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P11



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4G better

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Dial *352#



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Continental News

Gaddafi's favourite son to run for president of Libya

The son of Libya's late leader Muammar al-Gaddafi has registered as a candidate in the country's first direct presidential election next month.

Saif al-Islam Gaddafi was once the heir apparent to his father, but his support for a brutal crackdown on protesters 10 years ago tarnished his image. Since that 2011 uprising, Libya has been riven by conflict.

Rights groups have raised fears the vote, scheduled for 24 December, will not be free and fair.

World powers and the UN secretary-general have warned that anyone who tries to obstruct it or falsify the outcome will face sanctions.

Photos and video circulating online show Saif al-Islam Gaddafi sitting in front of a poster for the upcoming poll, signing electoral papers. Bearded and wearing traditional Libyan clothing, he addressed the camera and cited a verse from the Koran

that translates as, "judge between us and our people in truth". "God always prevails in his purpose," he also said, citing another chapter of the Muslim holy book, and adding from another section - "even if the unbelievers hate it".

It is a very different image from the one he presented before the uprising that brought

down his father in 2011.

In the aftermath of Muammar Gaddafi's brutal end, Saif al-Islam Gaddafi was himself captured by a militia.

He was held for six years, receiving a death sentence that was later overturned.

Mr Gaddafi is still wanted on war crimes charges by the International Criminal Court,

but has gradually re-emerged onto the public stage, including via an interview to the New York Times from his villa in Zintan earlier this year [paywall]. Mr Gaddafi's comeback has sharply divided opinion in Libya, says BBC Monitoring's Amira Fathalla. Yet there is little surprise at his leadership bid, as he has been repeatedly touted as a contender for years. Memories in Libya are likely still too raw for him to win the presidency, says the BBC's Middle East editor Sebastian Usher, and his candidacy will further complicate the already fragile electoral process.

After years of civil war and

rival powers operating in the east and west of the country, Libya is currently led by an interim government but remains politically unstable.

Disagreement between Libya's political bodies and opposing factions about the election rules and the schedule have threatened to derail the presidential vote.

Other candidates in the running are the warlord Khalifa Haftar - who previously led an insurgency from his eastern base against the UN-backed government in Tripoli, plus Prime Minister Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah and parliament speaker Aguila Saleh. BBC



Saif al-Islam Gaddafi is wanted by an international court for war crimes and is rarely seen in public

Five deaths reported in fresh Sudan coup protests

Five demonstrators were killed in pro-democracy protests in Sudan on Saturday, according to the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors.

The group said four protesters died of gunshot wounds, and a fifth from choking on tear gas during clashes with security

forces. Tens of thousands took to the streets for mass anti-coup protests in cities and towns across the country.

Police denied using live wounds, saying they had only used "minimum force".

State television reported that 39 police were "severely wounded" in the clashes.

The deadly violence comes days after a military-led ruling

council was announced.

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan was named as head of the council on Thursday. The coup leader had already dissolved the civilian arm of the government's power-sharing agreement, arrested civilian leaders, and declared a state of emergency last month. The military's takeover on 25 October has drawn international condemnation.

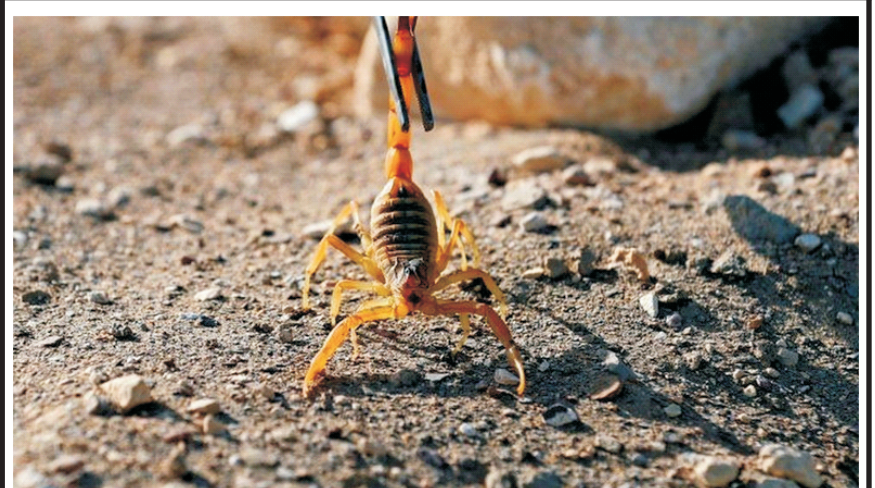
Protesters have taken to the streets regularly since, demanding the military government step back and allow a peaceful transition to civilian rule.

Saturday's protests went ahead in spite of a heavy security presence. Demonstrations were also held in solidarity abroad, including in Paris and Berlin.

AFP reports that protesters in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum were heard chanting: "No, no to military rule" and "down with the entire council".

Reports of the five deaths were carried on the Facebook page of the Central

Scorpions kill three and injure hundreds in Egypt



Scorpions are regularly washed into Egypt's streets by heavy rain and take refuge in houses

Scorpions in Egypt have stung three people to death in the southern city of Aswan after heavy storms brought them into the streets and homes.

Some 450 more people were injured by scorpion stings, a health ministry official said.

The hail and thunder storm in the area near the River Nile on Friday was particularly violent.

Scorpions are regularly washed into the streets by heavy rain, while snakes have also been disturbed.

Extra doses of anti-venom have been provided to medical centres in villages near mountains and deserts, a health official told Al-Ahram

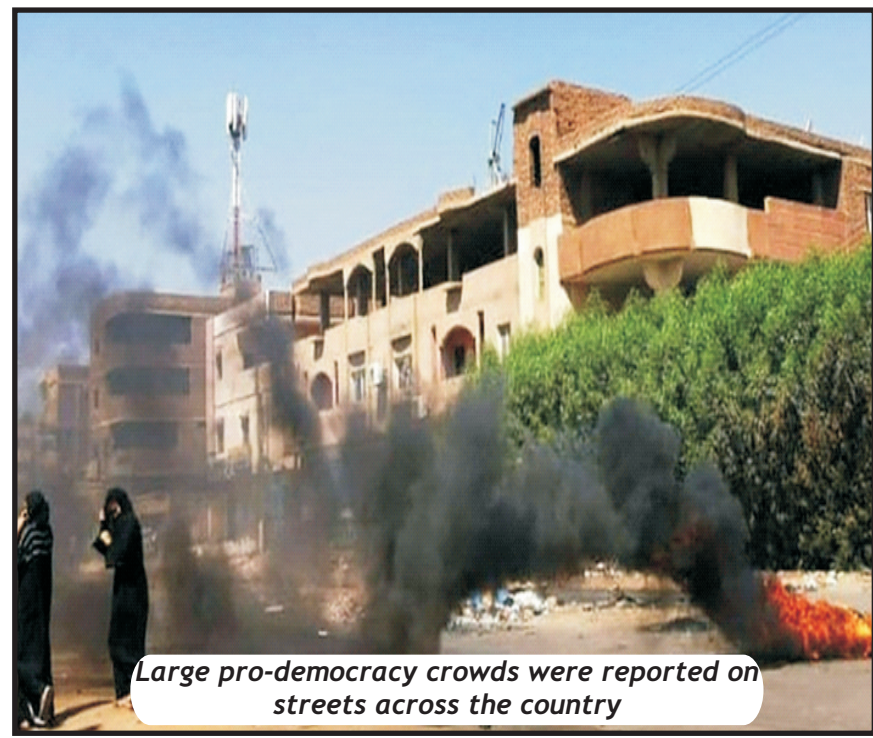
news agency.

Doctors have been pulled away from giving vaccinations to treat scorpion stings, the official added. People have been urged to stay at home and avoid places with many trees.

Egypt is home to fat-tailed scorpions that are among the most deadly in the world. Venom from a black fat-tail can kill humans in under an hour.

Symptoms related to widespread venom effects can include difficulty breathing, muscle twitching and unusual head movements.

Anti-venom is used as a preventative measure before symptoms arise, but can also work once symptoms start to worsen. BBC



Large pro-democracy crowds were reported on streets across the country

Committee of Sudanese Doctors, which also reported a "large number of people" had been hurt.

The medics added that security forces had stormed a hospital in the city of Omdurman and detained

several injured people.

In a tweet after the news broke, the US embassy in Khartoum condemned what it described as "excessive use of force" against citizens demonstrating "for freedom and democracy". BBC

EDITORIAL

State-Owned Enterprises and the Budget

STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOEs) in Liberia such as the National Port Authority, the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority, and others contribute to the national budget but their actual revenues are not captured in the national cake, thus leaving room for excesses.

FOR INSTANCE, IT is said that the NPA contributes significantly to the national budget, which is good, but at the same time the entity unilaterally executes various social responsibility projects outside of scrutiny, using public funds.

