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VOL. 11 NO. 203

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021

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Continental News

UN: At Least 1,000 Arrested Since Ethiopia State of Emergency

The United Nations expressed alarm Tuesday at surging arrests in Ethiopia since the country introduced a state of emergency November 2. The U.N. human rights agency said most of those detained in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa as well as in Gondar, Bahir Dar and other locations were of Tigrayan origin.

"According to reports, at least 1,000 individuals are believed to have been detained ... with some reports putting the figure much higher," spokeswoman Liz Throssell told reporters in Geneva.

The arrests have been occurring since Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government declared a state of emergency two weeks ago, when Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) fighters threatened to march on the capital.

Lawyers have also said that thousands of Tigrayans have been arbitrarily detained since the announcement of the

measures, which allow authorities to detain without a warrant anyone suspected of supporting "terrorist groups."

Among those arrested since the state of emergency was declared are a number of U.N. staff members. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reiterated his call for the immediate release of the employees in a statement from his spokesman Stephane Dujarric

on Tuesday evening.

"As far as the secretary-general is aware, the staff members are being held without charge, and no specific information has been provided regarding the reasons for their arrest," Dujarric said.

Throssell said 10 local U.N. staff members and 34 drivers subcontracted by the U.N. were still being held.

"We call for all those still in detention to be immediately released," she said, adding that if that does not happen, "a court or other independent and impartial tribunal should review the reasons for their detention, or they should be formally charged."

She acknowledged that it was "challenging" for the remaining U.N. rights agency staff members to do their work, adding this was why "we have reports of at least 1,000 people detained, but we're not in a position to give a more definitive number."

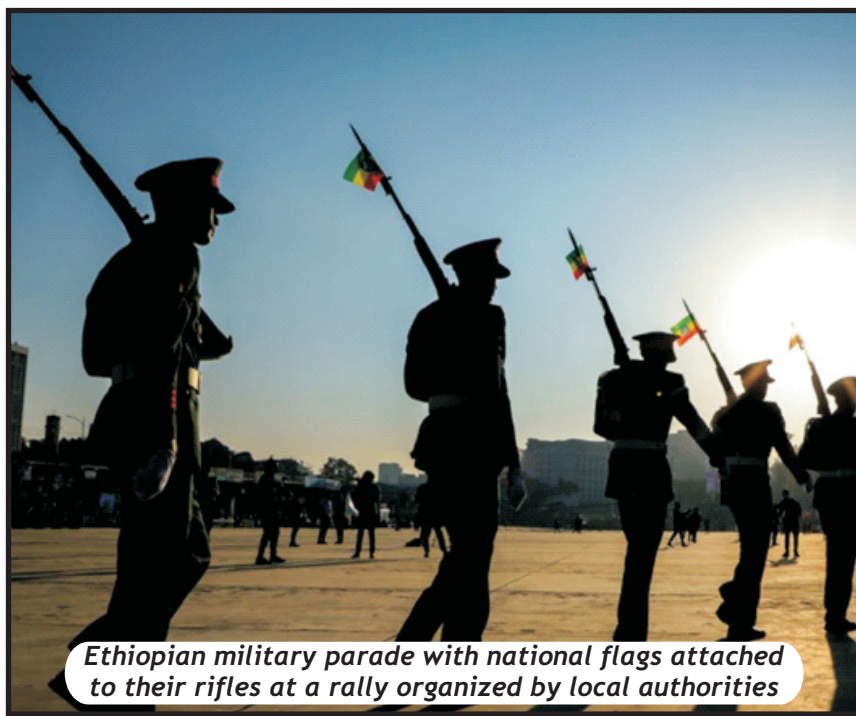
Detention conditions were generally reported to be "poor," she said, with many of those detained held in

overcrowded police stations. Throssell decried that many of those detained had reportedly not been informed of the reasons for their detention, let alone formally charged.

"We are also concerned at some reports of ill-treatment in detention," she said, adding that while the agency had no specific evidence of torture in detention, this was clearly a concern.

The war between the Ethiopian authorities and the TPLF has over the past year killed thousands, displaced more than 2 million people, and left hundreds of thousands in famine-like conditions.

The U.N. says all sides in the conflict have committed serious human rights violations. VOA



Ethiopian military parade with national flags attached to their rifles at a rally organized by local authorities

AU Sets Up Nairobi Situation Room to Help Africa Mitigate Disasters

With the Earth becoming warmer and weather events more extreme, the African Union has set up a disaster operation center in Nairobi to help monitor major hazards and provide regional early warnings for drought, floods, extreme rainfall, food insecurity, and pests

like the desert locust.

Major floods have become more common in Africa and show how vulnerable the continent is to climate change, even though it's the lowest producer of greenhouse gas emissions in the world.

To cope with such disasters, the African Union has set up a centralized monitoring and early warning system for the

continent. The Nairobi Disaster Operation Center for the East African region is the continent's first weather "situation room."

"Council of the ministers within the member states sat and said we need to have a disaster operation center in Nairobi, which will focus mainly on early warning systems," said Jolly Ouma, a geographic information system analyst at the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, or IGAD, in Nairobi. "So, that gave birth to the establishment of this office so that we look at broader aspects of different disasters within the region."

The center — located at the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center — uses East Africa Hazards Watch, a system developed by the center for collecting and sharing multi-hazard data with member countries.

"The system works automatically so that it ingests in the data set," Ouma said, adding, "We have a

Kenya on high alert after Uganda attack



Kenya's government has said security agencies are on high alert following Tuesday's terror attacks in the capital of neighbouring Uganda.

Government spokesperson Cyrus Oguna urged citizens to be vigilant and report any suspicious people.

The alert comes days after three prisoners who were convicted for terrorism-

related charges escaped from a maximum security prison just outside the capital Nairobi.

In Uganda, three suicide bombers detonated explosives at two sites in Kampala killing themselves and three other people. The Islamic State group has said it was behind Tuesday's blasts. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is in Kenya for regional security talks with President Uhuru Kenyatta. BBC



super computing system within ICPAC, so there is less human attachment to it. It is also near real time. So, in every 10 days it updates itself and then we see the conditions of drought."

The center provides climate information and early warnings to 11 East African countries. Officials say local communities must be ready to respond quickly to save lives and minimize damage.

"So, we must equip the communities themselves to be

able to respond to a disaster in its first hours at least," said Amjad Abbashar, regional director for Africa at the U.N. Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. "And so, I think we owe it to them to set up these early warning systems and ensure that it is functional, and that people who are vulnerable to disasters are able to access that information in a timely way, to save lives and property."

The situation room in Nairobi covers and reports on drought and floods. VOA

EDITORIAL

The depth of lip-service at MOE

IT SEEMS THAT education authorities in Liberia, particularly those at the Ministry of Education are far detached from development and policies in the sector, disgustingly spewing out tons of excuses and lip-services to the public. The Liberian educational system has become a free for all, with administrators in both public and private schools across the country acting at will, imposing unaffordable fees and tuitions on students that parents cannot foot because of bad shape of the economy.

WITH THE GOVERNMENT itself struggling to raise enough revenue to pay public school teachers' monthly salaries along with others in the civil service characterized by threats of strike and hasten promises by relevant authorities to intervene, it exposes weaknesses in the public sector that private institutions are exploiting by hiking fees at excruciating discomfort to parents and partners.

IT IS DISHEARTENINGLY regretting that amid public outcry against astronomical fees, the Ministry of Education would respond that it lacks the power and will to intervene in what are obtaining in private institutions as regards fees. Yet, it licenses private institutions to operate under its supervision.

