required.

**8. Remuneration and schedule of payment**  
Proposals must be expressed in lump sum amount which must be all-inclusive. All costs that could possibly be incurred by the consultant, must be factored into the final amounts submitted in the proposal.

- Payment shall be made according to the following deliverables:
- Twenty per cent (20%) after the submission and the acceptance of the inception report;
  - Forty per cent (40%) after the submission and the acceptance of the draft report.
  - Forty per cent (40%) after the submission and the acceptance of the final report.

**PAYMENT MODALITIES Fees and payments**  
Interested consultants should provide their requested fee rates when they submit their expressions of interest, in USD. The EPA will then negotiate and finalize contracts. Fee payments will be made upon acceptance and approval by the EPA of planned deliverables, based on the following payment schedule:

Upon submission of inception report	20%
Upon submission of draft Methodology Report	40%
Upon submission of final Methodology Report	40%

**9. Applications**  
Interested individual consultants satisfying the required qualification and skills are invited to submit their application in soft and hard copies (Technical and Financial proposal, and CV) with a cover letter to the contact below:

Note: The proposal should provide the following information:

- Technical proposal: Outline and methodology for undertaking the development of Resource Mobilization Strategy as well as the detailed work plan showing the assignment's important activities and milestones
- Financial proposal: including a detailed quotation for the development of Resource Mobilization Strategy showing all necessary costs.
- Contact details of three past performance references
- Updated CV of consultant, including relevant work experience and qualifications

All applications package must be attention to the below address in both soft and hard copy:  
Rebecca E. Doo  
Assistant Manager, Procurement  
Environment Protection Agency (EPA)  
4th Street, Sinkor  
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia  
P.O. Box 4024  
Or through email (rdoo@epa.gov.lr). Closing date for submission of application is 4PM, May 6, 2021. Any submission coming/received after this deadline will not be given consideration. Only submissions that meet the requirement/criteria as contained in TOR will be considered for evaluation.  
NOTE: This information is also posted on the below websites: www.emansio.gov.lr, www.ekmsliberia.info, www.epa.gov.lr, and or local dailies.



# REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

P.O. Box 4024  
4th Street Sinkor, Tubman Boulevard,  
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia  
CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



To provide consultancy to design and print environmental awareness posters, brochures and fact sheet.

Terms of Reference  
REFERENCE NO: EOJ/CCCD/EPA-2021-004

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

<b>Job Title</b>	National Consultant		
<b>Division/Department</b>	Environmental Protection Agency/EPA		
<b>Programme/Project Number</b>	GEF ID number: 9390 (Cross -Cutting Capacity Development Project/CCCD)		
<b>Activity Result</b>	Brochures and articles on the Rio Conventions		
<b>Assignment</b>	Consultancy to design and print environmental awareness posters, brochures and fact sheet.		
<b>Location</b>	Monrovia, Liberia		
<b>Report to</b>	National Project Director Executive Director, EPA	<b>Consultancy Duration:</b>	21 days

**1.0 BACKGROUND**  
Liberia has undertaken numerous initiatives to address environmental issues. Despite the achievements Liberia made, Liberia continues to face important challenges to meeting environmental goals. As a Rio Convention mainstreaming project, the proposed strategy sets out to meet barriers identified in Liberia's 2006 National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA), was undertaken through a consultative process and participatory approach that involved numerous stakeholders from various sectors. Through the inclusive and consultative process of the NCSA, stakeholders identified a number of areas that explain the difficulty in fulfilling the obligations of the Rio Conventions. Specific among the barriers identified was inadequate public awareness and education/training. This barrier cut across the three Rio Conventions.

Awareness raising of the global environmental value is critical to addressing the institutional sustainability of project outputs by raising an overall understanding and greater value of how addressing global environmental obligations under the Rio Convention contribute to addressing important and immediate socio-economic development priorities. This activity is critical element of the project's strategy to ensure long-term sustainability of the capacities developed under the project. As outlined above, there is inadequate understanding of the importance that global environmental values contribution to sustainable development, and even fewer that are responsible for strategic planning, decision-making, and policy formulation.

**PURPOSE:**  
EPA calls for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from national firms, who have the capacity to produce/print as detailed in the scope of work. Firms and institutions, associations and/or consortiums may express interest in all lots, individual lots or parts thereof. Firms having residence and experience within Liberia are highly encouraged to participate.

**2.0 SCOPE OF WORK**  
Seeking for the services of quality printers that can design and print environmental awareness posters, brochures and fact sheets. The environmental awareness materials will comprise of a variety of material to be designed and then printed in large quantities. Specific tasks for the designer/contractor:

- After receiving the final text for the publication, the designer will:
1. Design and print posters (single sided print)
  2. Design and print standard size brochures (double sided print)
  3. Design and print fact sheet (single sided)
- While performing the different print functions the printer shall also be responsible for:
- a. Design and layout of printed materials
  - b. Revise the selected layout as directed by EPA;
  - c. Submit printing layouts for approval by EPA;
  - d. Ensure all corrections have been inserted;
  - e. Submit the print work to EPA for proofreading;
  - f. Submit electronic files to obtain a final sign off from EPA before printing proofs.

**3.0 Deliverables in 21 Days**

1. Printed 2500 copies of environmental awareness Posters
2. 8000 copies of environmental brochures
3. 10,000 copies of fact sheets

**4.0 Payment Plan**  
1. Payments to the consultant/service Provider shall be made upon the acceptance of the deliverables to the client as mentioned in the Request for Expression of Interest.

Interested consultants should provide their requested fee rates when they submit their expressions of interest, in USD. The EPA will then negotiate and finalize contracts. Fee payments will be made upon acceptance and approval by the EPA of planned deliverables,

**5.0 Qualifications**  
1. Contractor must be a printing firm with prior experience of similar task, and have the latest graphic design software and a modern printing facility;

2. Contractor must be experienced in commercial print management;
3. Contractor must have experience in designing multiple language versions;
4. Contractor must guarantee the highest quality finished printed product as per specifications;
5. Contractor must guarantee timely delivery of printed materials.

**6.0 INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE RESPONSE**  
The provision of the pre-qualification information should include all relevant documents that are essentially required for meeting the pre-qualification criteria as well as enable the project management to undertake the evaluation. Interested companies/Printing Press must provide the information and evidence that they are qualified to perform the printing services required during the course of the proposed project.

All companies/firms that wish to participate must submit his/her updated business registration certificate, tax clearance, technical and financial proposals.