THIS HAS BEEN the case with the current NPA administration headed by Mr. Bill Tweahway. M.D. Tweahway has been executing several projects in his native Rivercess County, as part of social responsibility without the public having a clear understanding of how much funds were used from the NPA revenue.

IT IS ALONG these lines that the United States Ambassador to Liberia Michael McCarthy expressed concern recently about whether SOEs that collect public revenues should be allowed to use some of those incomes at their discretion to undertake projects.

AMBASSADOR MCCARTHY SPECIFICALLY noted that having consulted with the Liberia Revenue Authority, the Auditor General's Office, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, coupled with multiple sources in the Liberian Legislature, there seems to be a consensus that continuing to process State-Owned Enterprises' revenues outside the national budget, as with the case of the NPA, is against best practice.

THE U.S. ENVOY then welcomed pronouncement by the President Pro-Tempore of the Liberia Senate Albert Chie to conduct a hearing on Cargo Tracking Note (CTN) charges and other fees collected by the Management of the NPA.

HE STRESSED THAT such funds, collected by a government-owned entity, are public property which would under most circumstances, be appropriated by the Legislature along with other state revenues.

BUT THIS IS not happening. Instead, SOEs that strictly operate under the Executive, collect and expend revenues at will, contributing whatever they prefer to the national budget without proper accountability.

WE BELIEVE SUCH policy should be reversed in the interest of accountability and transparency because revenues generated by those entities are for the State and should be captured in the national budget in totality.

LEAVING THOSE REVENUES at the discretion of SOEs creates an avenue for funds to be mismanaged and siphoned at the detriment of the general citizenry, which clearly does not demonstrate good governance, transparency, and accountability.

COMMENTARY

By Emily J. Levine

Can Universities Defy the New Nationalism?

STANFORD - The cosmopolitan values of higher education are in retreat a before a rising wave of provincialism. International student enrollment at universities in the United States continues to decline, while branch campuses of American universities abroad are being reorganized or shut down. This trend has ominous implications - and not only for education and research.

Universities stand at the intersection of national interest and universal goals. While they play a role in nation-building, they also promote the pursuit of truth, which has historically benefited from the free exchange of ideas and the free movement of scholars and students across borders. In an era of dwindling global institutions, the university is the latest to experience a decline in power and influence. The open flow of ideas is now at risk. Can that be changed?

Universities rose to prominence in the nineteenth century by making themselves useful to nation-states, training members of the civil service, and improving technology through basic research. Later, they became a forum for global collaboration, finding ways to balance their obligations to their home countries and their responsibilities to the international community. But fears about the rise of China and suspicion of espionage have tipped the scale toward national priorities in recent years.

In 2020, President Donald Trump issued an order banning Chinese graduate students and researchers in a number of scientific fields. President Joe Biden's administration has maintained the ban. Earlier this year, Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas proposed a prohibition on funding from Chinese entities to US universities and the end of the ten-year multiple-entry visa program for Chinese citizens.

American nationalists like Cotton rarely acknowledge that the Chinese are following a path laid by US students. In the nineteenth century, nearly 10,000 Americans traveled to study at universities in Germany. When they returned, they established institutions modeled on the ones they found abroad. The Americans' adaptations of the German universities were so effective that by 1900, the flow of traffic reversed. Germans attended the World's Fairs in Chicago and St. Louis to learn about American developments in higher education, such as co-education and applied mathematics. Research and innovation in the natural sciences and the humanities expanded as a result of this "competitive emulation."

Despite some German concerns that American students might steal trade secrets, intellectual curiosity overcame protectionism. Scientists and scholars from the two countries became partners as well as competitors. Professors traveled back and forth between New York and Berlin on

exchanges, sharing and advancing ideas. One Prussian education leader marveled that this mutual learning "represents progress ... in the direction of the intellectual unity of the human race...."

The two world wars undermined academic cooperation. The university was pulled toward the state and faculty promoted themselves as experts who could advance national goals. American professors turned on their German colleagues; those who refused were fired.

After World War II, it took numerous efforts to revive the dormant values of transatlantic scientific exchange and transparency. Even the international programs of the Cold War era, like the Ford Foundation-funded Free University of Berlin, the Fulbright Program, and the German Academic Exchange Service, were more expressions of "soft power" than true scientific partnerships.

In recent years, universities have brought back nineteenth-century-style cooperation to tackle twenty-first-century problems. A collaboration between the University of California and German institutions, funded by the non-profit Resources for the Future, is driving innovation on climate policy. Scholars from UC Berkeley, UC Davis, Berlin, and the Institute for European Studies in Brussels, are sharing research on decarbonization and the electrification of transportation. Their work is leading to green innovation on both sides of the Atlantic.

But US universities today are pulled in divergent directions. Although the majority of their research funding comes from the federal government, they generally support the global sharing of ideas, even with US competitors. That's how knowledge advances. Rather than blocking potential research partners from acquiring visas, governments should be encouraging international scientific collaboration through financial support and exchange programs. The Biden administration should take this opportunity to promote the value of science as a public good.

In the long history of scientific discovery the recent trend toward nativism is an aberration. Scientific advances and technological innovation require free exchange. Those who want to participate in the scientific enterprise must be willing to open their borders to partners from elsewhere, including potential rivals.

Many have asked whether China can become a scientific superpower despite its regressive politics and limited freedoms. But we should also be asking a different question: Can US universities remain the best in the world despite closing themselves off from China and the rest of the global community?

To remain vital and relevant - and support both national and global progress - universities must remain open to the world. Americans should know this as well as anyone.



OPINION

By James K. Galbraith

A Casablanca for Conservatives

Conservative academics are decamping from their positions at top American universities to escape the ravages of wokeness and cancel culture. At the new University of Austin, progressives will no longer call the shots - donors will.

AUSTIN - Pity the academic conservative. Having enjoyed tenure at Harvard University, the London School of Economics, and New York University, and now a steady gig at Stanford's Hoover Institution, the historian Niall Ferguson now plays the victim. He will soon decamp, he lets us imagine, to "a new kind of university - the University of Austin."

What is the very first thing that Ferguson highlights about UATX? That its founders are "diverse." To ensure that there is no mistake about the meaning of this word, he follows up: "in 1975, universities everywhere were still predominantly white, male, and middle-class. The process whereby a college education became more widely available - to women, to the working class, to racial minorities - has been slow and remains incomplete."

So that is the big problem that mainstream, liberal, conservative-oppressing American universities have been ignoring! It's great that Ferguson plans to help us out. How will UATX achieve diversity? According to Ferguson, admissions will be strictly by competitive examination, to avoid the "corrupt racket" of college admissions in other places nowadays. But what will the competitive examination examine? He does not say.

Driving the good conservative from the ivied halls are the malign forces of wokeness and cancel culture. Citing a study by the Center for the Study of Partisanship and Ideology, Ferguson writes that "40% of American social sciences and humanities professors under the age of 40 [support] at least one of four hypothetical dismissal campaigns," and for PhD students under 40, it's even worse (55%). As the nonpartisan CSPI states in its mission statement, "In the last decade, white liberals in America have shifted far to the left on issues of race, gender, and sexual orientation."

That sounds pretty bad. But read the actual study and you will find that just one of the four (actually, five, but who's counting?) hypothetical campaigns produces the result that Ferguson cites. The other four - dealing with "traditional parenthood," immigration, diversity, and empire - generated very minor adverse reactions. The one that provoked 43% of the 124 young PhDs sampled in the United States and Canada was a hypothetical about a researcher finding that "having a higher share of women and ethnic minorities in organizations correlates with reduced organizational performance." The long history of studies trying to show the innate superiority of white men over other groups might, possibly, have accounted for this.

Another terrible problem with top-ranked US liberal arts colleges, Ferguson tells us, is that the professors "with known political affiliations" are "overwhelmingly Democratic." Apart from the military academies, Republicans are to be found in greater numbers only in lower-ranked institutions.

Now, Ferguson does not suggest that there is anything wrong with the rankings. Instead, he takes this as evidence that better institutions discriminate against conservatives. But if the rankings are accurate, couldn't that correlation reflect an actual relationship between relatively liberal politics and good liberal arts teaching? Just a thought.

The next great thing about UATX is that it will pay very close attention to its donors. According to Ferguson, regular universities do not do this. As a result, "the capitalist class appears strangely unaware of the anti-capitalist uses to which its money is often put."

As a critic of capitalism who holds an academic chair in government/business relations, I beg to differ. A great virtue of many American capitalists, to judge by the ones I've dealt with, is that they make donations in good faith and then stay politely informed without complaining. What UATX is signaling, then, is that it will be for active donors who want to run the place. This naturally raises a question: If Friedrich Engels were still around, could he endow a chair for Karl Marx?