SO, YOU CAN see where we are headed in the educational sector with a toothless bulldog keeping watch over a system that needs serious scrutiny and supervision in order to yield the best results. But this seems not to be happening as indicated by the mountains of outcry both in public and private schools.

WE ARE EVEN further disappointed when the Acting Minister of Education said recently in Monrovia that the ministry lacks authority to regulate fees in private schools even when parents are crying, speaks to the lip-service mentioned.

FOR THE RECORD, most Liberian parents had never shied away from sending their children to school and paying fees for them, but in the wake of a dive-nose economy with a shrinking food basket, private schools are consistently hiking fees without corresponding improvement in quality as regards qualified teachers, learning environment and academic performance that the Ministry of Education says it supervises.

WE FIND IT very paradoxical that the Ministry of Education would boast that it is on top of the game when schools under its nose like the Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS) faces fluctuations in teachers' salaries coupled with non-payment of pensioners and budgetary support, among others.

THESE ARE SOME of the lip-services being outlined here, because least we should forget, it is government's primary responsibility to provide quality education for her citizens, not just free education but one that is on par with neighboring countries. Despite offering free education in public universities, when lecturers at the University of Liberia downed chalk for weeks in demand of improved salary and other incentives, it doesn't show words matched with action.

IF THE EDUCATIONAL sector should move forward, we need a whole paradigm shift in strategies and policies. In other words, dynamism is the surest way to proceed in revising the sector, not only for current generation, but for posterity.

THE GUYS AT the Ministry of Education should wake up from their defensive posture and become proactive. When the authorities themselves, including the Minister of Education are running private schools, we can clearly see conflict of interest and therefore, lip-service that permeates the system.

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

COMMENTARY

By Shalom Lipner

Escaping Bibi's Shadow

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett returned from this month's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) feeling buoyant. Hobnobbing with world leaders in Scotland lent credibility to his projected image as a worthy replacement to Binyamin Netanyahu, his polarizing and larger-than-life predecessor who reigned supreme over Israel for more than 12 years. But Bennett's momentum - and his government - could be short-lived unless he is able to exercise prudent leadership in the months ahead.

In November, Israel's Knesset (parliament) passed new budget frameworks for 2021 and 2022 - a huge achievement for Bennett, given that the Knesset had not ratified a fiscal plan since March 2018. This triumph is a double-edged sword, however, because it might easily unleash political forces to precipitate his government's early demise.

The Israeli cabinet is literally a team of rivals, comprising ministers affiliated with the country's ideological right, center, and left. Their commitment to working together was forged in the crucible of their shared antipathy toward Netanyahu. A similar aversion to Netanyahu's comportment and policies has been prevalent in certain foreign capitals, where leaders bristle at the prospect of his possible return to power. This has given Bennett additional ballast and mitigated what would likely have been more vocal international criticism of Israel had Netanyahu remained in charge. In fact, Netanyahu is the proverbial superglue that has secured his successor tightly in place thus far.

That adhesive might be dissolving. One significant consequence of the approval of the 2021 budget is the virtual neutralization of the opposition, which requires 61 of the Knesset's 120 members to coalesce around the candidacy of an alternative premier - presumably Netanyahu - to unseat the current government. The haywire results of Israel's four recent, rapid-fire parliamentary elections, during which Netanyahu repeatedly failed to win the backing of 61 legislators, offer convincing proof of that scenario's implausibility. He now acknowledges dejectedly that it could take another three and a half years to topple Bennett's cohort.

Netanyahu's own spiral toward political irrelevance is further hindering his attempts to send Bennett packing prematurely. Although Likud remains the largest caucus in parliament, its declared boycott of Knesset committees has all but disintegrated, leaving the core of Netanyahu's putative government divided and in disarray. Increasingly preoccupied with court dates relating to corruption charges from his tenure as premier, Netanyahu also finds himself busy trying to assuage his frustrated allies, who had become accustomed to the trappings of power.

The resulting vacuum is providing Bennett

and his ministers with the dubious luxury of breathing room to promote their respective partisan agendas as never before. Open conflict among the coalition's erstwhile antagonists over the government's course could ultimately render their fragile alliance untenable. Suddenly, and paradoxically, the fledgling government is vulnerable to implosion.

Cabinet disputes erupted recently over the government's moves to criminalize six Palestinian agencies - the groups in question claim to be legitimate civil-society organizations, while Israel says they are connected to terrorist factions - and to greenlight the construction of new settler homes in the West Bank. Looming challenges emanating from serial flare-ups on Israel's borders with Gaza and Lebanon, a potential resumption of diplomatic negotiations concerning Iran's nuclear ambitions, and various items of domestic legislation also threaten to exacerbate intra-coalition tensions.

A parallel risk to the integrity of Bennett's coalition will come from quarters of the global community that have generally applauded his approach, but may now - with Netanyahu's specter having receded - exhibit less tolerance for Israeli policies of which they disapprove. The Biden administration's reaction to Israel's latest settlement announcement was markedly more severe in tone, suggesting that a tipping point may have been reached.

Biden reportedly pledged a temporary delay in reopening the US consulate in Jerusalem - a move that Foreign Minister Yair Lapid warned "might destabilize this government" - until after Israel's budget debate. This may have been a harbinger of mounting international demands for greater flexibility from Bennett. Having passed the budget hurdle, Bennett may soon confront the limits of his power, and his premiership could come to an abrupt end if some of his cabinet partners see him as too compliant with foreign demands.

It is still unclear how much wiggle room Israel's allies will afford Bennett. They might prefer to abide by his more controversial actions if only to clear the path for Lapid - whom some may view as more amenable to their policy goals in the Middle East - to assume the premiership in August 2023, as envisaged under their coalition agreement.

In the meantime, Bennett will need to tread adroitly if he hopes to continue in office long enough to solidify the transformational changes he has begun to implement in domestic and foreign policy. Almost bereft of an electoral base of his own, the prime minister will be anxious to court new voters, but will have to navigate cautiously through a minefield of other actors' clashing politics and principles.

The price of a misstep could be a fifth election contest against a revitalized Netanyahu (if he hangs on) or a new Likud leader - a contest Bennett may not survive.

OPINION

By Andrea Meza

Nature Can't Wait

Countries should commit to conserving at least 30% of the planet's land and oceans by 2030 in order to prevent a catastrophic loss of nature and stem climate change. The global investments needed to achieve this goal must come from a combination of enhanced public and private finance.

SAN JOSÉ - Costa Rica is celebrating 200 years of independence this year. It is an opportunity to honor our ancestors and think about our descendants, and we invite the world to celebrate with us. Those who cannot visit in person should do so by protecting the Earth's land and oceans, the source of all life.

Specifically, governments, businesses, communities, and individuals should commit to conserving at least 30% of the planet's land and oceans by 2030. Scientists have determined that this "30x30" goal is the minimum level of conservation needed to prevent a catastrophic loss of nature and to stem climate change.

But 30x30 will not happen by itself; it will require time, attention, and money. Economists estimate that achieving this goal - by conserving the world's most important intact wild areas and restoring crucial degraded habitats - would represent less than one-third of the amount that governments spend on subsidies to activities that destroy nature. It is encouraging that nine major philanthropic organizations recently pledged \$5 billion to the 30x30 effort, the largest donation to nature in history.