1. Company Profile - presentation of your company or firm including number of staff, years in business, system for quality assurance and any experience with any UN organization and/or international organizations or local organization; (please include brochures and literatures as may be appropriate)
2. Samples of printed material in soft and/or hard form
3. Evidence of previous 3 years of experience
4. Legal registration of the company

All applications package must be attention to the below address in both soft and hard copy

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

Or through email (rdoo@epa.gov.lr). Closing date for submission of application is 4PM, May 6, 2021. Any submission coming/received after this deadline will not be given consideration. Only complete submission that meet the requirement/criteria as contained in TOR will be considered for evaluation.

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



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
**ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY**  
 P.O. Box 4024  
 4<sup>th</sup> Street Sinkor, Tubman Boulevard,  
 1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia



**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

To provide consultancy to develop an awareness module for institutions on Rio Conventions mainstreaming, monitoring and evaluation

**Terms of Reference**

**REFERENCE NO: TOR/CCCD/EPA-2021-005**

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

<b>Job Title</b>	National Consultant
<b>Division/Department</b>	Environmental Protection Agency/EPA
<b>Programme/Project Number</b>	GLF ID number: 9390 (Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Project/CCCD)
<b>Activity Result</b>	Improved environmental educational curricula and youth civic engagement
<b>Assignment</b>	Consultancy to develop an awareness module for institutions on Rio Conventions mainstreaming, monitoring and evaluation
<b>Location</b>	Monrovia, Liberia
<b>Reports to</b>	National Project Director Executive Director, EPA
<b>Consultancy Duration:</b>	8 Weeks

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

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

**Activity Summary**  
 The activities under this output will strengthen a set of key systemic capacities that will ensure the resilience of institutions mandated to meet environmental objectives by increasing a large number of environmentally-friendly adherents through the mainstreaming of Rio Conventions.

- 2.0 Assignment**
- The national consultant's duties and responsibilities shall be to:
- Review the existing environmental awareness module for mainstreaming Rio Conventions
  - Review any existing monitoring and evaluation mechanism for mainstreaming the Rio Conventions
  - Conduct interview with relevant stakeholders to identify specific training needs for mainstreaming the Rio Conventions, monitoring and evaluation
  - Develop an awareness module for institutions on Rio Conventions mainstreaming.
  - Monitoring and evaluation procedures
  - Develop a training manual and handbook for master trainers

- Deliverables:**
- The key deliverables are described below.
- Inception Report
  - Draft Awareness Module along with training manual and handbook
  - Final Approved copy of the awareness module manual and handbook

One week after contract signing, the national consultant will produce an **inception report** clarifying the objectives, methodology and timing of the preparation of the awareness module for institutions on Rio Conventions mainstreaming, monitoring and evaluation. The inception report will be discussed and agreed with the implementing agency before the national consultant proceed with the preparation of the task as in the TOR.

The **draft awareness module** will be shared by the national consultant to the EPA through the CCCD Project Office, who will circulate the draft to stakeholders. The EPA will share the report with stakeholders for their comments and inputs. Feedback received from these stakeholders should be considered when preparing the final report

The module will focus on raising awareness and the knowledge and skills that institutions require to mainstream, monitor and evaluate. It will include content on the following five areas:

Participant handbook for training. This handbook will act as a resource for the institutions throughout their participation in the mainstreaming of the Rio Conventions and beyond. It will enable them to continue to develop their skills and to train others

The awareness module must be highly interactive and participatory, using real life situations relevant to the Liberian context.

- Functional Competencies:**
- Excellent and effective research skills, communication (verbal and written) skills, including ability to prepare reports and conduct presentations by clearly formulating positions on issues, articulating options concisely conveying maximum necessary information, making and defending recommendations; ability to convey difficult issues and positions to the public.
  - Good understanding and knowledge of environmental impact and strategic environmental assessments
  - Have a considerable knowledge of the value of Rio Conventions to sustainable development and considerable knowledge of Liberia's environmental governance infrastructure.
  - Good computer skills.

- 8. Remuneration and schedule of payment**
- Proposals must be expressed in lump Sum Amount which must be all-inclusive. All costs that could possibly be incurred by the consultant, must be factored into the final amounts submitted in the proposal.
- Payment shall be made according to the following deliverables:
- Twenty per cent (20%) after the submission and the acceptance of the Inception report;
  - Forty per cent (40%) after the submission and the acceptance of the draft report.
  - Forty per cent (40%) after the submission and the acceptance of the final report.

**PAYMENT MODALITIES Fees and payments**

Interested consultants should provide their requested fee rates when they submit their expressions of interest, in USD. The EPA will then negotiate and finalize contracts. Fee payments will be made upon acceptance and approval by the EPA of planned deliverables, based on the following payment schedule:

Upon submission of inception report	20%
Upon submission of draft Methodology Report	40%
Upon submission of final Methodology Report	40%

**9. Applications**  
 Interested individual consultants satisfying the required qualification and skills are invited to submit their application in soft and hard copies (Technical and Financial proposal, and CV) with a cover letter to the contact below:

**QUALIFICATION**  
 Candidate must have at least (five) years of progressive work experience in awareness raising and awareness module development. Must have understanding and knowledge of environmental impact, mitigation and adaptation. History of performing similar task. The candidate must have a minimum MSc Degree in education, Environmental studies or related field. Must be a Liberian.

**Other Requirements**  
 Candidates is to submit his/her application or letter of intent with a detailed CV, supporting educational credentials, technical and financial proposal.

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

All applications package must be attention to the below address in both soft and hard copy:

**Rebecca E. Doo**  
 Assistant Manager, Procurement  
 Environment Protection Agency (EPA)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Sinkor  
 1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia  
 P.O. Box 4024

Or through email ([rdoo@epa.gov.lr](mailto:rdoo@epa.gov.lr)), Closing date for submission of application is 4PM, May 6, 2021. Any submission coming/received after this deadline will not be given consideration. Only submissions that meet the requirement/criteria as contained in TOR will be considered for evaluation.

NOTE: This information is also posted on the below websites: [www.emansion.gov.lr](http://www.emansion.gov.lr), [www.ekmsliberia.info](http://www.ekmsliberia.info), [www.epa.gov.lr](http://www.epa.gov.lr), and or local dailies.



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 4<sup>th</sup> Street Sinkor, Tubman Boulevard,  
 1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia



**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

To provide consultancy services to review the Environmental Knowledge Management System, its set up, functionality and its user friendliness and procure additional subscriptions and software

**REFERENCE NO: EO/CCCD/EPA-2021-006**

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

**1.0 Background**

Liberia has undertaken numerous initiatives to address environmental issues. Despite those initiatives, Liberia continues to face important challenges to meeting environmental goals. Liberia is struggling to fulfill many of the objectives set forth in the Rio Conventions. Many of the developed frameworks and plans for action face limited implementation due to limited government resources, limited human capacity, and a lack of appropriate technologies. Liberia struggles with an inadequate system for information and knowledge management and the poor information sharing between or within sectors. Additionally, the country's degraded and limited infrastructure combined with a low technical and institutional capacity severely limit Liberia's environmental governance framework and thus its potential to conserve the natural environment, let alone secure long-term benefits from it.