As for the curriculum, UATX will emphasize such "forbidden" topics as "entrepreneurship and leadership," and especially the "classical principles of the market economy." Presumably, that will include David Ricardo's principle, popularized by Henry George, that all taxes should fall on landlords, and Adam Smith's dictum that "wealth, as Mr. Hobbes says, is power." Fine by me. That stuff is already on my syllabus.1

Competition is good (there's another classical principle for you), and it's a free country. Fools can dispose of their money however they like. So as an academic in Austin, I say bring it on.

Still, after reading Ferguson's announcement, I cannot help but hear Humphrey Bogart's famous words echoing in my ear: "Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, [he] walks into mine..."

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O-PED

By Brahma Chellaney

The Narco-Terrorist Taliban

By allowing the Taliban to enrich and sustain itself with drug profits during the 20-year war in Afghanistan, the US contributed to its own humiliating defeat at the hands of a narco-terrorist organization. But it is not too late for the US to start targeting the Taliban as a drug cartel through its federal courts.

NEW DELHI - The strategic folly of US President Joe Biden's Afghan policy has been laid bare in recent weeks. First, the country came back under the control of the Pakistan-reared Taliban. The announcement of the interim government's composition then dashed any remaining (naive) hope that this Taliban regime would be different from the one the United States and its allies ousted in 2001. Beyond the cabinet including a who's who of international terrorism, narcotics kingpins occupy senior positions.

Afghanistan accounts for 85% of the global acreage under opium cultivation, making the Taliban the world's largest drug cartel. It controls and taxes opioid production, oversees exports, and shields smuggling networks. This is essential to its survival. According to a recent report by the United Nations Security Council monitoring team, the production and trafficking of poppy-based and synthetic drugs remain "the Taliban's largest single source of income." So reliant is the Taliban on narcotics trafficking that its leaders have at times fought among themselves over revenue-sharing.

The Taliban is hoping to expand its drug income as much as possible. Since its takeover, prices of opium in Afghanistan have more than tripled. In India - which is situated between the world's two main opium-producing centers, the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran "Golden Crescent" and the Myanmar-Thailand-Laos "Golden Triangle" - seizures of Afghan-origin heroin have increased. As the UN Office on Drugs and Crime warns, the economic crisis Afghanistan currently faces will only increase the appeal of illicit crop cultivation for local farmers.

The problem extends beyond opioids. In recent years, Afghanistan has drastically expanded its production of methamphetamine. The appeal lies in the fact that meth offers producers a higher profit margin than heroin, owing to lower overhead costs and inexpensive ingredients, especially now that its chemical precursor, pseudoephedrine - a common ingredient in cold medications - is being produced locally.

Last year, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction warned that Afghanistan's meth industry could soon be as large as its heroin industry. While the Taliban was not yet in control of Kabul at the time, it controlled the majority of Afghanistan's small, clandestine meth labs.

The Taliban uses several smuggling routes to move opiates. It moves output to Western Europe via the Caucasus and the Balkans, and from there all the way to North America. With the help of the Tajikistan-based terrorist group Jamaat Ansarullah, it also uses a northern route to Russia. The southeastern route, which snakes through Pakistan, is enabled by Pakistani security officials, who cooperate with the Taliban and smuggling syndicates, known locally as "tanzeems," in exchange for bribes.

In 2008, a Taliban drug trafficker was recorded boasting that most of his product ended up abroad. "Good," he gloated. "May God turn all the infidels into dead corpses. Whether it is by opium or by shooting, this is our common goal." With the Taliban channeling profits from drug sales directly into its terror machine, the connection between Islamist violence and drug trafficking could not be starker.

This is not exclusive to the Taliban; Islamist groups like Boko Haram, al-Shabaab, and al-Qaeda are also linked to drug trafficking. But not all terrorist groups are on board with this approach. As a 2020 UN Security Council report points out, the Islamic State-Khorasan - ISIS's Afghan arm - opposes the drug trade.

This is one reason why the outfit is an enemy of the Taliban, despite the two groups' longstanding personal relationships, common history of struggle, and shared belief in violent Islamism. In fact, when ISIS-K had control of the Afghan border province of Nangarhar, it blocked the Taliban's trafficking routes into Pakistan. The link was restored only when the US and Afghan government forces smashed the ISIS-K stronghold there.

This highlights the failure of the US - and the West more broadly - to recognize the complex but clear links between drug trafficking and Islamist terrorism. Had the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan been followed by a US campaign to arrest and prosecute Taliban leaders for their narcotics-trafficking activities in American courts, the group's appeal among fundamentalist Muslims might have been severely diminished.

Such a plan was proposed in 2012. In a 240-page memo, the US Drug Enforcement Administration and several Justice Department officials recommended prosecuting 26 senior Taliban leaders and allied drug lords for criminal conspiracy. A similar approach worked in Colombia, and helped to force the narcotics-funded Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) to make peace with the Colombian government in 2016, after 52 years of guerrilla war.

But successive US presidents refused to use this strategy against the Taliban, which was a strategic mistake with costs that are only beginning to be revealed. By allowing the Taliban to enrich and sustain itself with drug profits during the 20-year war in Afghanistan, the US contributed to its own humiliating defeat at the hands of a narco-terrorist organization.

It is not too late for the US to start targeting the Taliban as a drug cartel through its federal courts. After all, Afghan-origin opioids have resulted in high rates of drug addiction and deaths around the world, from the US and Europe to Africa and Asia. And, given Afghanistan's economic woes, the Taliban has a strong incentive to ramp up production and trafficking.

By highlighting the nexus between Islamist terrorism and the global narcotics trade, US indictments of the Taliban's drug kingpins would help to build multilateral cooperation to crush the group's primary source of income, such as by blocking shipments and seizing illicit profits, often parked in banks and real-estate investments abroad.

If the US does not lead an international effort to tackle Afghanistan's opioid and meth production, the Taliban's power - and ability to commit atrocities - will only grow, and its narco-state will serve as a haven for al-Qaeda and other violent jihadist groups. As matters stand, the world can expect a major surge in international terrorism and drug overdoses in the months and years ahead.

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USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

VA-669-22-00002

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-22-00002
- ISSUANCE DATE:** November 12, 2021
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** November 26, 2021, 5:30 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
- POSITION TITLE:** AID Project Management Specialist (Private Sector)
- MARKET VALUE:** USD 40,344 – 64,550 [USD] FSN-11
In accordance with **AIDAR Appendix J** and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value.
- PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** This contract will be for up to five years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.
- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia with possible travel as stated in the Statement of Duties.
- ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.
- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility and computer access.

11. STATEMENT OF DUTIES**BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION:**

The Private Sector Development Specialist sits in the Economic Policy and Private Sector Initiatives Team in the Economic Growth Office (EGO). The Specialist's primary responsibility is to work on all issues pertaining to private sector development, including the policy and regulatory environment for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and the enabling environment for increased foreign and domestic investments and employment growth. The Private Sector Development Specialist also provides expertise on value chain development, including in the Agricultural and Biodiversity sectors; entrepreneurship development, including innovations designed to move informal businesses into the formal economy; increasing access to finance, including mobile money schemes; supporting the Government of Liberia (GoL) on the potential development of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and improving partnerships with Concessionaires; and engaging the private sector across all sectors in which the Mission operates.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**Provides Program Development and Support in The Management of USAID/Liberia's Private Sector Activities: 50% of Time**

Private Sector Engagement (PSE) is a core tenet of the Agency's operating model and paves the pathway for countries to accelerate their Journey to Self-Reliance (J2SR). As such, it is a critical input to achieving the goals of the Mission's Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS). USAID's strategy for transformational development in Liberia seeks to boost economic growth through private sector development focused on improving the enabling environment for investment, increasing competitiveness, promoting trade, and reducing poverty and unemployment. The Specialist will take an active results-oriented role to assist the Economic Growth Office (EGO) in providing leadership to the Mission to achieve this strategic vision. The position will provide technical expertise and support policy dialogue and coordination for the USAID/Liberia Economic Growth Office's leadership. This includes providing requested technical advice in private sector development issues and policies in Liberia to the Mission Director, Deputy Mission Director, and other Office Directors, as requested. The position is also responsible for maintaining comprehensive knowledge of current economic growth issues and interventions and for establishing and maintaining professional working relationships with Government of Liberia (GOL) officials, the USG interagency, other donors, key implementing partners, local leaders, and the private sector.