Others must now follow their lead. Sixty percent of the world's terrestrial wildlife populations have been lost since 1970, and almost one-third of global fish stocks are being exploited at an unsustainable level. The destruction of natural areas also releases huge quantities of greenhouse gases, contributing to climate change.

True, the cost to protect nature may seem like a lot, especially as countries grapple with the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. But it is less than 1% of global GDP (roughly \$87 trillion in 2019), and little more than one-third of the nearly \$2 trillion in total military spending worldwide in 2020.

Moreover, this sum is a fraction of what economies would lose should crucial ecosystems fail. The World Bank recently estimated that the collapse of three ecosystem services - pollination, food provision from marine fisheries, and timber from native forests - could reduce annual global GDP by \$2.7 trillion.

Because we cannot rely solely on private philanthropists to foot the bill, the necessary global investments must come from a combination of enhanced public and private finance. Every country must commit its share, with the G7 in particular leading the way with solid funding pledges.

Governments could free up additional resources by phasing out subsidies that harm nature instead of protecting it. For example, countries are currently negotiating at the World Trade Organization to end \$35 billion in annual fishing subsidies that support large-scale industrial fleets and have driven the depletion of global fish stocks.

A substantial portion of the funds we need should go to low-income countries that host the majority of the world's biodiversity. Costa Rica, for example, accounts for only 0.03% of the planet's landmass, but contains an estimated 5% of its biodiversity. Furthermore, significant funds should be dedicated to protecting the land rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, who are nature's best and most cost-effective stewards.

Nature will repay us many times over for the investments we make. The economic benefits of protecting 30% of the world's land and oceans by 2030 - including job creation in sectors such as forestry and tourism - would likely outweigh the costs by a ratio of at least five to one.

Costa Rica's economy is based on nature-positive activities such as forest conservation, renewable electricity generation, and biodiversity protection. Since the 1980s, the country has stopped and then reversed forest loss, while the economy has grown by some 250% in real terms. We now have a system of national parks and protected areas that cover more than 26% of our land area.

Winning one of the first-ever Earthshot prizes will help us replicate in the ocean our successes on land. Already, an ambitious process is underway this year to enlarge protected areas from under 3% of our oceanic territory to closer to the 30% promised in our 2020 nationally determined contribution under the Paris climate agreement. My goal is to realize this massive expansion before I leave office.

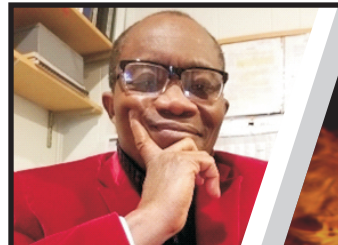
Momentum toward 30x30 is growing. The High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, led by Costa Rica, France, and the United Kingdom, has engaged over 70 countries in support of this goal. And 30x30 has become a crucial feature of the most recent draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework, which is set to be finalized by 196 countries at the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) in Kunming, China, in 2022.

But actions speak louder than words. Governments, firms, and all of society must dedicate the financial resources needed to achieve 30x30.

Nature is the ultimate source of all our fresh water, food, clean air, and genetic resources for medicine and industry. It keeps dangerous pathogens in check and carbon in the ground, and generates green jobs. It is an irreplaceable source of human creativity, and spiritual and mental health.

Humanity is enmeshed in nature. Because we are capable of destroying it, we are

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With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

LIBERIA POLITICAL

HOT-FIRE

How can PUL pull itself out of poverty?

The Press Union of Liberia like any other professional body in Liberia is suffering due to a lack of contemporary modern innovations. But PUL has no reason to suffer, perhaps critical leadership innovation is conspicuously missing from the strategy index of PUL since its inception on 30th September 1964 up to the present.

For PUL to strive positively it must transcend beyond regular due payment methods and come out with innovative long-range plans of action that will be more accountable and transparent, something to convince donors.

Excitingly, the \$100000 donation made to PUL by then Pres. Ellen Sirleaf (2008) wasn't for dinner and eating of chocolate and American sauces, it was for serious business for PUL to turn around and multiply a huge dividend which would have made Madam Sirleaf very proud to lobby more and more for the PUL, but instead the executives of PUL began to wear a big gold ring, Italian shoe, and American coat and tie and renting of huge SUV jeeps to entice others when in the true sense of the world the PUL is suffering beneath. Today, the \$100000 is now history and PUL is still at square one and Madam Sirleaf is grossly disappointed.

PUL is too old not to have accumulated huge assets in Liberia needless talks about its holistic connections with other giant media entities abroad-what is then PUL's actual problem as she continues to languish in acute financial poverty from one leadership to another? How can PUL hold the CDC-led government accountable for corruption when PUL is one of the leading children of corruption in the land?

It is very sad if not disappointing that the 57-year-old media institution has much to always talk about but little to show with no strategy, no innovation, no practical plan of action that will truly pull it out of financial to that bring lasting smiles to its over 500 members who are glaringly impoverished financially and materially. Interestingly, the birth year of PUL was the same year when the late President William Vacanarat Shadrach Tubman was inaugurated for a fifth term as President of Liberia.

This historical connotation should be key to PUL's birth for two reasons: First, Liberia was then a very dark republic that a smart entity like the PUL could have quickly stolen the show on development innovation. Second, a farsighted leadership can undertake more and more development in a very dark republic as quickly as possible than any other time in the history of a said entity like PUL. PUL, like other useful entities of the 50s and 60s, missed its opportunities to build a resourceful and rewarding future foundation that would have pulled its membership out of poverty in modern Liberia.

Mr. Gabriel I. H. Williams, a founding member who was then secretary-general of PUL in those dark days, failed to lay any productive foundation for PUL. As a chief administrator, he was either consumed or entrenched into business as usual or was simply complacent or he just didn't have the critical thoughts to get PUL to where it should have been-that is across the finished line into high core development initiatives.

PUL is not just any entity, it is a professional body. The Press is referred to as the "Fourth Estate" fourth in line of serious political tradition in line of societal functionaries next to the executive, the legislature, the judiciary and then comes the "Fourth Estate" defined as such with its array of functions and deliverables in Liberian society.

There are several possible strategies on how PUL can pull itself out of financial/material poverty. First, all PUL print newspapers should patronize a member or group of members that has printing facilities, rather than patronize foreign printing presses in Liberia. Second, PUL can get collateral that will help it get a loan of \$500,000 to invest in animal husbandry, by raising goats, cows, sheep, and chickens for sale on the Liberian market. PUL could also get ex-farmers from Zimbabwe, South Africa to help with the process.

Third, PUL could acquire 500000 acres of land, bring rice experts from Taiwan to guide its huge food production for Liberia, and have it sold at a much cheaper rate. Fourth, PUL could invest in mining gold and felling trees for charcoal that would supply Liberia. Fifth, PUL could use proceeds from the farm business to acquire an additional 800 acres of land and erect mini-estates for low-income Liberians including PUL members. PUL could also use its hugely acquired profits from the housing projects to establish a vibrant transportation system, by getting some old hands from Ghana and Ivory Coast to guide the process with their strategies and success stories. These are some of the ways and means by which PUL could easily be the richest entity in Liberia and help its members.

Lastly, PUL could lobby with its huge International media partners such as International Media Support (IMS), Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), West African Journalists Association (WAJA), Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC-Liberia), Carter Center (CC), International Alert (IA-UK), Center for Democratic Empowerment (CEDE), the Civil Rights Association of Liberian Lawyers (CRALL), Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), IREX, Media Rights Agenda, Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), Panos Institute of West Africa, OSIWA and IREX to put before them some of these viable resourceful projects and proposals for funding.