Leading to the formulation of the Rio Convention mainstreaming project, a National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) was undertaken through a consultative process and participatory approach that involved numerous stakeholders from various sectors in 2006 to establish empirical cause(s) leading to Liberia struggle to fulfill many of the objectives set forth in the Rio Conventions especially information sharing and coordination. The NCSA identified the following barriers that cut across the three Rio Conventions as reasons for the struggle: Inadequate public awareness and education/training, inadequate access to information, Lack of institutional capacities, and Lack of effective mechanism for information processing and sharing.

Between 2010 and 2012, UNEP implemented a global project, entitled Piloting Integrated Processes and Approaches to Facilitate National Reporting to Rio Conventions that included Liberia as a beneficiary country. This project focused on helping Liberia (among other countries) to better organize modalities for accessing and preparing their national reports. Notwithstanding the capacities developed, a number of important capacities remained to be developed, such as the standardization of data collection and information analysis, improved coordination and collaboration to facilitate streamlined national reporting, and increased awareness and stakeholder engagement in the national reporting process.

In 2019, the CCCD project established an integrated knowledge management system that focuses on collecting, storing and sharing information and data between the institutions for better environmental management and the fulfillment of the obligations of the Rio Conventions. To use the new technological innovation for environmental data collection, storing and sharing, the CCCD Project has conducted two learning by-doing trainings in 2019 and 2020 respectively of fifteen (15) line ministries and agencies' information technologists. Additional software (plugins) is being procured to be installed for the enhancement of the functionality of the EKMS. To further strengthen the capacities of the Environmental Knowledge Management Officers and Knowledge Brokers at the line ministries and agencies and NGOs on the use of the EKMS a rehearsal learning by-doing training is imperative.

The Environment Knowledge Management System platforms is a multi-year cross sectoral engagements that supports coordination and collaboration among Government staff, research centers, think tanks, practitioners, and private firms in tackling global environmental challenges.

**2.0 Contract and Reporting Requirements**

The EPA in collaboration with the UNDP is seeking the services of a national consultant to review the Environmental Knowledge Management System, its set up, functionality and its user friendliness and procure additional subscriptions and software. The Consultant will be hired for Eighteen Days (18 Days). He/she will report to National Project Director through the Project Manager of the CCCD Project. The Consultant shall submit the reports summarized below, for the respective period(s). All documents/reports should be issued in English, submitted in both hard and electronic copies.

- Weekly Progress Reports: The Consultant shall prepare weekly concise reports with the relevant information on progress, highlighting achievements, emerging issues that need to be clarified with the client and recommendations.
  - Final Report: Before the end of the assignment: The Consultant shall submit a final report detailing all the activities undertaken. The report should outline achievements and issues and lessons learnt.
- The objective of the short term consultancy is to hire a national consultant to review, assess the current set up and functionality of the Environmental Knowledge Management System and recommend appropriate actions to upscale the functionality of the system and make it more user friendly and procure subscription and software.
- 3.0 Scope of Work and Tasks**  
 The Consultant will have the following responsibilities:

- Review the current Environmental Knowledge Management System (EKMS), its set up and functionality and recommend appropriated or needed) actions if necessary and procure subscription and software.
- 4.0 Job Responsibilities:**
- 1) Review the current set up of the EKMS and its functions
  - 2) Engage the EKMS administrator and project team during the review and assessment
  - 3) Assess the licenses and subscriptions of plug-ins and webpages
  - 4) Assess the license and hosting subscription of the system and determine extension period
  - 5) Recommend in the final review and assessment report appropriate actions to upscale the functionality of the EKMS and makes it more user friendly.
  - 6) Procure hosting subscriptions, and plug-ins licenses and installation of new plug-ins.

- 5.0 Deliverables**
1. Inception meeting and Report (2 days after signing of contract)
  2. Draft review and assessment report with appropriate recommendations ( 7 days after inception report)
  3. Final review and assessment report of the system with recommendations (3 days after draft report reviewed and acceptance by client)
  4. Procure subscriptions, licenses, and plug-ins and install as contained in review and assessment report. (3 days after acceptance of final report and recommendations)
- 6.0 Functional Competencies:**
- Excellent and effective communication (verbal and written) skills, including ability to prepare reports and conduct presentations by clearly formulating positions on issues, articulating options concisely conveying maximum necessary information, making and defending recommendations; ability to convey difficult issues and positions to the public.
  - Have a considerable knowledge of website design, development and management

- 7.0 QUALIFICATION**
- Education:**
- Bachelor's Degree in Communication, Information Technology,
- Experience**
- Must have at least (5) years of documented experience of working in related field of study;
  - Knowledge and experience in various web design and development
  - Demonstrated proof of performing similar services with EPA, UNDP and GEF related
  - Must understand the functions of the set up and functions of the EKMS
  - Must have an experience of organisational or sectoral Knowledge Management
- OTHER SKILLS**
- Excellent team player with good interpersonal skills
  - Ability to manage workload with minimum supervision
  - Ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines
  - Ability to accommodate additional demands at short notice
  - Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment
  - Oral communication/presentation skills
  - Proactive mindset
  - Experience in working with the EPA or UNDP funded activities/projects

**8.0 Payment Modalities Fees and payments**  
 Interested consultants should provide their requested fee rates when they submit their expressions of interest, in USD. The EPA will then negotiate and finalize contracts. Fee payments will be made upon acceptance and approval by the EPA of planned deliverables, based on the following payment schedule:

Upon signing of contract, inception meeting report and draft report of the review of the Environmental Knowledge Management System, its set up, functionality and its user friendliness.	5%
Upon submission of final EKMS Review Report and quotations of plug-ins and EKMS hosting subscription	80%
1. Upon the submission of evidence of the procurement and installation of plug-ins	5%
2. Proof of payment of hosting subscription of the EKMS	
3. Proof of up-scaling in the functionality of the EKMS	

**8.0 Application Procedure**  
 Qualified and interested candidates are hereby requested to apply. The application should contain the following:

- A technical and financial proposals with brief description of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment, with a detailed clear methodology on how they will approach and complete the assignment; a duly accomplished Letter of Confirmation of Interest
- The technical proposal should also contain personal CV, indicating education background/professional qualifications, all past experience, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the candidate;
- Financial Proposal that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of costs

All EO/ applications must be attention to:  
 Rebecca E. Doo  
 Assistant Manager, Procurement  
 Environment Protection Agency (EPA)  
 4th Street, Sinkor  
 1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia  
 P.O. Box 4024

or through email ([rdoo@epa.gov.lr](mailto:rdoo@epa.gov.lr)), indicating in subject area "Consultancy service to review and assess the current set up, functionality and recommend appropriate actions for scaling up and more user friendly and procure subscription and software" Closing date for submission of EO/ is 4PM, May 6, 2021. Any submission coming/received after this deadline will not be given consideration. Only submissions that meet the requirement/criteria as contained in the Request for Expression of Interest will be considered for evaluation. The application package must include CV, credentials and Technical and Financial Proposal, Business registration, tax clearance. Submission must be made in both soft and hard copies.