The Specialist position serves as an expert within the Economic Growth Office, (EGO) to the Mission on private sector growth and development:

- S/He will assist his/her Team Leader and the Economic Growth Office Directors in developing and supporting a comprehensive strategy for greater private sector engagement.
- S/He will assist the Economic Growth Office to develop programs and activities which support the growth of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Liberia.
- S/He will assist the Economic Growth Office (EGO) to develop public-private partnerships (PPPs) in Liberia.
- S/He will provide expertise support to other technical offices in USAID/Liberia in their efforts to engage the private sector in sector portfolios. Some examples may be:
 - Provide advice and counsel on developing the skills/capacity of local private sector service providers to meet the advocacy needs of supported Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and fostering private sector partnerships to increase access to business services and improve the efficiency of public service delivery at the local (county and village) levels;
 - Perform analysis of market issues to support the creation of workforce development programs to expand employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, focusing programs for youth to better align skills-building with the private sector demand for trained employees; and
 - Support the engagement of the private sector in the various activities under the Health Federation and WASH programs.

Provides Technical Oversight and Project Management 30% of Time

The Private Sector Development Specialist:

- Assists the EGO Team Leader in developing and designing new activities that support USAID/Liberia's Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) and Economic Growth Office's strategy for greater private sector development.
- Serves as Contracting or Assistance Officer Representative (COR/AOR) for at least one Mission award promoting private sector development and/or improved policy environment. This role includes performing consistent monitoring and evaluation of program performance and financial oversight and providing technical guidance to contractors and grantees within the scope of the award, accepting deliverables from contractors on behalf of the mission. Contribution to regular reporting requirements such as field trip reports, quarterly accruals, procurement obligations and pipeline reviews and the semi-annual portfolio reviews is also required.
- Works closely with Mission AORs/CORs, Mission monitoring and evaluation specialists and Program and Project Development (PPD) and the Office of Acquisition Assistance (OAA) to support development of results frameworks to track and evaluate the ways in which the Mission engages with the private sector and determine what results are achieved. Provides input to Mission and Agency quarterly and annual tracking and performance exercises and various taskers.
- Provides strategic direction and technical support to the Mission in the design of key private sector development interventions and on policy reforms related to addressing challenges and barriers to private sector growth. In this context, liaises with other Mission technical colleagues working with the private sector in their own program portfolio.
- Works closely with the Mission Economist, his/her Team Leader and Economic Growth Office (EGO) Directors, to analyze country-level and regional data on policy reform, private sector development, and finance from a wide variety of sources both nationally and internationally; follows closely current political, social, economic and business trends in Liberia and provides analysis on how these trends effect the development and implementation of the Mission's economic growth programs and the Government of Liberia's (GOL) implementation of its Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD); and conducts or manages external expert analyses of opportunities and constraints to increase private sector development in Liberia. This includes preparing, contributing to, or reviewing analytical reports on private sector development, policy environment, and employment within Liberia's political, economic, and social context.
- Provides technical support for the development, procurement, and monitoring of public private partnerships within the Missions activities and provides recommendations to the Government of Liberia (GOL) on partnering with the private sector.

Knowledge Management and Relationship Development

20% of Time

- Supports USAID to liaison with other donors on private sector development and policy reform, briefing USAID management and Embassy on issues and discussions and preparing necessary documents, including USAID's positions, and talking points for meetings.
- Develops and maintains close professional contacts and active dialogue with Private Sector Advisor peers in other country donor agencies, local organizations, and various Government of Liberia (GOL) offices which engage in private sector and policy reform issues and activities, building contacts to facilitate knowledge-sharing and consultation or coordination of activities and ensuring USAID private sector program goals are realistic and achievable in the Liberian context.
- Review policies of the Government of Liberia (GOL) that affect private sector development including Liberia's utilization of or position in regional, international or USG agreements and conventions such as Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), African continental free trade area agreement, AfCFTA, World Trade Organization (WTO), African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), etc. Provides information on implications of these policies and agreements for Liberia and on the effective implementation of USAID private sector development programs.

Supervisory Controls: This position reports directly to the Private Sector Team Leader or his/her designate.

Supervisory Relationship: Full supervision of other USAID staff is not contemplated. The incumbent is provided with programmatic guidance on overall objectives, priorities, and deadlines; relevant operational guidance from USAID/W and USAID/Liberia; and USAID regulations and policies.

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Education:** University/College Degree (i.e. Bachelor's Degree) in the field of business administration, business entrepreneurship, economics, international development, or other related degree is required.
- Prior Work Experience:** Minimum of five (5) years of prior work experience in project management positions analyzing and coordinating programs in the field of economic development, private sector promotion, or business development policy analysis is required.
- Work/Residency Permits:** Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia.
- Language Proficiency:** Level IV (fluent) in English. Excellent English verbal communication skills, tact, and diplomacy, and the ability to establish and develop productive working relations with key stakeholders are required.

III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

The Evaluation Factors listed below will be the basis for evaluating and ranking applicants for the position. Applicants will be scored based on the documentation submitted within the application. Applicants must submit a supplemental document outlining their responses to the evaluation factor(s) in order to be considered.

1. Selection Process

After the closing date for receipt of applications, a committee will convene to review applications that meet the minimum requirements and evaluate them in accordance with the evaluation criteria. The committee will review the written responses to the Evaluation Factors and select the most qualified applications that best reflect the needs of the position. As part of the selection process, the most qualified candidates will be invited to an interview which will consist of both an oral and written evaluation. Reference checks will be made only for applicants considered as finalists. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities.

2. Evaluation Factors

Those applicants who meet the minimum education and experience qualifications will be evaluated based on the content of their application as well as on the applicant's writing, presentation, and communication skills. Applicants should include their name and the announcement number at the top of each additional page. Failure to specifically address the Evaluation Factors will result in the applicant not receiving full credit for pertinent experience.

FACTOR #1: Development of USAID or donor-funded Private Sector programs: In 500 words or less, describe your experience in the development of USAID or donor-funded agricultural, agribusiness, public-private-partnerships (PPPs) or micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) business development programs or activities. Experience should include designing private sector programs and developing strategies, project descriptions, support documents and procurement documents.

FACTOR #2: Technical Oversight and Project Management:

In 500 words or less, describe your experience in project management or contract administration including start-up, work planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and close-out of activities.

FACTOR #3: Knowledge Management and Relationship Development: In 500 words or less, describe your experience in developing and maintaining contacts with government, private sector, and donor-community counterparts. Experience should include knowledge sharing, consensus building and the coordination of activities.

FACTOR #4: Experience in Agribusiness and Natural Resource Management: In 500 words or less, describe your experience in promoting agricultural or natural resource-based businesses or endeavors. Describe private sector approaches implemented to support sustainability and environmental degradation.

3. Basis of Rating

Applicants determined to be competitively ranked will also be evaluated on their interview performance and satisfactory professional reference checks. The Applicant Rating System is as follows:

Evaluation Factors 40 points

- Factor #1 10 points
- Factor #2 10 points
- Factor #3 10 points
- Factor #4 10 points

Interview Performance 40 points

Interview questions will revolve around the candidate's ability to:

- Describe their experience and qualifications related to managing Private Sector and
- Communicate Effectively.

Written Evaluation 20 points

Candidates selected for an interview will be given a 30 minute written exercise. The purpose of the written exercise is to evaluate the candidate's writing ability and assess their analytical skills.

Total Possible Points 100 points

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line **VA-669-22-00002 – AID Project Management Specialist (Private Sector)** LiberiaHR@usaid.gov

Applicants may submit an application package prior to the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3 mentioned above unless revised.

Qualified applicants must submit the following documents, or their applications will not be considered for this position:

- A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
- A minimum of three (3) professional references with telephone and email contacts, who are not family members or relatives, with working telephone and email contacts. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities. At least one reference provided should be a current or former supervisor.
- A supplemental document with a written response to the Evaluation Factors.

Candidates who are applying for this position must fully meet the education requirement (graduated and degree and/or diploma already received) as specified. At the time of applications, candidates must also meet in full the work experience requirement. There is no exception to these requirements.

Short-listed candidates may be requested to provide educational documents such as transcripts for degrees, diplomas, certificates, and other pertinent documents as needed.