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL SELECTION)**

LIBERIA

Public Financial Management Reforms for Institutional Strengthening Project
Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.: **D5060 –LR**
Date issue: November 17, 2021

Assignment Title: **Media and Communication Consultant**
Assignment Level: **National Consultant only**

Reference No.: **LR-MFDP-254322-CS-INDV**

The Government of Liberia has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA), the Government of Sweden and the European Union (EU) toward the cost of the Public Financial Management Reforms for Institutional Strengthening Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services for hiring a Media and Communication Consultant.

Objective of the Assignment:

The general objective of this recruitment is to hire an Individual Consultant to develop and coordinate the delivery/dissemination of information and materials on ongoing reforms in PFM at the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning under the Public Financial Management Reform for Institutional Strengthening Project (PFMRISP).

Scope of the Assignment

The consultant is expected to undertake the following responsibilities in delivering the product:

1. Review, assess all reforms activities currently underway at the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning to guide the development and dissemination and preparation of appropriate messages and informational materials under component 2.1.17 of PFMRISP. This should include a review of existing Revised and Restated PFM Act, The current IFMIS Rollout Plan, the EDMS;
2. Engage the relevant stakeholders in the review of the above mentioned documents to fully understand the policy direction of the ongoing reform under component 2.1.17 of PFMRISP;
3. Develop and deliver/disseminate informational messages and materials on ongoing reforms taking into consideration the targeted audience (**the use of standard & local Liberian English**);
4. Conduct validation sessions with stakeholders of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, especially the Comptroller and Accountant General's Department;

METHODOLOGY

The consultant will follow the work plan and the time schedule agreed with the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the CAGD in undertaking the contract assignment. The project desire the use of the following means of communication to deliver these informational messages and materials.

- a. Radio talk shows;
- b. Airing of Jingles depicting messages of ongoing reform activities (ie the rollout of IFMIS to additional MACs, the Introduction of the EDMS, Professionalization of controllers & Finance Directors within the public sector through the Professional Certification Program)
- c. Printing and Distribution of fliers and stickers;
- d. Use of the Social Media platforms
- e. An outreach program in four selected areas (**Buchanan City**, Grand Bassa County, **Tubmanburg**, Bomni County, **Kakata**, Margibi, County and **Monrovia**, Montserrado County)

The duration of the assignment is three (3) months.

The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the assignment can be obtained at the address given below.

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) now invites eligible individuals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

1. A post-graduate or equivalent qualification in Journalism, Public Relations, Communication or any other relevant discipline;
2. Minimum 5 years of prior work experience with appropriate references in dealing with developing and messaging of change management activity in the public and private sectors;
3. Demonstrated experience and skills in facilitating stakeholder/working group consultations.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 2016, Revised November 2017 and August 2018 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Approved Selection Methods for Individual Consultant Based Selection set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 0900 to 1700 hours

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by 1700 hours on December 3, 2021.

Attn: *Vee-Musa Fofana, Acting Project Manager*
Public Financial Management Reforms for Institutional Strengthening Project (PFMRISP)
1st Floor Annex, Project Management Unit
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)
Broad & Mechlin Streets
Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: +231-770-449-701
E-mail: vfofana@mfdp.gov.lr
Cc: mmasaquoi@mfdp.gov.lr

UNIVERSITY OF LIBERIA

**Section I. Invitation for Bid
FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS
(102nd Graduation Academicals)
IFB NO: UL/SP/NCB/002/20/21**

November 8, 2021

1. The University of Liberia has allotted portion of its Convocation's budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and intends to apply it towards the procurement of Academicals for the 102nd Graduating Class, 2021.
2. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA), 2010 and approved by the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC) of the Republic of Liberia.

Item No.	Description	Quantity
1	Academicals - Graduate Programs/Visitor/Professors/Law School/Doctorate/ Undergraduate Program etc.	Assorted

4. Qualification requirements include:
 - a. Valid Government of Liberia (GOL) Business Registration with Code M7410
 - b. Valid GOL Tax Clearance
 - c. Past Performance records including the names and contact numbers of at-least 4 clients who had purchased same/similar goods in the last 4 years. They will be used as references to check the performance and quality of the offered model, if necessary;
 - d. Current Bank statement for the past two (2) years - present with the ending balance of **USDS 6,000**
 - e. Bids will be examined for proper signature and completeness before consideration for further evaluation.

5. A set of bidding documents in English can be obtained by interested bidders for a non-refundable fee of **US\$50.00 (Fifty United States Dollars)** from the Procurement Department, Fendall Campus beginning November 8 – December 8, 2021 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.

6. All bids must be accompanied by a Notarized Bid Securing declaration valid for 90 days after the opening of bids.

7. Interested Bidders are advised to visit the Procurement Department (see address below) to view samples of the fabrics before submitting bids.

8. Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 p.m., December 8, 2021 and will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the Administrative Conference Room (AC1-01), Right wing of the Administrative Complex, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow: In the upper left corner of the envelop, print: **“SEALED BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF ACADEMICALS”**

REF.: IFB NO.: UL/SP/NCB/002/20/21

Below the bid reference number, print the bidder's address.

In the middle of the envelop, print the address below:

Procurement Department
Administrative Complex, Right wing, 1st Floor, Room #: AC1-09
University of Liberia
Fendall Campus, Liberia

9. Note that Electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Signed: *[Signature]*
Fatu Ruth Tipoteh (Mrs.)
Director/Procurement/UL

Approved: *[Signature]*
Benetta Joko Tarr (Mrs.)
Vice President for Administration/UL



University of Liberia
Monrovia, Liberia

Request for Proposals

Title of bid: **Provision for Group Life and Medical Insurance Services**

Contract Identification No.: **IFB NO. UL/NCB/QCBS/001/20/21**

The University Of Liberia (UL) anticipates fund from employee salary cut and intends to apply same to the cost of procuring Group Life and Medical Insurance Services as indicated in the contract package listed in the table below. The University will enter into a **framework agreement with the selected Insurance Company** during the Fiscal Year 2021/2022.

The University of Liberia now invites sealed bids in the form of proposals from eligible and qualified firms for the provision for Group Life and Medical Insurance Services during the Fiscal Year 2020/2021. Bidding will be conducted through the Request for Proposals (RFP), Quality and Cost based selection process in accordance with procedures specified in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA) published and approved September 18, 2010.

Description of the Services to be provided as per the University of Liberia requirements are as follows:

I Code	Contract Package	Quantity	Bid Submission Deadline	Bid Opening Date
IFB No. UL/NCB/QCBS 001/2020/2021	Provision for Group Life and Medical Insurance Services	About 1,196 Insured Employees, their spouses and two dependents each.	December 10, 2021 2:00 PM	Immediate after bid submission on December 10, 2021 @ 2:00 PM

All Interested eligible firms/Insurance Companies may inspect and obtain a complete set of the Request for Proposals (RFP) from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US \$50.00 (Fifty United States Dollars)** beginning November 10, 2021, from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM daily, Mondays to Fridays.