NOTE: This information is also posted on these websites: [www.emansion.gov.lr](http://www.emansion.gov.lr), [www.ekmsliberia.info](http://www.ekmsliberia.info), [www.epa.gov.lr](http://www.epa.gov.lr), [www.unpd](http://www.unpd) and or local dailies.



# Français

## Bientôt, d'énormes investissements pour réduire le chômage

Le président George Manneh Weah annoncera sous peu deux énormes investissements qui relanceront massivement l'emploi dans le secteur privé, à en croire le ministre d'État aux affaires présidentielles, Nathaniel McGill.

Selon le ministre Nathaniel McGill, toutes les parties, à savoir le gouvernement et les investisseurs ont déjà finalisé les accords. Il ne reste plus qu'au président Weah de faire l'annonce, ce qui sera le cas dans quelques semaines.

Au cours d'une émission sur Spoon FM (qui est aussi une télévision en ligne) le vendredi 23 avril, le ministre McGill a déclaré qu'il ne pouvait pas fournir plus de détails, car seul le président en a l'autorité.

Il s'est donc contenté de dire que l'investissement permettra à des centaines de milliers de citoyens d'avoir soit un emploi permanent ou d'être des contractuels, tout en ajoutant que cela réduira considérablement le taux de chômage et la misère à laquelle sont confrontés les

Libériens dans tout le pays.

«En tant que gouvernement, nous sommes très préoccupés par le chômage qui fait des ravages au sein de notre société. Le président est très préoccupé et il continue de tendre la main et d'encourager les investissements étrangers directs dans son pays. Dieu merci, nous devons dire ce soir que deux énormes investissements sont à venir. Ce n'est pas moi qui l'annoncerai, mais c'est Monsieur le

Président. Ces investissements changeront considérablement la donne tant pour le gouvernement que pour les citoyens », a-t-il déclaré.

Donnant les raisons du retard des investissements dans le pays depuis l'ascension au pouvoir de l'administration actuelle, M. McGill a expliqué que quand le gouvernement dirigé par la Coalition pour le changement démocratique a pris la tête du pays, les soldats de maintien de la paix de l'ONU et

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Côte d'Ivoire : Voici ce que va faire le gouvernement d'ici à 2023

Ils sont désormais connus. Le programme de travail et les actions prioritaires du gouvernement Patrick Achi.

« La Côte d'Ivoire doit être propulsée au rang de pays à revenu intermédiaire de la tranche supérieure d'ici à 2023 », a déclaré le Premier ministre Patrick Achi, le vendredi 23 avril 2021 lors de

la cérémonie de clôture du séminaire gouvernemental.

Pour atteindre cet objectif, cap sera mis sur les actions à mener dans le courant de 2021. La priorité selon le Premier Ministre.

« [...] Je demande aux membres du gouvernement d'approfondir, en interne, leurs travaux afin de transmettre à la

Primature, d'ici 8 jours, un tableau détaillé des réalisations prévues en 2021, avec des indicateurs de performance chiffrés et vérifiables. », a-t-il déclaré.

Dans son programme d'actions pour l'année 2021, le gouvernement accordera un intérêt plus important aux problématiques du capital humain, de l'accès universel aux biens et services publics essentiels (l'électricité, l'eau potable, la santé, l'habitat, la mobilité, la connexion digitale).

Par ailleurs, l'équipe Patrick Achi va s'attaquer à l'amélioration du cadre de vie des populations, à la formation, à l'emploi des jeunes, à l'autonomisation des femmes mais surtout à la lutte contre la pauvreté, le renforcement de la cohésion sociale, la réconciliation nationale, la protection des droits humains, la justice, sécurité des biens et des personnes, la lutte contre la corruption et la lutte contre le terrorisme.

Ce qui sera fait dans le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Le président Weah est dégoûté

Les fonctionnaires de l'administration Weah semblent tromper le peuple et le président qui s'en rend compte au fur et à mesure qu'il visite le pays. Récemment, dans le comté de Grand Cape, le président Weah a été désagréablement surpris en se rendant compte que le sénateur Varney Sherman et d'autres législateurs du comté n'ont pas de domicile ou de lieu pour accueillir une délégation officielle dans le comté qu'ils représentent.

Maintenant dans le comté de Grand Bassa, le président Weah n'était pas que déçu, il était littéralement bouleversé par le fait que les responsables du comté, y compris le surintendant et les législateurs, n'avaient aucun lieu pour le recevoir à part une mairie mal tenue. Il a terminé la troisième étape de sa tournée nationale déçue.

M. Weah: «Regardez ceci, regardez ceci, regardez ceci, regardez autour de vous, regardez ceci et regardez-nous, regardez-nous (décrivant à quel point ils étaient magnifiquement habillés par rapport à l'infrastructure dans laquelle ils étaient assis et l'environnement). Parfois, il faut que nous ayons une conscience et ayons honte de nous même. Cet endroit ne représente rien. Vous ne pouvez pas être les représentants des gens et recevoir le Président et l'ensemble du gouvernement ici. Ce n'est pas possible ».

Jetant un regard autour de la salle dans laquelle se tenait la réunion, il a déploré que l'endroit ne soit pas adapté à un tel rassemblement et que même leur propre vêtements contredisait tout.

Les fonctionnaires doivent savoir que la réalité contredit toujours la fausseté. La vérité est que la tournée nationale du président n'a pas été une surprise. Elle était prévue pour 2020, mais elle a été reportée en raison du COVID-19 et d'autres engagements officiels.

Même avant le début de cette tournée cette année, elle avait été officiellement annoncée. Nous sommes donc également surpris que les surintendants de comté et les législateurs ne se soient pas suffisamment préparés à accueillir le président et son entourage. Le surintendant du comté de Grand Bassa,

Janjay Vakpah, la sénatrice Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence et ses collègues législateurs du comté veulent-ils nous dire qu'ils n'ont pas trouvé de peinture à Buchanna, la capitale provinciale, pour donner à l'hôtel de ville une cure de jouvence pour la réunion du président Weah avec les citoyens? Comme c'est décevant!

Les législateurs ne devraient pas se concentrer sur leurs projets personnels seulement, il faut qu'ils pensent aussi à leurs électeurs, il faut qu'ils pensent aussi à leur comté qu'ils représentent, en particulier lorsque le président effectue une visite officielle. Il doit être reçu et hébergé dans le respect et l'estime réservés à la présidence.