Any attachments provided via email must be compatible with Microsoft Word or PDF and not zipped. Note that attachments to email must not exceed 25 MB. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

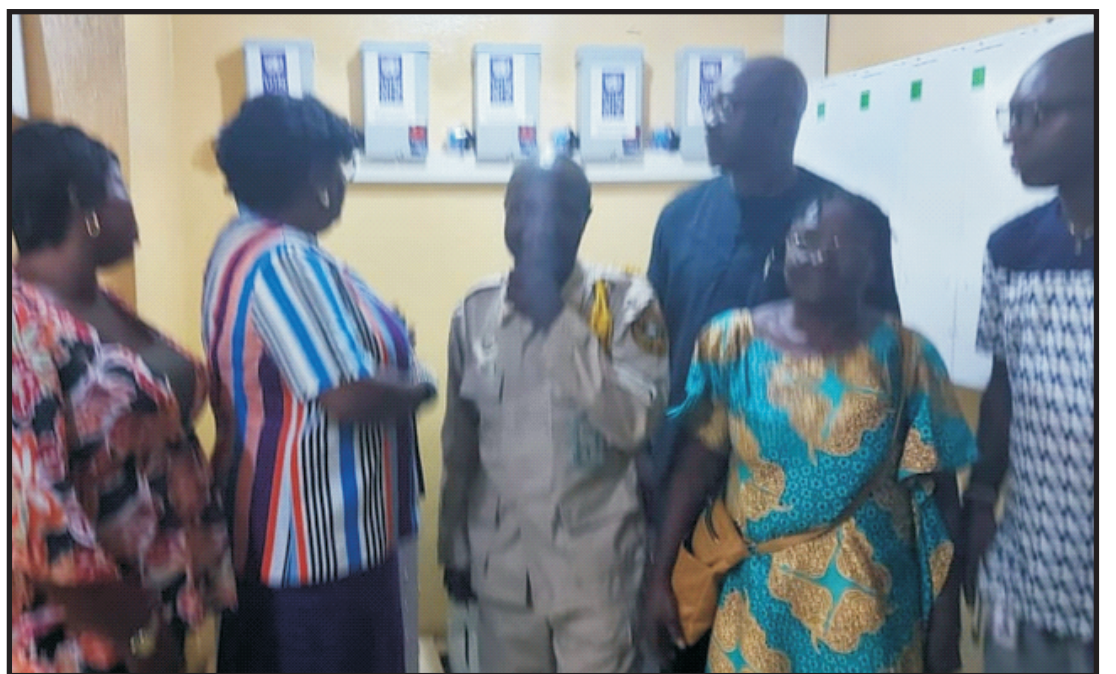
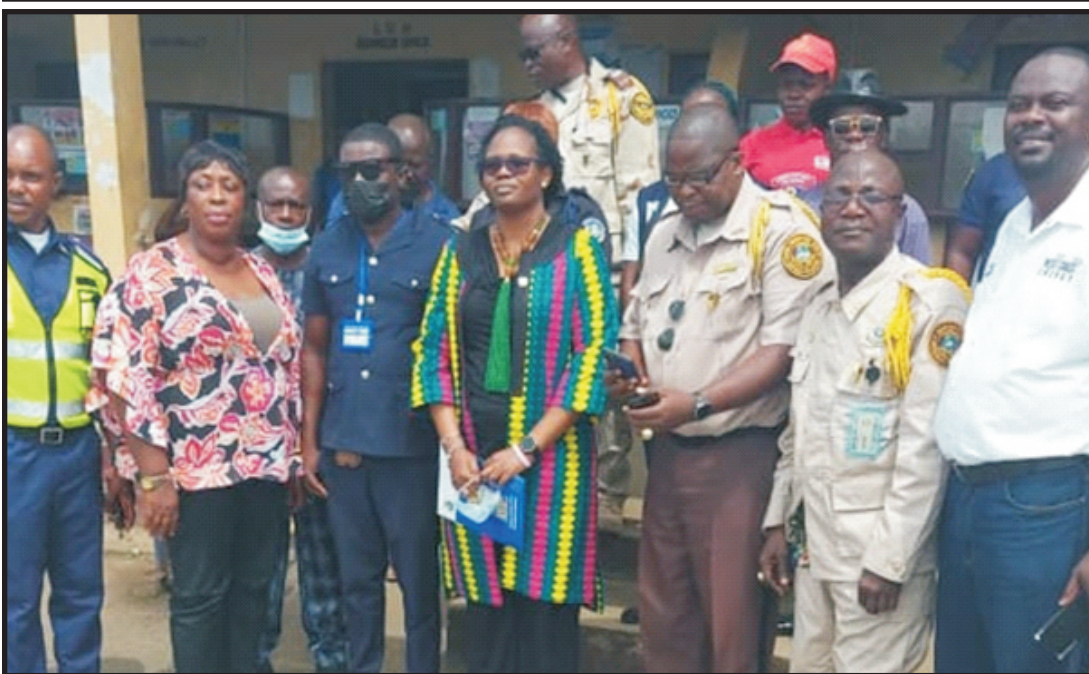
The Agency retains the right to cancel or amend the solicitation and associated actions at any stage of the recruitment process.

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

Mano River Union and UNDP Commissioned Solar Power at Bo Waterside



Mano River Union and UNDP Commissioned Solar Power at Bo Waterside



Français

La Chambre des Représentants adopte le projet de loi sur la double nationalité au Libéria

Le jeudi 11 novembre, les membres de la Chambre des Représentants ont promulgué une loi modifiant la loi sur les étrangers et la nationalité.

La loi vise à modifier la partie III, chapitre 20, article 20.1 ; Chapitre 21, articles 21.30, 21.31, 21.51 et 21.52 et chapitre 22, articles 22.1, 22.1 et 22.4 de la loi sur les étrangers et la nationalité du Code de droit libérien révisé, vol. II.

Selon les auteurs du projet de loi, la loi actuelle telle qu'elle existe est contraire et est incompatible avec les articles 11 (b) et (C), 27 et 28 relatifs à l'égalité de protection en vertu de la loi (droits fondamentaux) et de la citoyenneté.

Les promoteurs du projet de loi ont également noté que ces incohérences, telles qu'observées par les conclusions du comité, les rédacteurs de la Constitution de 1986 ont demandé au pouvoir législatif de prescrire d'autres normes, critères et procédures par lesquels la

citoyenneté libérienne peut être obtenue.

Selon eux, l'amendement ou l'abrogation de ces lois est conforme à la disposition constitutionnelle de l'article 2 (2) de la Constitution de 1986 qui stipule : « Toute loi, tout accord ou traité jugé incompatible avec cette loi est nul et sans effet juridique ». La Cour

suprême, en vertu de son pouvoir de contrôle judiciaire, est habilitée à déclarer inconstitutionnelle toute loi incompatible.

Le projet de loi ayant été adopté par la Chambre sera soumis à l'approbation du Sénat.

Le projet de loi est

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



L'exploitation minière du mont Nimba en Guinée aura des retombées économiques positives pour le Libéria

High Power Exploration (HPX) a annoncé des résultats positifs de son Etude de Préfaisabilité (EPF 2021) pour le projet de minerai de fer du mont Nimba en République de Guinée.

Une étude confirme la viabilité du développement du gisement de minerai de classe mondiale. Un communiqué publié le 11 novembre 2021 indique que l'étude de faisabilité devrait être achevée au début de l'an

2023.

Guy de Selliers, Président de la Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG) et Mamady Youla, PDG de SMFG, ont annoncé, jeudi 11 novembre, des conclusions positives de son étude de préfaisabilité pour le projet de minerai de fer de Nimba en Guinée. SMFG est une filiale de High Power Exploration (HPX).

L'EPF 2021 a été dirigée par la société d'ingénierie indépendante Hatch Ltd de

Toronto, Canada et a évalué le développement d'une mine, d'une infrastructure ferroviaire et portuaire pour exporter jusqu'à 30 millions de tonnes de minerai par an par voie ferroviaire et en utilisant le port de Buchanan au Libéria.

L'équipe dirigée par Hatch était composée de SRK Consulting (UK) Limited, Fluor Corporation, Golder Associates, China Harbour Engineering Company Limited, China Railway Liuyuan Group Co. Ltd et CCC First Harbour Consultants Co. Ltd.

Les points saillants de l'EPF 2021 comprennent :

Un taux de rendement robuste sur un prix de référence prévu à long terme du minerai de fer de 76 \$ US la tonne (\$/t), qui se compare au prix au comptant actuel qui dépasse 94 \$ US la tonne. Ce prix au comptant ne tient pas compte de la prime actuelle payée pour le minerai de fer de haute qualité que Nimba produira, qui est une prime moyenne d'environ 18%.

Les coûts totaux de développement du projet

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Nos pensées vont à l'endroit du peuple Sierra-Léonais attristé par un catastrophe

Le peuple Sierra-Léonais est toujours dans un état de choc à la suite de l'explosion d'un camion-citerne qui s'est produit le vendredi 5 novembre 2021, faisant plus d'une centaine de morts et de gravement brûlés à plusieurs degrés.

Le gouvernement de la Sierra Leone a commencé le lundi 8 novembre à enterrer les morts dans des fosses communes dans le même cimetière où il avait enterré plus de 1 000 de ses citoyens décédés à la suite d'une coulée de boue en 2017, selon la BBC. Les rapports indiquent que les hôpitaux de Freetown, la capitale, sont submergés de survivants de l'incident de vendredi.

Un camion-citerne est entré en collision avec un autre camion et a ensuite explosé en pleine circulation. Les hôpitaux sont confrontés à une grave pénurie de sang.

Nos pensées vont ainsi à l'endroit du peuple sierra-léonais qui pleure ses morts. Nous les exhortons à trouver du réconfort auprès de Dieu Tout-Puissant pour la malheureuse tragédie et à tirer des leçons pour éviter qu'un tel acte ne se reproduise.