Proposals must be submitted at the address below on or before December 10, 2021 at 2:00 PM. Bid opening will be done Immediate thereafter at 2:00 PM, in the Administrative Conference Room AC-101 of the Administrative Building Fendall Campus, University of

RFP- Provision for Group Life & Medical Insurance Services 2021/2022

Section 3. Technical Proposal – Standard Forms

4

Liberia Montserrado County, in the presence of Insurance Companies, their representatives or those who choose to attend. Proposals shall be valid for a period of 90 days after the deadline of Bid submission. Late proposals will be rejected and returned unopened. **Note: Electronic bidding will not be permitted.**

Qualification requirements include the following:

- I. Company's Profile
- II. Articles of Incorporation (Where applicable)
- III. Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry with appropriate Coding for Insurance).
- IV. Current Tax Clearance Certificate
- V. Statements of past performance satisfaction from at least three (3) previous and current clients - including names and contact numbers
- VI. Copy of CBL License (CBL/RSD/002/2013)
- VII. Compliance with PPCC Vendor Registration procedures.
- VIII. CVs of one Managerial Personnel/Team Leader and at least two (2) Insurance Staff highlighting qualifications and key experience

The University of Liberia (UL) reserves the right to reject or accept any bid submitted and to annul the process at any time without incurring any liability and without assigning any reason thereto.

All Submissions must be signed, sealed in an envelope and clearly marked, **PROVISION FOR GROUP LIFE AND MEDICAL INSURANCE SERVICE**
IFB NO: UL/NCB/QCBS/001/20/21 and addressed to:

THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
University of Liberia
Louisiana Fendall, Montserrado Co.
Republic of Liberia

EMAIL ADDRESS: tipotehfr@ul.edu.lr / gibsonbt@ul.edu.lr

Signed: *[Signature]*
Fatu Ruth Tipoteh (Mrs.)
Procurement Director

Approved: *[Signature]*
Benetta Joko Tarr (Mrs.)
Vice President for Administration

RFP- Provision for Group Life & Medical Insurance Services 2021/2022

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

AFL to recruit in December

--Conducts pre-recruitment training for females in Monrovia

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Ministry of National Defence and the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) have announced pre-recruitment training for females in Montserrado County ahead of the official recruitment

Speaking at a news conference Wednesday, 17 November 2021 at the Ministry of National, Assistant Minister for Public Affairs, Sam K. Collins said the official recruitment process is expected to start on 18 December 2021.

According to the Assistant

Weah has made available US\$1m out of a budget of US\$5.7m proposed for three years to carry out the process and to also recondition infrastructures in all military barracks across the country to boost the army's strength.

"This recruitment process is due to the departure of some soldiers who left the barracks to look for green pasture and [the] death of several others," said Mr. Collins.

"We want to make this clear that all is set in terms of housing facilities and other major concerns which have been delayed over the past to have citizens recruited and properly taken care of," Collins noted further.

He disclosed that the Defense Ministry and the AFL are considering and prioritizing the recruitment of persons with professional civil specialties, engineering in all categories, lawyers, marine professionals, agriculturalists, information technology specialists and musicians as they are heading the 14 Military Hospital.

Mr. Collins indicated that they will also be conducting academic tests for females in rural Liberia. He said rural women are capacitated most



process which will begin this December.

A pre-recruitment training will be conducted by the Armed Forces of Liberia from Monday, 22 November 2021 to Wednesday, 13 December 2021 at the Barclay Training Center (BTC) in Monrovia.

Minister, they are conducting the pre-recruitment training for the females in Monrovia in order to strengthen their physical capacity for the official recruitment process.

He narrated that the Government of Liberia headed by President George Manneh

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

PATEL fears serious economic problems

By Lincoln G Peters

The president of the Patriotic Entrepreneur of Liberia (PATEL), Mr. Dominic Nimely says the business community and the country at large, risk serious economic and monetary problems if the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) fails to withdraw the old local currency from the market and educate the public about the new money due this December.

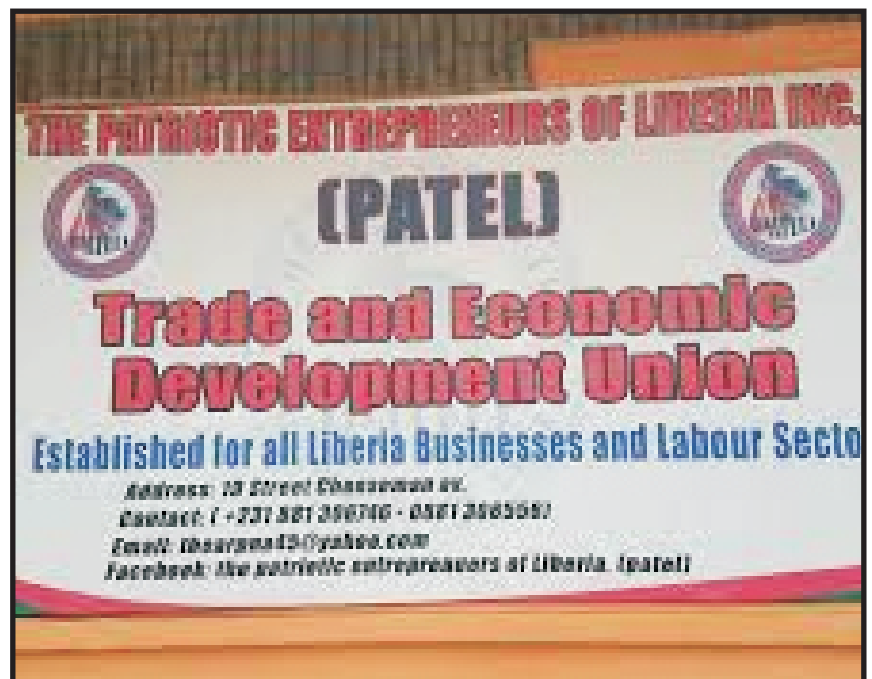
Nimely, who also serves as chair on Trade and Commerce at the Liberia Business Association (LIBA), wants the CBL to address the poor texture of the Liberian dollars and critically put a strategy in

addressed regarding the poor quality and texture of the money which sometimes makes it less valuable in Africa.

He added that the Central Bank of Liberia needs to provide sensitization about the usage of the money and make sure that Liberians have good money with quality texture.

"Bringing old money like the coins is not bad but there [is a] new generation, between 22-33 and they have not used coins before and they have to be told about the usage now," said Nimely.

"They also have to put out symbols of the money that will



place to get the old money out of the market.

The Central Bank of Liberia is expected to bring in a new family of Liberian dollar banknotes starting with the 100 Liberian dollars bill to the tune of four billion Liberian dollars this December.

The amount is intended to increase the Liberian dollar liquidity in the economy during the festive season in December.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with this paper Monday, 15 November 2021, Mr. Nimely said it's a good thing to change the money, but the problem he sees is that the business community has to be

be coming instead of people just posting what we are not expecting," he continued.

The PATEL president disclosed that before the National Elections Commission carries out any election, it conducts publicity and sensitizes the voters about what they are going to vote for, urging the CBL to do the same.

"We had meetings with the Central Bank of Liberia along with several other members of the business community. They said that we will have good money because they have changed the company that printed our currency," said Nimely. --Edited by Winston W. Parley

Unfounded attack against judiciary

--Lawyer replies Sen. Teahjay

By Lincoln G Peters

Cllr. Abraham Boimah Sillah has described Sinoe County Senator Milton Teahjay's recent threat against Criminal Court "B" Judge Korboi Nuta as unfounded attack against the independence of the judiciary as well as a complete disrespect to that branch of government.

Speaking to local broadcaster OK FM Wednesday, 17 November 2021, Cllr. Sillah vowed to invite the lawmaker to explain his statement.