À quoi bon de se vêtir très élégamment et se promener partout pendant que les villes, les villages, les comtés et les personnes qu'ils représentent restent dans des conditions épouvantables. Ce n'est pas du leadership mais de l'hypocrisie!

River Gee, Grand Cape Mount et Grand Bassa, c'est la même histoire: négligence et infrastructures mal gérées et délabrées au point qu'on a l'impression qu'elles ne sont pas des lieux qu'ils représentent en tant que leaders. Pourtant, les membres du pouvoir législatif libérien décident chaque année du budget national et distribuent le gâteau national, s'attribuant même des parts plus importantes.

Il est temps qu'ils changent leur style de leadership en plaçant les personnes et les lieux qu'ils représentent au-dessus de leurs intérêts personnels pour démontrer le véritable leadership qu'on attend d'eux.



# Français

## Bientôt, d'énorme

d'autres partenaires internationaux qui soutenaient le processus de paix et d'autres fonctionnaires ont quitté le Libéria, au point que l'administration Weah n'avait aucun choix que de repartir à zéro.

« Et avant que le président puisse achever la formation de son gouvernement, il y a eu la triste et célèbre manifestation du 6 juin qui a créé de graves menaces politiques et de l'insécurité pour la paix et la stabilité de l'État, effrayant ainsi les investisseurs potentiels, qu'ont adopté une attitude attentiste ».

Selon lui, alors que le gouvernement tentait de redonner espoir aux citoyens et aux investisseurs étrangers, la pandémie de la COVID-19 a immobilisé le monde entier.

« Et maintenant, au fur et

à mesure que la COVID-19 diminue, des investisseurs sérieux arrivent dans le pays avec d'énormes potentiels d'investissement. Et le président Weah a accepté de s'engager pleinement dans le processus afin que les citoyens et les personnes qualifiées puissent avoir la possibilité de travailler et de mettre de la nourriture sur leurs tables respectives pour leurs familles.

Le ministre McGill, qui fut président national du CDC, a révélé en outre que des modalités sont en cours d'élaboration pour la construction d'un nouveau centre médical John F. Kennedy.

Il a dit que des experts de bord ont conseillé au gouvernement de construire un bâtiment ultramoderne entièrement équipé, car l'actuel centre médical JFK a servi le pays pendant plus de 50 ans et doit être remplacé.

## Côte d'Ivoire :

domaine de la santé

Sur ce point, les Ivoiriens attendent beaucoup de Patrick Achi et ses collaborateurs. Pour répondre à ces attentes, le gouvernement va rendre opérationnel le service de gynéco obstétrique du CHU de Treichville, rétablir la continuité de service du CHU de Yopougon.

Dans le secteur de l'eau et l'électricité

Depuis plusieurs semaines des difficultés en approvisionnement de l'eau potable et des coupures intempestives de l'électricité sont récurrentes dans le District d'Abidjan et des villes de l'intérieur du pays.

Pour résoudre ce problème devenu un véritable casse-tête pour les populations, plusieurs actions seront menées, a rassuré le Premier ministre. Pour cette année 2021, le gouvernement va accroître la production d'eau potable et réaliser le branchement de 200.000 dans le cadre du programme « Électricité pour tous ».

La gouvernance

Le gouvernement annonce la construction, la réhabilitation et l'équipement des tribunaux, la mise en place des comités régionaux et locaux de suivi de la mise en œuvre du PND et production du rapport de performance 2021.

Aussi, des actions seront entreprises pour le dénombrement sur l'ensemble du territoire

national, pour la réalisation de l'Enquête démographique de Santé en Côte d'Ivoire (EDS), l'opérationnalisation du Programme d'Appui à la Planification territoriale (PAPT), l'intensification de la mise en œuvre du Programme national d'Appui aux Réformes institutionnelles et à la Modernisation de l'État (PRIME).

Dans le domaine de l'emploi et du capital humain

Ce sont entre autres, l'intensification de la construction et de l'équipement des établissements d'enseignement secondaire (74 collèges de proximité (MCC), neuf lycées de jeunes filles dotés d'internats et 123 collèges de proximité) pour le secteur éducation formation.

Le développement de classes passerelles au profit de 4500 enfants hors du système éducatif, la prise en compte des effets induits par le nouveau décret relatif à la suppression des cotisations des Comités de Gestion des Établissements Scolaires (COGES) et la mise en œuvre du plan stratégique national d'alphabétisation seront effectués au cours de l'année 2021.

Au terme de ce séminaire de trois jours, le Premier Ministre ivoirien, Patrick Achi, a réaffirmé l'engagement du gouvernement à mettre en œuvre ces actions annoncées pour l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations.

## COMMENTAIRE

By Stephen S. Roach

## Ma pire erreur de prévision

**N**EW HAVEN - Cela fait près de 50 ans que j'effectue des prévisions économiques. J'ai commencé au début des années 1970, au sein de l'équipe de recherche de la Réserve fédérale à Washington DC, avant d'emporter avec moi ma boule de cristal vers Wall Street, pour y travailler pendant plus de 30 ans. J'exerce désormais dans ma tour d'ivoire à Yale depuis plus de dix ans - m'essayant encore aux prévisions de temps en temps, mais concentré essentiellement sur l'enseignement, l'écriture et les prises de parole.

Sur l'ensemble de cette longue période, le bilan de mes prévisions est mitigé, marqué par plusieurs séquences mémorables au sein de la Fed, lorsque j'ai mis en garde sur une forte récession au milieu des années 1970, puis sur une inflation inextricable plus tard dans la décennie. Mais ma plus grande fierté réside dans ma collaboration avec Larry Slifman, avec qui nous avons élaboré le premier modèle de prévision de la Fed recourant à une approche de « boîte noire », qui selon moi demeure encore largement utilisé aujourd'hui. Nous avons travaillé très dur pendant plusieurs semaines pour programmer des feuilles de calcul informatiques connexes (une nouveauté à l'époque), afin de remplacer un exercice mensuel à itération unique qui était auparavant effectué sur une calculatrice mécanique Monroe. Notre approche dite subjective a constitué le point-contrepoint du célèbre modèle économétrique à grande échelle de la Fed.

Mes travaux à Wall Street ont été plus thématiques. J'ai continué d'effectuer des prévisions, mais en me concentrant davantage sur les grandes évolutions telles que la dette des entreprises et la restructuration de la fin des années 1980, le débat sur la productivité des années 1990, la reprise globale dans un monde post-crise au début des années 2000, puis sur mon sujet de prédilection, à savoir la Chine et son impact sur l'économie planétaire. Mes prévisions à Wall Street ont été suffisamment justes pour que je puisse bénéficier de la sécurité de l'emploi chez Morgan Stanley, malgré plusieurs imperfections.