Le gouvernement du président Julius Maada Bio a mis en place une commission d'enquête qui doit mener des investigations et faire des recommandations afin d'éviter que ce cauchemar aussi atroce ne se répète dans cette nation sœur.

Ici, au Libéria, le président George Manneh Weah a qualifié l'accident de tragédie majeure pour la région de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et a présenté ses sincères condoléances à son homologue, le président Julius Maada Bio, au gouvernement et au peuple sierra-léonais, aux familles des défunts et à tous ceux qui sont touchés par l'accident.

Le président Weah a offert le plein soutien et l'assistance du Libéria, alors que les autorités sierra-léonaises commencent à s'efforcer de soigner les blessés et de récupérer les morts. « Je suis attristé par la terrible perte des vies humaines à Freetown, en Sierra Leone, suite à l'explosion d'un camion-citerne transportant du carburant le vendredi 5 novembre 2021 », a dit le président Weah dans un communiqué de presse.

Le Libéria et la Sierra Leone entretiennent des liens historiques et culturels qui remontent des XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles, lorsque les deux pays ont reçu gratuitement des esclaves noirs de retour d'Amérique et des Antilles. En outre, les deux pays sont membres de l'Union du fleuve Mano, de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) et de l'Union africaine, anciennement connue sous l'appellation Organisation de l'unité africaine.

L'expérience de vendredi n'est pas unique à la Sierra Leone, car l'Afrique de l'Ouest et d'autres parties du continent connaissent de temps à autre une catastrophe et une autre. Le Nigeria, le Ghana et ailleurs dans la région ont subi le même sort, faisant des dizaines, voire des centaines de morts et des familles dévastées. Ces tragédies se produisent généralement à la suite de la circulation de véhicules contenant du combustible dans des zones peuplées ou d'une mauvaise manipulation de produits inflammables.

Une tragédie d'une telle ampleur est capable de déséquilibrer une nation entière et sa population, en particulier les petites nations au milieu d'une pandémie mondiale qui a dévasté les économies du monde et restreint les déplacements et les voyages.

Cependant, comme on le dit souvent, chaque tragédie s'accompagne d'opportunités qui changent la vie et qui doivent être exploitées pour aller de l'avant. C'est notre espoir et nos prières qu'au milieu des pertes caractérisées par la douleur, les larmes et la tristesse, le gouvernement et le peuple de la Sierra Leone innoveront, mettront le passé derrière et regardent vers l'avenir avec espoir et foi en Dieu, le Soutien, Guérisseur et Consolateur.

Français

La Chambre des Représentants adopte le projet

également soutenu par la Conférence libérienne sur la double citoyenneté (ALCOD), qui comprend l'Union des associations libériennes des Amériques (ULAA), la Fédération européenne des associations libériennes (EFLA), LiberianAdvocacy for Change (LAFC), la Fédération des communautés libériennes de l'Australie (FLCA), l'Association libérienne unie du Ghana (ULAG), l'Association libérienne du Canada (LAC) et la Conférence des organisations libériennes du sud-ouest des États-Unis d'Amérique (CLOSUSA). ALCOD représente plus de 500 000 Libériens vivant dans la diaspora.

Le projet de loi du représentant Gray intervient quelques jours après qu'il a été publié dans les médias que certains Libériens de la diaspora, qui en avaient marre du "manque d'action et de volonté", avaient appelé le sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Darius

Dillon, à retirer un projet de loi similaire qu'il avait soumis au Sénat.

Pendant ce temps, les membres de l'ALCOD ont exprimé leurs remerciements et leur appréciation au président Weah, qui avait, parmi huit autres propositions d'amendement lors des élections sénatoriales spéciales de décembre 2020, inclus la proposition d'amendement de la double nationalité. « Le président continue de soutenir nos efforts pour la double nationalité aujourd'hui. Nous souhaitons qu'il soutienne le projet de loi parrainé par le représentant Gray ».

Les membres de l'ALCOD ont également remercié le président et les membres de la Chambre pour leur soutien à la double nationalité. Ils ont également remercié les sénateurs Varney Sherman et Abraham Darius Dillon, qui avaient soumis des projets de loi similaires au Sénat.

Ces Libériens de la diaspora espèrent que ce projet de loi sera approuvé par le Sénat.

L'exploitation minière du mont Nimba en Guinée aura

sont estimés à 2,77 milliards de dollars américains (y compris les coûts d'investissement directs plus tous les coûts d'ingénierie, les coûts pour les propriétaires, les imprévus et les taxes). Les coûts d'investissement directs pour le développement ferroviaire et portuaire au Libéria sont estimés à plus de 600 millions de dollars.

Les coûts d'exploitation du projet sont estimés à moins de 18 USD/tonne. Les travaux de construction devraient commencer en 2023, à en croire l'EPF 2021.

L'estimation des coûts d'exploitation suppose, entre autres, que les frais d'accès seront payés au gouvernement du Libéria, en tant que propriétaire de la ligne ferroviaire existante (qui est actuellement exploitée par ArcelorMittal Libéria), conformément aux principes internationaux établis.

Des autorisations formelles légalement valables pour le mouvement de minerai à travers le Libéria ont été obtenues du gouvernement de la Guinée en décembre 2020 et du gouvernement du Libéria en août 2021.

Les paramètres exacts de cet accord d'accès multi-utilisateurs non discriminatoire sont

actuellement en cours de négociation.

Dans le cadre du plan de développement énoncé dans l'EPF 2021, d'importants investissements supplémentaires dans les infrastructures seront réalisés au Libéria par la filiale Ivanhoe Liberia afin de faciliter le transport du minerai vers le port de Buchanan depuis le site minier.

Cela comprend l'extension de la capacité de l'infrastructure ferroviaire existante entre Tokadeh au Libéria et le port de Buchanan, qui s'étend sur quelque 243 kilomètres.

Cela comprendrait la réhabilitation de l'infrastructure ferroviaire le long d'une emprise ferroviaire abandonnée de Tokadeh à Yekepa ainsi qu'une expansion significative du port de Buchanan grâce à la construction d'un nouveau poste d'amarrage et d'installations de manutention de matériaux en vrac.

Cette réhabilitation et cette expansion permettront également l'accès au rail pour les passagers et le fret léger, ce qui pourrait contribuer de manière significative au commerce régional et au développement économique.

Le développement du projet de minerai de fer de Nimba devrait créer 2 000 emplois directs permanents, dont environ 1 500 en Guinée et 500 au Libéria.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Emily J. Levine

L'université peut-elle braver le nouveau nationalisme ?

STANFORD - Les valeurs cosmopolites de l'éducation supérieure battent en retraite devant une vague montante d'isolationnisme. Les inscriptions d'étudiants étrangers dans les universités américaines sont en baisse continue, tandis que les campus associés aux universités américaines outre-mer se réorganisent ou ferment. Cette tendance est de mauvais augure, bien au-delà de l'enseignement et de la recherche.

Les universités se situent à la croisée de l'intérêt national et de buts universels. Si elles jouent un rôle dans la construction nationale, elles s'engagent aussi dans la poursuite de la vérité, qui a tiré grand profit au cours de l'histoire du libre échange des idées et du libre mouvement des enseignants et des étudiants par-delà les frontières. En un temps d'affaiblissement des institutions mondiales, l'université connaît à son tour une perte de pouvoir et d'influence. Le libre flot des idées est aujourd'hui en péril. Peut-on y changer quelque chose ?

Les universités ont acquis un statut prééminent au XIXe siècle en se rendant utiles aux États-nations, en formant les membres de leur administration, et en améliorant la technologie grâce à la recherche fondamentale. Plus tard, elles sont devenues le forum d'une collaboration mondiale, en trouvant un équilibre entre les obligations qu'elles avaient à l'égard de leur pays et les responsabilités qui étaient les leurs dans la communauté internationale. Mais les craintes suscitées par l'essor de la Chine et les soupçons d'espionnage ont fait pencher la balance, ces dernières années, vers les priorités nationales.

En 2020, le président Donald Trump a pris par décret la décision d'interdire un certain nombre de champs scientifiques aux étudiants chinois titulaires d'une licence - a fortiori à leurs compatriotes chercheurs. L'administration du président Joe Biden a maintenu cette interdiction. Au début de l'année, le sénateur Tom Cotton, de l'Arkansas, a proposé d'interdire les financements de programmes de recherche par des entités chinoises dans les universités américaines et de mettre un terme au programme de visas accordés pour dix ans aux ressortissants chinois sans obligation de demeurer sur le territoire des États-Unis.