After receiving a complaint filed by Madam Patricia Flomo, a U.S. - based Liberian who accused Sen. Teahjay of trying to criminally claim a vehicle that allegedly belonged to her, Judge Nuta cited Sen. Teahjay in relation to the complaint at Criminal Court "B."

In his response to the court's citation, Teahjay

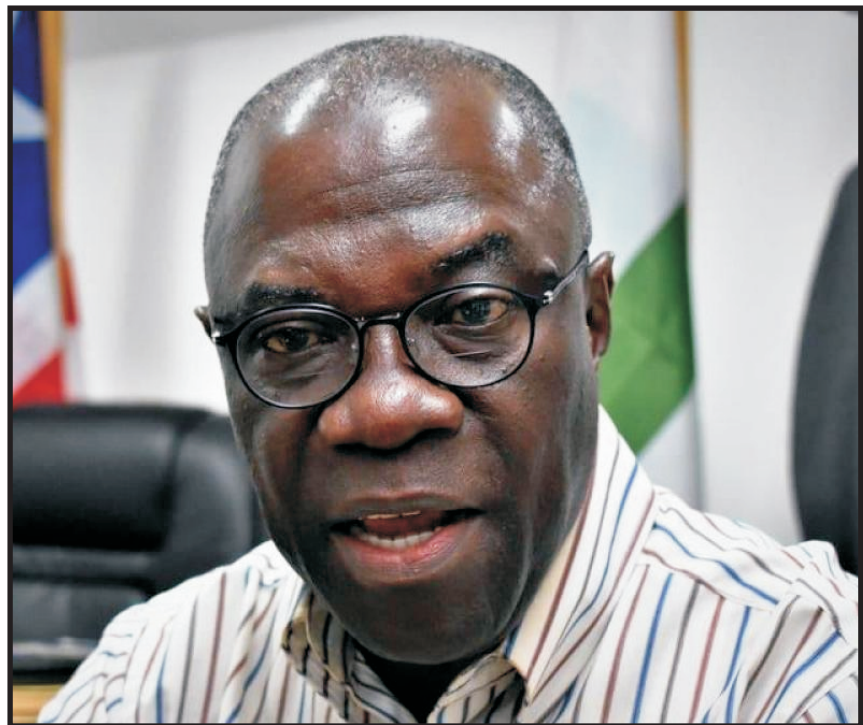
threatened that Judge Natu could be cited for contempt of the Liberian Senate and removed from office at its next session should he repeat this violation by citing a Senator Sitting in Legislative Session as is provided for by law.

Teahjay warned that the

citation interfered with and or obstructed the Senator's Legislative duties and responsibilities because the Legislature is in session.

But Cllr. Sillah said the threatening statement made by Senator Teahjay to impeach Judge Nuta is an attack on the judicial branch of government.

He further indicated that



they will be writing to invite Senator Teahjay to explain why he shouldn't be held in contempt for writing such a letter that threatens the independence of judge.

He added that his team will not let it go because it has the propensity to challenge the independence of the judiciary and bring it to public disrepute.

Cllr. Sillah explained that as a lawyer and member of the judicial branch, he will not

tolerate such action by the Senator.

"As members of the LNB (Liberia National Bar Association) and arm of the court, we have the duty to protect, defend the court while it [is] under attack. We should approach to seek appropriate remedy not to attack the court only because you are a lawmaker and cited to make information clear," Cllr. Sillah said. --Edited by Winston W. Parley

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LCPS specialized doctors hit 89

Trained specialized doctors of the Liberia College of Physicians and Surgeons have hit eighty-nine (89) with the certification of thirty (30) new specialists at the college's 5th convocation and Annual General Scientific Meeting.

The specialists recently received postgraduate certificates in varying medical disciplines including ophthalmology, pediatrics; family medicine, internal medicine; general surgery and obstetrics/gynecology.

The LCPS residency is a three-year training program under the Government of Liberia's flagship postgraduate medical entity that is training specialized medical doctors locally in partnership with the World Bank and academic partners

disciplines over the last three years beginning with family medicine in 2017; ophthalmology in 2018; and psychiatry in 2019.

"Today, we are pleased to state that we will be certifying 30 new specialist doctors including: ophthalmology which is putting out its first two graduates; by the end of today, the college would have certificated eight-nine (89) specialist doctors," he indicated.

The 5th Convocation class had more female specialists than all previous cohorts, according to Prof. Harris.

"At the start of the college, there were only 144 doctors in the country catering to the four million population and there were only 15 who has specialist training. This figure is far below the WHO recommended ratio of one to a thousand. This severe

Secretary General of the LCPS, Dr. Jeanetta K. Johnson stresses a need to remind stakeholders that strengthening health system is not just concerned with improving people's health but protecting them against the financial cost.

As part of the convocation which was held over the weekend under the theme: Health Systems Strengthening -The Liberian Experience: Past, Present and Future; the college also launched "a major milestone- the LCPS Fellowship program to sustain the residency program of the college" and the Family medicine has met the criteria set to join the fellowship and will thereafter be certificated. The fellowship was launched by Prof. Roseda E. Marshall, founding president of the LCPS.

Prof. Marshall indicated that the college, through the launch of the fellowship program is giving the Government of Liberia, the John F. Kennedy Medical Center, the University of Liberia and the Ministry of Health the lead to take charge of the fellowship by providing staff and technical equipment. "The college is saying yes we give you the green light. When you apply, there's certain criteria that you must meet to be a part." Prof. Marshall pointed.

Dr. Abraham SaahBorbor Lecture Series was resumed and second lecturer was Dr. Rose JallahMacauley in honour of the late Liberian doctor who is credited for his pivotal role in the establishment of the LCPS.

Dr. Macauley reminded the graduates that they are the future of Liberia's healthcare delivery system. "Do not settle for mediocrity, be bold. Always be led by the called reason why you pursued this path of career." she stressed.

Dr. Sia-WattaCamanor, Chief Medical Officer of the John F. Kennedy Medical Center, in remarks, indicated that since 2013, the college has produced twenty-nine (2 9) Obstetrics/Gynaecologists; Nineteen (19) surgeons; nineteen (19) Internists; seventeen pediatricians; seven (7) family medicine specialists and two (2) ophthalmologists.

She admonished the new specialists to take into account the mammoth task ahead of them while celebrating their achievement: in spite of your personal challenges, there are people already waiting for care.

shortage harshly impacted the healthcare sector. The need for post graduate training in Liberia has become necessary," the LCPS President notes.

Whilst celebrating the strides made since the inception of the postgraduate program, the LCPS President is imploring the Government of Liberia to step up its support to capacity building efforts in the healthcare sector by taking "drastic measures" to alleviate the financial stress health education providers like LCPS face in the country or risk seeing the system crash.

"We urge the government of Liberia to do more to support medical institutions in Liberia. We ask the government to launch a special fund akin to the road fund to support medical education by setting aside a small amount. I foresee that if drastic measures are not taken to alleviate the financial challenges in health education in the country, the system may subsequently crash," he emphasizes.

Speaking earlier, the



from Boston Children's Hospital, Mt. Sinai Hospital, University of Massachusetts, Yale University, the LV Prasad Eye Institute in India among several others. Prior to the inauguration of LCPS, there were approximately only fifteen (15) specialized Doctors in Liberia.

The President of the College, Prof. Benjamin L. Harris says the LCPS is a small and young college but it "exudes the sense of pride about its journey despite numerous challenges" - a college that has nevertheless gained stature among postgraduate colleges in the region that is continuing to make important contributions to Liberia, including the health and wellbeing of its citizens.