La prédiction des taux d'intérêt fut l'exercice qui me plut le moins, et pour de bonnes raisons. Je me souviens entrer dans l'ancienne salle de réunion de l'activité bancaire d'investissement de Morgan Stanley, et découvrir à l'envers sur le sol plusieurs graphiques de mon prédécesseur, portant sur les prévisions des marchés obligataires. J'étais déterminé à ne pas vivre le même sort. Lorsque mon négociateur d'obligations préféré a commencé à m'appeler « dart man », j'ai pris la décision exécutive de me désengager et d'embaucher un stratège des taux d'intérêt. La survie par l'adaptation, j'imagine.

J'aurais dû faire preuve de plus de discernement lorsque j'ai quitté le banc des prévisionnistes économiques à la retraite, pour rédiger l'été dernier le désormais mémorable article « Le double dip approche aux États-Unis ». J'y affirmais que le rebond postpandémique - augmentation annualisée record de 33 % du PIB au troisième trimestre 2020, après une contraction comparable de 31 % au deuxième - n'était rien de plus qu'un yo-yo arithmétique.

Mais cette affirmation brillante ne constituait pas réellement le cœur du sujet. Je poursuivais en insistant sur l'idée que la reprise naissante serait probablement marquée par une rechute, comme lors de huit des 11 récessions précédentes observées depuis la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Quelques mois plus tard, conforté par certaines indicateurs économiques qui s'inscrivaient dans mon sens, je commettais le plus grand péché en matière de prévisions : formuler une date. J'affirmais en effet que la récession à double creux qui s'annonçait surviendrait probablement en milieu d'année 2021.

La pire erreur de prévision de ma carrière ? Il semble que oui. En lieu et place de la rechute que j'annonçais, les discussions portent aujourd'hui très largement sur un boom majeur. L'équipe très compétente qui m'a succédé chez Morgan Stanley, qui a fourni un travail intense et juste dans ses prévisions autour d'une reprise en forme de V après le choc du COVID-19, parle désormais d'une augmentation annualisée de près de 10 % de la croissance économique américaine au premier trimestre 2021. Pas tout à fait le creux auquel je m'attendais, moi l'ancien directeur de l'équipe. Si j'avais encore été aux fonctions, les sueurs froides et cauchemars sur ma sécurité de l'emploi auraient certainement fait leur retour.

Les prévisionnistes de Wall Street apprennent rapidement les règles de la culpabilité. Comme chez les négociateurs d'obligations et d'actions, l'état d'esprit de « valeur du marché » contraint les économistes, et parfois même les stratèges de marché, à rendre des comptes sur le plan intellectuel. C'est ici que le recours à un cadre analytique cohérent, susceptible de vous indiquer ce qui n'a pas fonctionné, et pourquoi, trouve toute son utilité.

Mon hypothèse de récession à double creux reposait sur trois considérations : précédents historiques, vulnérabilité persistante, et probabilité d'un choc supplémentaire. L'histoire des précédents cycles économiques penchait de mon côté. L'emploi et la production réelle demeuraient bien en dessous des sommets pré-pandémiques - notamment pour l'activité à contact humain du très important secteur des services - ce qui semblait constituer un argument clair en faveur d'une vulnérabilité persistante. Enfin, compte tenu d'une nouvelle explosion du nombre d'infections au COVID-19 durant les mois de novembre, décembre et début janvier, accompagnée de confinements partiels dans près de trois quart des États américains, le fait d'annoncer un nouveau choc semblait raisonnable. Faisant la synthèse de tous ces aspects, j'en conclusais que la survenance d'un nouveau creux n'était plus qu'une question de temps.

Que s'est-il alors passé ?

Pour l'essentiel, le choc s'est révélé de courte durée - pour trois autres raisons également : vaccins, nature humaine, et Bidenomics. Alors même que les Américains s'inscrivaient pour un rendez-vous de vaccination, le taux d'infection au COVID chutait à seulement 26 % du pic de début janvier. Cette évolution, accompagnée d'une nette accélération de la trajectoire de vaccination, a annoncé une immunité collective plus précoce que prévue, et une fin toute proche de la pandémie. Deuxièmement, prêtant peu attention aux nouveaux variants inquiétants du COVID-19, des Américains impatients et leurs dirigeants politiques conciliants rompent avec les restrictions de santé publique recommandées. Troisièmement, les écluses budgétaires sont ouvertes comme jamais : plan de 900 milliards \$ fin 2020, suivi d'un programme américain de sauvetage de 1 900 milliards au mois de mars, puis désormais proposition de relance supplémentaire de plus de 2 000 milliards \$ pour les infrastructures au sens large, baptisée American Jobs Plan.

L'après-COVID à portée de vue, tous ces éléments ont produit une puissante relance budgétaire procyclique qui, accompagnée d'une actuelle souplesse monétaire sans précédent, fait du boom annoncé un pari sûr. Par ailleurs, les indicateurs économiques toujours inconstants qui s'orientaient à la baisse en fin d'année dernière repartent à la hausse de manière insolente.

Finalement, la confluence des sciences, de la politique, et d'une nature humaine insaisissable, a taillé en pièces ma prévision peu consensuelle de récession à double creux. Ce n'est pas ma première erreur de prévision, mais c'est sans doute la plus flagrante. Mea culpa est ici un euphémisme. Retour à ma tour d'ivoire.

# Cummings makes demands

By Jonathan Browne

The leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) Alexander B. Cummings is calling for the immediate release of all 34 persons arrested and jailed, in connection to recent violent protests in Maryland County, since the last 28 days. The ANC is a constituent member of the four Collaborating Political Parties that seek to restrict President George Manneh Weah to a one term in 2023.

He also calls for immediate lifting of the curfew imposed by President Weah as a result of the violent protests in the county following the brutal murder of a commercial motorcyclist Mordacious Nyemah, stressing "Except to unfairly punish our people, there is now no reason to keep our people under curfew, which is causing more hardships."

Delivering a nationwide

government is actually encouraging criminals to continue to kill people, which threaten the lives of everyone, adding, "This is not how serious governments behave. It is not how governments show they care about the lives of their people."

He notes that today, in many places in and around Monrovia, in the day or night, people are scared to walk the streets, and communities are unsafe, as drugs and crimes take over streets and neighborhoods.

"The people who should be helping to protect our people are themselves helping to sell the drugs to our children. The people who should be fighting crimes are looking the other way while people are being robbed and harmed, and while armed robbers are breaking into homes terrorizing sleeping families."