Les nationalistes américains comme Cotton ne sont guère prêts à reconnaître que les Chinois suivent aujourd'hui le même chemin qu'hier les étudiants américains. Au XIXe siècle, presque 10 000 Américains sont allés étudier dans les universités allemandes. À leur retour, ils ont fondé des institutions sur le modèle de celles qu'ils avaient découvertes à l'étranger. Les adaptations américaines des universités allemandes connaissaient en 1900 un tel succès que le flux s'inversa. Les Allemands venaient assister aux Expositions universelles de Chicago (1893) et de Saint-Louis (1904) pour apprendre les progrès réalisés par les Américains dans l'enseignement supérieur, en matière notamment de co-éducation et de mathématiques appliquées. La recherche et l'innovation dans les sciences de la nature et les humanités se développèrent, conséquemment à cette « émulation concurrentielle ».

En dépit des inquiétudes allemandes au sujet des étudiants américains, susceptibles de voler des secrets commerciaux, la curiosité intellectuelle fut plus forte que le protectionnisme. Scientifiques et enseignants des deux pays devinrent, autant que des concurrents, des partenaires. Les professeurs faisaient l'aller-

retour entre New York et Berlin, grâce à des programmes d'échanges, partageant et faisant avancer leurs idées. En Prusse, un haut responsable de l'enseignement s'émerveillait de cet apprentissage mutuel « source de progrès [...] vers l'unité intellectuelle de la race humaine ».

Les deux guerres mondiales eurent raison de la coopération académique. L'université fut ramenée dans l'orbite de l'État et les facultés firent valoir leurs experts qui pouvaient faire progresser la cause nationale. Les professeurs américains s'attaquèrent à leurs collègues allemands, et ceux qui ne le voulurent pas furent renvoyés.

Après la Seconde Guerre mondiale, il fallut de nombreux efforts pour ressusciter les valeurs assoupies des échanges scientifiques transatlantiques et de la transparence. Même les programmes internationaux de la guerre froide, comme l'Université libre de Berlin, financée par la fondation Ford, les bourses Fulbright et le German Academic Exchange Service, étaient plus l'expression d'un « soft power » que de véritables partenariats scientifiques.

Ces dernières années, les universités sont revenues à une coopération qui rappelle celle du XIXe siècle pour affronter les problèmes du XXIe siècle. Une collaboration entre l'université de Californie et des institutions allemandes, financée par l'association Resources for the Future, mène l'innovation en matière de politique climatique. Des enseignants et des chercheurs de l'université de Californie à Berkeley et à Davis, de l'université de Berlin et de l'Institut d'études européennes de l'Université libre de Bruxelles partagent leurs travaux sur la décarbonation et l'électrification des transports. Ils sont, des deux côtés de l'Atlantique, à la pointe de l'innovation écologique.

Mais les universités sont aux États-Unis soumises à maints tiraillements. Si leurs financements de recherches proviennent pour l'essentiel du gouvernement fédéral, elles soutiennent habituellement, néanmoins, le partage mondial des idées, y compris avec les concurrents des États-Unis. C'est ainsi que la connaissance avance. Plutôt que d'empêcher de potentiels partenaires de recherche d'obtenir leur visa, les gouvernements devraient encourager la collaboration scientifique internationale par des soutiens financiers et des programmes d'échanges. L'administration Biden devrait saisir cette opportunité de promouvoir la valeur de la science comme bien public.

Dans la longue histoire de la découverte scientifique, la tendance récente au nativisme est une aberration. Le progrès scientifique et l'innovation technologique requièrent la liberté des échanges. Ceux qui souhaitent participer à l'aventure scientifique doivent aussi vouloir ouvrir leurs frontières à des partenaires venus d'ailleurs, quand bien même ils seraient des rivaux potentiels.

Nombreux sont ceux qui se demandent si la Chine peut devenir une superpuissance scientifique malgré sa politique régressive et sa liberté sous surveillance. Mais nous devrions aussi nous poser une autre question : les universités des États-Unis peuvent-elles demeurer les meilleurs du monde malgré leur fermeture à la Chine et au reste de la communauté mondiale ?

Pour conserver leur fonction vitale et leur pertinence - et nourrir le progrès tant national que mondial -, les universités doivent demeurer ouvertes au monde. Les Américains devraient le savoir aussi bien que quiconque.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

85 students graduate from Camp xSEL inaugural class at UL

--Revised curriculum launched for medical school

By Winston W. Parley

At least 85 students have graduated from Camp xSEL (Excellence in Science Education for Liberia), a month-long preparatory program for pre-medical and pre-clinical students, run at the University of Liberia (UL) in partnership with United States-based partner universities, Yale and Vanderbilt and supported by the United States government.

The four-week program concluded through an official event held on the Fendall Campus of the University of Liberia Friday, 12 November 2021. Of the 85 graduates, 25 were females.

The Camp xSEL program is designed to equip incoming students with learning tools for their journey in pre-

University, just as we at the Embassy work side-by-side with the ministry of Health to reimagine medical education in Liberia," said Amb. McCarthy.

Amb. McCarthy noted that the day was an especially proud moment "as we stand at the intersection of several different partnerships between the United States and Liberia."

He added, "We are in the business of building a future together. That is why I am so excited by this joint event."

He McCarthy described the partnership between the University of Liberia, USAID, and the American Embassy as laudable, expressing optimism that it would continue to flourish.

Dr. Moses Zinnah, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Acting President of the University of Liberia, received the Revised Medical School

Also speaking, Vanderbilt University Principal Investigator Marie Martin, Assistant Professor of Global Health and Assistant Director of VIGH, commended the collaboration among the different institutions and the U.S. Embassy.

Given a reflection of her academic life when was the age of the young Camp xSEL graduates, Prof. Marie Martin explained that she too attended a four-week camp, and this experience allowed her to learn things she had never done before, and it changed the future of her life.

Making remarks, Yale School of Medicine Principal Investigator Assistant Professor Kristina Tolbert-Slagle, cautioned students to stand firm in the pursuit of their goal, saying she also had a camp experience that changed the course of her life.

Dr. Bernice Dahn, Vice President for Health Sciences at the University of Liberia and Co-Principal Investigator on the BRIDGE-U: Liberia project, explained that the numerous challenges students have faced in completing their nine-year medical program in the past have informed decision-making in the design of the new curriculum for the Medical School at the University of Liberia.

Speaking separately during the official closing event, student representatives expressed gratitude to all the partners and donors who ensured that the Camp xSEL program was successful.

Student Jesse Quoiquoi, Acting President of Pre-Med Student Council Section A Camp, remarked that it was such a great opportunity for them to participate in Camp xSEL, noting that what is sure is that their stay here for the past four weeks has greatly transformed their lives.

Student Tonita Printer, President of the Pre-Medical Program Section B Camp, thanked everyone who contributed to making Camp xSEL successful and also expressed excitement for the opportunity she had to associate with other young people who "look at human development beyond paper and pencil education."

Student Cordelia K. Capehart, President for Pre-Clinical Section C Camp, said "just within a month's time, we acquired amazing skills

MRU, UNDP boost

Starts from back page

Commissioner Lawrence Karnely of the Liberia Immigration Service, graced the program.

West Coast Energy, Inc. carried out the installation process and restored 24 hours of electricity at the border and its surroundings to deter illegal migration between the four Mano River countries, especially during night time.

Electricity has been provided for the Liberia Immigration Service, Liberia National police assigned at border and immediate surrounding areas of the border and all other government ministries and agencies at the Sierra Leone-Liberia border.

UNDP support Liberia National development agenda within the framework of the Social Development Goals (SDGs.)

As a trusted and reliable development partner, UNDP also helps countries like Liberia to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and exclusion and build resilience to sustain progress and achieve the SDGs.

Officially commissioning the solar power, UNDP Resident Representative Madam Violet Baffour said it is a joint effort initiated following the intervention of Amb. Wesseh, who is very passionate about mitigating border security threat.

"This joint project by the both institutions, is very crucial for strengthening Security by enabling 24 hours control and surveillance of movement of people between the both countries," said Madam Baffour.

She said when the solar power is properly managed and maintained, it will go a long way in boosting security operation and reducing threat.

For her part, MRU Secretary General Amb. Medina A. Wesseh, Esq, thanked the UNDP for the partnership and called on the joint security to properly manage the project.

"We have many programs and projects coming up. However, we can't have sustainable development when we don't manage and protect the little we have," she warned.

In further remarks, Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) Commissioner Lawrence Karnely, extolled the joint effort of UNDP and MRU.

"We want to thank the UNDP for its long-standing support in areas of security, personnel training and joint border patrol. I can assure you that we will properly manage and maintain this project as instructed, because this project means a lot to us," said Commissioner Karnely who proxy for LIS chief, Col. Robert Budy during the program.

"We also want to tell our Ma thanks, Amb. Mrs. Medina A. Wesseh, Esq, for the support toward us. We are grateful and we pray that God multiply all her efforts toward this border guard," Commissioner Karnely added.

Also speaking, the Chief of Joint security at the border, Major Saxon Tambo said that the presence of the light will make their job simple and easy.