Prof. Harris explains that the college started with four core faculties: internal medicine, pediatrics, general surgery and obstetrics/gynaecology but has since added more

COTAE urges Weah to intervene in fees hike

By Lewis S. Teh

Coalition for Transparency and Accountability in Education or COTAE, expresses concern over the prevailing hardship parents and students are currently facing with the hike in tuition and other fees in the country by school authorities, thereby urging President George Manneh Weah to intervene.

COTAE in a news conference Thursday, November 17, 2021, through its national Coordinator Anderson D. Miamen said the hike in tuition fees comes during challenging economic conditions in the country, when many persons are already struggling to address their basic needs (food, clothing, access to electricity, shelter, etc.)

"It is mindboggling that access to education has become significantly

circumstances regarding hike in fees as well as its implications for the right to education in Liberia to inform appropriate government policy and decisions.

He wants the Legislature, especially the Committees on Education in the Senate and House of Representatives to effectively exercise their oversight responsibilities by supervising activities of the sector. He said this entails conducting their own investigations into reported hike in tuition and other fees by private school operators in Liberia to inform their decisions and actions.

Mr. Miamen argued that such arbitrary hike in fees, especially by private schools, undermine the right to education; the affordable access provided for in Chapter 2 of the New Education Reform Act of 2011; and



hindered, mainly due to arbitrary hike in tuition and other fees by private school operators", he said adding that the most appalling of all is the fact that services provided by majority of these institutions do not commensurate with various astronomical fees charged, from time to time.

"We urge the President of Liberia, George M. Weah to constitute an independent committee, not headed by the Ministry of Education, to thoroughly investigate the hike in tuition and other fees charged by private schools."

According to him, such independent committee, must comprise of representatives from civil society, media, lawyers, educators, and other professional bodies that will thoroughly investigate and report the facts and

professed commitments of private school operators to complement government's efforts to increase access to education and eradicate illiteracy in Liberia.

"As Government's supervisory and regulatory authority over private and public schools cover all aspects of their operation, including fees charged for services, the Ministry of Education must perform her duties and stop giving flimsy excuses about not having the power/authority to determine fees charged by private schools."

He also wants government to increase the budget of the ministry of education to at least 20% to allow schools to receive required materials and supplies to effectively and efficiently operate.

He specifically notes that the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Français

Le président de l'université de Nimba pris en otage par des étudiants

Le président de l'Université du comté de Nimba, le Dr Jesse Noah Mongrue, a été pris en otage par des étudiants en colère qui exigeaient la reprise immédiate des activités académiques régulières.

Les étudiants en colère ont détenu le chef de l'Université du comté de Nimbale lundi 15 novembre 2021 pendant plusieurs heures avant l'intervention de la police de Sanniquellie qui a réussi à le libérer.

Cependant, les étudiants qui se veulent intransigeants, l'ont interdit de se rendre dans les locaux de l'université tant que leurs doléances ne sont pas satisfaites.

Le leader des étudiants protestataires, ManmieNyaGongbah, a dit aux journalistes que leur action était due au refus présumé de l'administration dirigée par le Dr Mongrue de décider de la reprise des cours.

L'étudiant Gongbah a

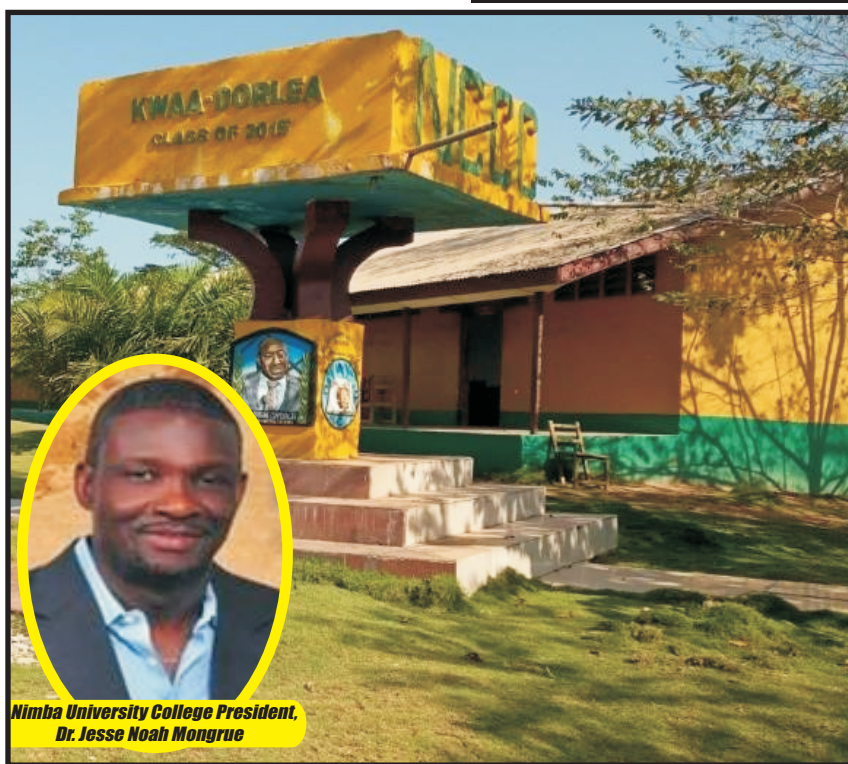
révélé que la direction des étudiants avait récemment rencontré le Dr Mongrue, qui leur avait donné l'assurance que les programmes académiques normaux devaient commencer le 8 novembre, mais depuis lors, les cours n'ont encore pas repris.

« Nous avons été informés que nous allions enfin reprendre les cours le 8 novembre. Nous avons

géré nos colères et les avons écoutés comme nos dirigeants, mais ils ont manqué à leur promesse. Qu'est-ce qui retient encore la réouverture de l'école depuis juillet ? », a-t-il demandé.

Notre correspondant du comté de Nimba a dit que le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Nimba University College President, Dr. Jesse Noah Mongrue

Mali : « La liberté est la plus grande des richesses », confie Dr Keb, de retour à Bamako

Dr Keb est libre. L'artiste malien, chanteur et rappeur, avait été enlevé le 29 juillet près de Tombouctou avec deux membres de son équipe alors qu'il était en tournée dans la région. L'un d'eux avait déjà été libéré. Les deux autres, dont Amadou Kébé alias Dr Keb, ont finalement pu regagner Tombouctou lundi 15 novembre en fin de journée, puis Bamako mardi. Ils y ont été reçus par les autorités de

transition. Ses premiers mots aux médias, Dr Keb les a offerts à RFI et à David Baché.

« Je suis juste libre et ça fait plaisir. » De retour à Bamako après plus de trois mois de captivité, Dr Keb savoure sa liberté retrouvée. « C'est la plus grande des richesses. Je suis très content de revenir à la maison, de savoir que je suis de retour », confie-t-il, assurant aller « bien » et être « en bonne santé ». « On ne m'a pas maltraité », assure le rappeur, de son vrai nom Amadou

Kébé.

Lors de ces longues semaines de captivité, « les mouvements étaient contrôlés », et lui et ses partenaires pouvaient « prier et espérer » de retrouver leur foyer. Et la musique ? « Je gardais les inspirations secrètes parce que je n'avais pas trop le droit de chanter en public. Je parlais en forêt et je chantais légèrement. Je causais avec les gars, on se donnait des inspirations. »

Désormais, Amadou Kébé compte rapidement reprendre le micro, avec des textes imaginés, selon ses propres premières confidences, au cours même de sa détention de trois mois et demi aux mains de combattants de la Katiba Macina, membre du Groupe de soutien à l'islam et aux musulmans, lié à Aqmi.