He reflects that when President Weah was asked about the "mysterious deaths" and the fear people are now living under, the President responded that

officials that are dying mysteriously, or being harmed, robbed and are scared to walk the streets or get in a taxi cab at night. "It is ordinary Liberians that are now living through this hell. And they cannot afford CCTV."

He says governments have a duty to protect everyone, including those who can afford and those who cannot, because every life is precious.

"All over the world", he says, "the first thing every government tries to not fail in doing is protecting the lives of its people", but somehow President Weah's Government is failing, again.

"My people, I don't know how, but today, I have come to beg you to please protect yourselves. Get home early. Lock your doors at night. Look out for each other. Do your best to be safe" the opposition leader urges.

He vows: "From the bottom of my heart, I promise you - we will work as hard as we can to make President Weah a one-time President.

And when we do, we will end this mysterious deaths business in our country by going back and investigating all of these deaths, from Mr. Matthew Innis to Mr. Anthony Johnson. Anyone we find to be involved - big hand or small hand - we will arrest you, try you, and punish you severely, in keeping with the law."

Recently, the regional chairperson of the ANC, Augustine Kraah, in a press statement condemned the murder of motorcyclist Nyemah and regretted the situation that some citizens took in drawing government's attention for redress.

Mr. Kraah stressed that the party doesn't believe in or tolerate unlawful acts to correct any wrong, so if there is a situation of such, citizens should always channel their grievances to the government through a timely and peaceful manner.

On April 8, 2021, the Government of Liberia charged all 34 suspects and sent them to the Plebeo Magisterial Court, but they were later transferred to the Zwedru Correction Palace in Grand Gedeh County, awaiting trial, as a result of destruction of the prison facility in Harper City, Maryland County.

According to the April 8th Police charge sheet, the 34 men were charged with multiple crimes, ranging from robbery, criminal conspiracy, arson, riot, failure to disperse, criminal mischief, obstruction of highways and other public areas, and disorderly conduct.

# More push

Starts from back page

removal.

"None of those processes includes the killing of any of those judges or even committing violence against them. That is a crime," he says.

According to Cllr. Gongloe, this is one of the reasons why the LNBA is taking the lead to ensure that the extraordinary tribunal for war and economic crimes court as recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is established in Liberia.

He believes that the establishment of such a court is the only way that Liberia will slow down or probably curtail the level of violence and impunity.

In the same vein, the Bar president discloses that he recently had nearly two hours meeting with the American Ambassador to Liberia Michael A. McCarthy, and subsequently with a UN authority in Liberia and spoke on a wide range of issues including corruption, the judicial system and governance issues as well as providing legal aid to access to justice.

Gongloe says he "was very satisfied leaving that meeting that the world is prepared to support Liberia if the people of Liberia are prepared for accountability."

He applauds the American Embassy for its decision to deny people that are considered corrupt in the three branches of government visas.

The LNBA president further appeals to the American Embassy to spread its tentacles to make sure that people even at the civil service level who ... are stealing from Liberians should not be given visas to go to the United States.

Gongloe believes that the United States will be making itself a co - conspirator by continuing to allow into that country people who are visibly stealing from Liberians.

"I also appealed to the American Ambassador that through his office, the United States government should persuade the EU [European Union] Countries, also to deny visas to people working in the three branches of government that are corrupt," says Gongloe.

In a recent interview with Spoon FM, Mr. Mark Jabateh is seen in a video accusing Chief Justice Korkpor of allegedly being behind a land dispute in Nimba County.

Recent violent clashes in the county followed a demolition exercise carried out on Monday, 19 April 2021

based on a court eviction order issued by the 8th Judicial Circuit Court in Sanniquellie, Nimba County.

The demolished buildings were situated on disputed land between the Jabateh and Donzo families on one hand and Fred Johnson on the other.

Dispute over this parcel of land has been going for a protracted period of time.

Joint security officers including Police and Liberia Immigration Services (LIS), were seen guarding the site on the Dunbar Field around the Saclepea Parking Station.

In May 2019, a case over the same place where stirred the recent violent demonstration in Nimba was filed before the Community Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and that case was between the Government of Liberia and the members of the Mandingo tribe of Ganta, Nimba County.

The suit in question emanated from a long-standing land dispute, which was offset by the "illegal occupation" of real properties of residents of Ganta, who are mainly the members of the Mandingo tribe, who fled the country during the war.

However, Jabateh, claimed in the interview last week Mandingos are being marginalized in Nimba County because Chief Justice Korkpor has appointed Manor people as judges in the county instead of appointing Vai people from Grand Cape Mount County to serve as judges in Nimba County.

He claimed that some ex - fighters were due to carry out an alleged attack on a Mosque in Gnata at night, thereby calling on the police and the army to intervene.

As such, Jabateh vowed that "if a single Mandingo man is killed in Ganata, that means we will kill the Chief Justice of the Republic of Liberia because he is responsible for the land dispute in Nimba County."

"If a single Mandingo man is killed in Nimba County today, some of us will sacrifice our lives because enough is enough! We have been marginalized. We have been marginalized. When Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf came she failed to settle the land dispute in Nimba County, it's continuing," he says in the interview.

He indicated that he was mobilizing his brothers and sisters, monitoring the situation in Nimba County and threatened that if there was any attempt by any group of people to kill a single Mandingo man, that means maybe ECOWAS or UN will come in.



address in Monrovia Tuesday, 27 April on frequent suspicious deaths and violence in the country, Mr. Cummings, a former presidential candidate, noted that "mysterious deaths" under the Weah administration are plenty! And wonders how many times are Liberians going to be expressing sympathies to families for the mysterious deaths of their loved ones? "How can anyone in our country feels safe when the government cannot explain how people are disappearing and dying?" He asks.

Delays in charging and sending suspects to court led to mass citizens' protests in the county marred by arson attacks on public and private properties.

Mr. Cummings says when a government is silent, or cannot seriously investigate and convincingly explain the deaths of people that

people should go and buy CCTV. "What kind of President tells families who are crying for the wicked killing of their relatives to go buy CCTV? How many Liberians can buy CCTV?"

The ANC leader notes that many Liberians are unemployed, and those who are lucky to be working, the government has cut their salaries so much that there is barely anything left to do anything, let alone buy CCTV!

He says for many civil servants, the monthly cost of transportation is more than their harmonized salaries, and the daily life of ordinary Liberians is characterized by struggle to eat, or to pay rent, or to pay school fees, lamenting that when someone gets sick, the whole family is likely to breakdown because they can hardly afford to pay the hospital bill.

Cummings continues that maybe some of the President's friends and officials can buy CCTV, but reminded that it is not the President's friends and

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# UK sanctions 22 for corruption

The UK for the first time on Monday placed 22 individuals on assets freezes and travel bans for their involvement in corruptions in their respective countries.