He described Amb. Wesseh as a good leader, thanking her for the intervention. He also thanked UNDP for the project.

"The border closes at 6:00pm but at times we open [during] midnight when government officials and other important guests are coming into the country. Because of no light, we had been finding it difficult to have record at night," he said.

"Most times we used touch light to record and carry out patrol. Now we are happy for this because we will see everywhere and do our job properly," Major Saxon Tambo indicated.

Before the commissioning of the project, UNDP Resident Representative Stephen Rodriques recently remarked, "The COVID-19 pandemic, which has harshly impacted the economies of the Mano River Union countries, highlighted the need to strengthen border surveillance, security and management to curb cross-border spread of the disease."

He praised the Mano River Union Secretary General Amb. Wesseh for the level of collaboration and partnership she has mobilized from the two governments, their security forces and immigration services to keep the borders safe while strengthening a sub-regional response to COVID-19.

Rodriques urged the Government of Liberia to allocate adequate budgetary resources for the maintenance and sustainability of the solar lighting initiative.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



medical and pre-clinical studies at the University of Liberia.

Delivering a speech at the program, United States Ambassador accredited to Liberia, Michael A. McCarthy, said the Bringing Research to Impact for Development, Global Engagement, and Utilization (BRIDGE-U), funded by USAID, is building off these initiatives to enrich faculty development and student-learning across the College of Health Sciences.

"These projects are models of innovation and impact, demonstrating the tremendous change we can achieve through partnership and collaboration. Our U.S. university and other partners are working side-by-side with your University of Liberia and Tubman

Curriculum presented during the program by Dr. Bernice Dahn, Vice President for Health Sciences at the University of Liberia and Co-Principal Investigator on the BRIDGE-U: Liberia project, and Dr. Lawrence Sherman, Dean of the A.M. Dogliotti School of Medicine University of Liberia.

Dr. Zinnah lauded the U.S. government for its support to the University of Liberia, saying, it helped greatly to actualize the vision of the University Administration by attracting young people to the Sciences, particularly in the medical field.

"To launch this innovative, demand-driven curriculum which demystifies health care assures young people that they can be medical doctors," Dr. Zinnah noted. He reaffirmed the University's commitment to faculty development.

and great knowledge and rebuilt solid relationship that will hereafter bind most of us together for a very long time."

For his part, student Benjamin Bedell, Jr., President

of the Pre-Clinical Section D Camp, said Camp xSEL had connected students to different people that may be essential in their medical career.

Cummings rejects closed door solution in CPP

By Winston W. Parley

Opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) political leader Alexander B. Cummings has insisted he will not accept any “behind closed doors” solutions in resolving an internal conflict within the Collaboration Political Parties (CPP), turning down a proposal by the opposition bloc’s chairman and former Liberian Vice President, Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

Cummings ANC has been publicly accused of allegedly tampering with the CPP’s frame work document. The ANC remains resolute that

leaders within the CPP, Cummings and Boakai are the only two political heads battling for the CPP presidential ticket to face incumbent President George Manneh Weah of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

Cummings’ posture to remain uncompromising on every issue within CPP, especially given the controversial nature of the allegation of altering CPP’s document nearing the 2023 presidential election, could be an opportunity for him to make Boakai’s tenure as CPP chair politically too busy and hectic.

In a communication dated 10 November 2021 addressed to CPP chair Mr. Boakai, the ANC

disunity are engineered by the political leadership of the CPP, some of whom are manifesting interests in pursuing ambitions outside the agreed rules of engagement,” Cummings continued.

The claim that the CPP’s frame work document was altered with “nefarious” intent ostensibly to benefit ANC were attributed to CPP constituent party All Liberian Party (ALP) political leader, businessman Benoni Urey.

Mr. Cummings argued that genuine reconciliation, as needed in the CPP and in Liberia must be about upholding and preserving the law especially in the pursuit of individual ambitions.

“Accordingly, the ANC and I agree with an earlier position of the Unity Party (UP) and others that the prerequisite to any and all activities and actions of the CPP is a comprehensive conclusion of investigation into allegation made by the All Liberian Party (ALP) that the Framework Document (FD) which binds and governs the four parties of the CPP was altered with “nefarious” intent ostensibly to benefit me and the ANC,” said Cummings.

He demands Mr. Boakai to act with urgency towards setting up an independent committee that will investigate the allegations by answering the central question of whether or not there are amendments to the agreeable Amended Version of the Framework Document of the lawyers which was approved by the parties and filed with the National Elections Commission for CPP’s registration.

He also seeks to know what the details of those amendments are. He argued that there is now understandable public interests in the allegation of the ALP, and particularly, in how the CPP finally resolves it.

political leader assured his party’s personal commitment and support toward the realization of the patriotic objectives of the CPP for the betterment of Liberia.

“However, we cannot hope to genuinely reconcile the CPP, if as leaders, we are unwilling to truthfully confront and conclusively resolve the real causes underlying the deepening disunity and distrust,” Cummings wrote.

He added that unfortunately, the problems of the CPP are not with the membership and those who are sympathetic to the CPP.

“The deepening distrust and



the CPP under Mr. Boakai, sets up an independent committee of five persons from credible institutions to complete the investigation within two weeks and return its findings.

The conditions set by Mr. Cummings while Mr. Boakai is proposing an amicable solution to the internal conflict, mean the CPP is way too far from being at peace with itself, and this may also be a potentially serious political test to shed light on Mr. Boakai’s leadership style in dealing with critical issues.

Of the four political

New L\$100 banknote expected December

The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) says it will begin introducing the new Liberian dollar currency starting with the 100 Liberian dollar banknote in the tune of four billion Liberian dollars this December 2021.

The amount, the CBL noted is intended to increase Liberian dollar liquidity in the economy during the festive season. A second consignment of four billion Liberian dollars of the new family of L\$100 banknote will be brought into the country during the 1st Quarter of 2022 to commence the gradual replacement of mutilated banknotes.

The new L\$100 banknote is part of the L\$48.734 billion of the new family of Liberian dollar currency authorized by the 54th National Legislature in May 2021 to be printed and minted in three years, specifically 2021, 2022 and 2024.

all stakeholders in ensuring that the Currency Changeover process remains on course to support financial stability, and by extension, macroeconomic stability.

The Bank assured the public that it will continue to provide updates on the delivery and infusion of the new family of Liberian dollar banknotes and coins, as well as the withdrawal and destruction of the old banknotes. It also noted that it wants to inform the public that there is no need for panic or rush as it rolls out the plan.

During the process, the Bank further informs the public that the existing and new banknotes will be allowed to co-circulate for a period of time and will ensure that every existing Liberian dollar in circulation is exchanged between 2022 and 2024.

It said exchange exercise will be done through the banking



The Bank explained that the introduction of the new currency will be done in line with the Implementation Plan of the Currency Changeover, developed in consultation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to ensure a gradual, smooth and transparent process.

It also added that the introduction of the remaining L\$100 banknote and other denominations including the L\$20, L\$50, L\$500 and L\$1000 banknotes, and the L\$5 and L\$10 coins is due to take place in the latter half of 2022. The destruction of the old banknotes will be done through an enhanced internal control and transparent process, to ensure full accountability to all stakeholders.

CBL further explained that as it rolls out the Implementation Plan, it recognizes the importance of

system in collaboration with other regulated financial service providers under stringent supervision and monitoring of the CBL in keeping with the Joint Resolution of the National Legislature.

Accordingly, the CBL profoundly appreciates the Executive, National Legislature, and the public for the support as well as the IMF and Kroll & Associates for their technical assistance and advisory roles, which have significantly contributed to the integrity of the process.

The CBL concluded that it will continue its public education program on the introduction of the new L\$100 banknote. More information on the specimen of the new L\$100 banknote is available on the CBL website at www.cbl.org.lr. The other denominations to be introduced later will be published on the CBL website.



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With Emmanuel B. Juduh

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MRU, UNDP boost border security surveillance

-- Electrify Bo Waterside



partnership of the program was successful based on the intervention of MRU Secretary General Amb. Medina A. Wesseh, Esq, who negotiated with the United Nations Development Programs in order to increase joint security operation and vigilance in the area.

The installation and commissioning of the modern solar power will help boost security patrol, mitigate long standing security threat, and human and drugs trafficking at the Bo Waterside border in Grand Cape Mount County.

Several prominent officials including Amb. Wesseh; UNDP Resident Representative to Liberia Madam Violet Baffour; Major Saxon Tambo, Bo Waterside Commander and Chief of Joint Security; and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

By Lincoln G Peters
The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Mano River Union (MRU) have jointly installed, and turned over 96 pieces of

modernized state - of - the - art solar panel to the joint security border patrol at the Liberia and Sierra Leone Bo Waterside border in Grand Cape Mouth County. The implementation and



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