The move, according to a release issued from the British Foreign Secretary office on Monday April 26, is

misappropriation. It will promote effective governance, robust democratic institutions and the rule of law - demonstrating our powers as a force for good around the world," the release said.

The 22 individuals are said to be involved in notorious corruption cases in Russia, South

sanctioned today have been involved in some of the most notorious corruption cases around the world.

"Global Britain is standing up for democracy, good governance and the rule of law. We are saying to those involved in serious corruption: we will not tolerate you or your dirty money in our country."

"Measures are deliberately targeted, so the UK can impose sanctions on corrupt individuals and their enablers, rather than entire nations," it added.

The move is also being taken partly in line with the US, which simultaneously announced further corruption sanctions. The British Foreign Secretary release also noted that acting together sends the clearest possible signal that corruption comes with a heavy price.

"Corruption hurts individuals and undermines global trade, development and the rule of law. Over 2% of global GDP is lost to corruption every year, and corruption increases the cost of doing business for individual companies by as much as 10%.

Corruption also threatens our national security by exacerbating conflict and facilitating serious and organised crime, creating space for terrorist and criminal groups like Daesh and Boko Haram to operate, the release added.



in line with the new Global Anti-Corruption sanctions regime which gives the UK unprecedented power to stop corrupt actors profiting from the UK economy and exploiting its citizens.

"This new regime will allow the UK to combat serious corruption, in particular bribery and

Africa, South Sudan and throughout Latin America.

The release quotes Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, as saying, "Corruption has a corrosive effect as it slows development, drains the wealth of poorer nations and keeps their people trapped in poverty. It poisons the well of democracy.

"The individuals we have

# Cemenco opens sub-office in Maryland County

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Liberia's pioneer cement company, Cemenco has established a sub-office in Harper City, Maryland County, the first in southeast Liberia.

Cemenco Management opened the sub-office on Monday, April 26, 2021 at their newly established facility near Harper Stadium Road in Maryland.

The occasion brought together government officials including Maryland County Electoral District#1 Representative P. Mike Jury, County Superintendent George A. Proud, mayors of Pleebo and Harper cities, officials of the Liberia Marketing Association, the Human Resource Manager of both Cavalla Rubber Cooperation and the Maryland Oil Palm Plantation, the Muslim community and County Attorney, among others.

Cemenco Regional Manager Mr. Robert O. Marshall, lauded citizens, including officials of government for gracing the ceremony.

He noted that the extension to the county followed several surveys, which informed management about the need to

provide access to the public.

Mr. Marshall said although the venture would face constraints in terms of transportation to the southeast because of bad roads, price for a bag of cement in the southeast will be different from rivals in the industry.

Mr. Marshall disclosed the Liberian Cement Cooperation



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will sell the product for a minimum cost of US\$9.50.

He added the company has already secured a vessel to regularly transport the cement to the region.

The regional manager of the Liberian cement industry has called on the citizens to take advantage of the greatest opportunity while at the same time calling on the Maryland County district#1 Representative P. Mike Jury to speak on their behalf concerning the costs charged for transporting the cement from Monrovia to the southeast. For his part, Maryland County Electoral district#1 Representative P. Mike Jury, has commended the Liberian cement cooperation for extending its regional office in the southeast.

The Maryland County district#1 Representative noted that the decentralization of the Liberian cement cooperation with help to improve the infrastructure development in Maryland county.

Representative Jury

continue that, over the years, the price of cement has been high because the government hasn't been in the position to check some of those dealers due to the constraints in bring goods to the southeast base on roads connectivity.

Representative Jury said the initiative to bring cement to the people at a reasonable price is good and a great opportunity for the Maryland market.

Pleebo City Mayor Kyen said although the coming of Cemenco to Maryland is a great help but land space in the district has been a major challenge.

Mayor Kyen disclosed that the total land space of Pleebo City is about 700,000 hectares, noting that the entire land space has been taken away by the Cavalla Rubber Cooperation.

He noted that several recommendations had been made to the government and the Cavalla Rubber Cooperation to provide a little land space to the people of Pleebo, but there has been no response.

He called on Representative Jury to take this appeal before the Maryland Legislative Caucus for consideration.

At the same time, Maryland County Superintendent Proud has appreciated the Management of the Liberian Cement Cooperation for the move and promised that local authorities of the county will work in line with the Maryland Legislative Caucus to engage the government on charges at the Port of Harper for transporting commodities via sea.

Ordinary citizens in the county lauded the Government of Liberia for the initiative, which they noted will help in improving their living condition because high cost of cement bag had deprived them of embarking on construction. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# More push for war crimes court

## -Following Mark Jabateh's alleged threat



Mark Jabateh

By Winston W. Parley

Following a recent threat by Mark Jabateh to kill Liberia's Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. if a single Mandingo man got killed in a land dispute, the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) has intensified the call for the establishment of a war and economic crimes court to curtail impunity of

war crimes here.

LNBA president Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe told judicial reporters Monday, 26 April that impunity is too much in the country to the extent that some perpetrators of war crimes are even calling upon their war-time allies and those they commanded to rise up for whatever grievances they have.

"And that is why we are calling on all Liberians, all Liberians to, to support the

establishment of the extraordinary tribunal for war and economic crimes," Cllr. Gongloe says.

Cllr. Gongloe condemns Jabateh's threat on the life of Chief Justice Korkpor, saying the Judicial branch, just like the other two branches of government, has challenges and the citizens, especially lawyers, are working to help improve the system.

"But that should not give anybody in this country the right to threaten any judge, any magistrate, any Justice of the Supreme Court based on how they see their work," Gongloe warns.

The LNBA president cautions that Liberians have to work for building a country of rule of law, noting that if you are not satisfied with a magistrate, judge or Justices of the Supreme Court, there are legal processes to seek redress including their

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# Guardiola losing sleep thinking about Neymar and Mbappe

Pep Guardiola says the task of trying to stop Paris Saint-Germain star Neymar is enough to keep him awake at night.

Manchester City are away to PSG in the first leg of their Champions League semi-final tie on Wednesday, neither side having won the famous trophy before.

Guardiola had left Barcelona by the time Neymar arrived at Camp Nou in 2013, the forward



eventually forming a historic front three with Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez.

Such is the quality of Neymar, the City boss feels his former club would have won many more Champions League crowns had the Brazil talisman not moved to PSG in 2017.

Guardiola feels there is only so much that can be done against world-class opponents like Neymar and Kylian Mbappe and wants City to impose themselves on the game rather than set out just

to stop PSG.

"Always unbelievable, the quality of these players they have," Guardiola said. "Defensive strategies [to stop them] don't work. They are too good."

"I try to sleep well last night and I slept when I was not thinking about their players like that!"

"They are incredible players, the quality they have, the way they play. We will try and stop them by defending together as a team and playing well as a team."

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