L'implication des proches de Dr Keb pour sa libération

Pendant cette période, la cellule de crise mise en place par son équipe - la Team Dr - et par sa famille s'est fortement et directement impliquée pour obtenir la libération du chanteur et de ses deux accompagnateurs.

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Éditorial

Les entreprises publiques et le budget

Les entreprises d'État (SOE) au Libéria telles que l'Autorité portuaire nationale, l'Autorité de l'aviation civile du Libéria et d'autres contribuent au budget national, mais leurs revenus réels ne sont pas pris en compte dans le gâteau national, ce qui laisse ainsi place aux abus.

Par exemple, il est dit que l'Autorité Portuaire Nationale (NPA) contribue de manière significative au budget national, ce qui est bien, mais en même temps, l'entreprise exécute unilatéralement des projets de responsabilité sociale sans faire l'objet d'un contrôle, en utilisant des fonds publics.

C'est le cas de l'administration actuelle de la NPA dirigée par M. Bill Tweahway, qui a mis en œuvre plusieurs projets dans son comté natal Rivercess, dans le cadre de la responsabilité sociale sans que le public comprenne clairement combien de fonds ont été utilisés à partir des revenus de la NPA.

C'est dans ce sens que l'ambassadeur des États-Unis au Libéria, Michael McCarthy, a récemment exprimé sa préoccupation quant à savoir si les entreprises d'État qui collectent des recettes publiques devraient être autorisées à utiliser une partie de ces revenus à leur discrétion pour entreprendre des projets.

L'Ambassadeur McCarthy a spécifiquement noté qu'après avoir consulté l'Autorité fiscale du Libéria, le Bureau de l'auditeur général, la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria, ainsi que de multiples sources au sein de l'Assemblée législative libérienne, il semble y avoir un consensus selon lequel continuer à traiter les revenus des entreprises d'État en dehors du budget national, comme dans le cas de la NPA, est contraire aux meilleures pratiques.

Le diplomate américain s'est ensuite félicité de la déclaration du président pro-tempore du Sénat libérien, Albert Chie, de tenir une audience sur les frais de Cargo Tracking Note (CTN) et d'autres frais perçus par la direction de la NPA.

Il a souligné que ces fonds, collectés par une entreprise d'État, sont des biens publics qui, dans la plupart des cas, seraient appropriés par le législateur avec d'autres revenus de l'État.

Mais cela ne se produit pas. Au lieu de cela, les entreprises publiques qui opèrent strictement sous la tutelle de l'exécutif, collectent et dépensent les revenus à volonté, contribuant ce qu'elles préfèrent au budget national sans transparence appropriée.

Nous pensons qu'une telle politique devrait être inversée dans l'intérêt de la responsabilité et de la transparence, car les revenus générés par ces entreprises sont destinés à l'État et devraient être intégralement intégrés au budget national.

Laisser ces revenus à la discrétion des entreprises d'État crée une possibilité de mauvaise gestion et de siphonnage des fonds au détriment de l'ensemble des citoyens, ce qui ne démontre clairement pas la bonne gouvernance, la transparence ni la responsabilité.

Français

Le président de l'université de Nimba

prédécesseur du Dr Jesses Noah Mongrue, le Dr Edward Lama Wonkeryor, avait été accusé de corruption, notamment d'avoir fait de sa femme, ses enfants et d'autres membres de sa famille des salariés de l'université.

Les étudiants lésés souhaitent également que le Dr Jesse Noah Mongrue réponde à la demande de l'association des professeurs d'auditer son prédécesseur, le Dr Edward Lama Wonkeryor, qui a été nommé directeur de l'enseignement supérieur.

Récemment, le Dr Mongrue a déclaré vacants tous les postes à l'Université,

du poste de vice-président au directeur, demandant aux employés occupant actuellement ces postes de postuler à nouveau, mais les membres du personnel et les employés, y compris les enseignants, ont décrit l'action comme une chasse aux sorcières, refusant de postuler à nouveau. Le Dr Mongrue lui-même n'a fourni aucune raison pour son action, mais le rapport indique que depuis que la Chambre des représentants a adopté le projet de loi qui a été levé le Nimba Community College à un University College, c'est le premier président à annoncer une telle politique sur le campus.

Mali : « La liberté est la plus grande des

Dès les premiers jours, ils ont sollicité également l'appui du ministère de la Culture et de personnes ressources.

Les discussions avec les ravisseurs ont été régulières. Un premier otage, parmi les trois enlevés fin juillet à Goundam, est libéré début septembre. Alfousseiny Touré, dit Dr Alouss, s'implique alors à son tour sur le terrain, entre Tombouctou et la commune de Rarhous, pour la libération de ses deux camarades toujours détenus. La bonne nouvelle est plusieurs fois annoncée, plusieurs fois repoussée. Les

proches des otages déplorent le manque de soutien des autorités.

L'implication, en bout de course, de la présidence malienne, finit par accélérer le dénouement final. Amadou Kébé, alias Dr Keb, et Ousmane Coulibaly, alias Dr Bacozy, ont d'ailleurs été invités au palais de Koulouba dès leur retour dans la capitale malienne. Avant eux, sœur Gloria il y a un mois, ou encore Soumaïla Cissé et Sophie Pétronin, ainsi que les deux otages italiens libérés en octobre 2020, étaient aussi passés par là.

Assassinat de John Tubman : Deux suspects interpellés et Emmanuel Forkey toujours en fuite

La police nationale du Libéria (LNP) a dit avoir procédé à l'arrestation de deux suspects dans le cadre des enquêtes relatives à l'assassinat de John H. Tubman, fils de l'ancien président libérien William V.S Tubman.

Les personnes arrêtées sont Christian B. Anderson et Aloysius Garpleh. Elles ont été arrêtées dans le comté de River Cess. A en croire la police, le suspect Anderson aurait admis avoir commis le crime. Il l'aurait fait pour des raisons personnelles.

Animant une conférence de presse au siège de la police de Monrovia le mardi 16 novembre 2021, l'inspecteur général de la police, le colonel Patrick T. Sudue, a dit aux journalistes que l'enquête policière a révélé que les suspects arrêtés sont liés à la mort de feu John Tubman.

Le pays a perdu trois de ses citoyens en la personne de John Tubman, William R. Tolbert, fils d'un autre ancien président libérien, et Madame Maude Elliot. Toutes ces victimes avaient été retrouvées mortes dans leurs maisons respectives.

Le colonel Sudue a expliqué que les enquêteurs sont intervenus rapidement et ont procédé à des examens sur les corps des victimes décédées et ont établi qu'elles avaient été assassinées.

Des enquêtes actives avaient été ainsi lancées afin d'identifier et d'arrêter les auteurs de ces meurtres, pour qu'ils fassent face à la loi. Le gouvernement du Libéria, par l'intermédiaire du ministère de la Justice, a récemment annoncé un montant de 5 000 \$ US comme récompense pour quiconque fournira des informations qui conduiront à l'arrestation des auteurs.

Dans le même temps, la police nationale du Libéria a lancé une chasse à l'homme massive contre Emmanuel Forkey pour son rôle présumé dans la mort de John Tubman.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Shalom Lipner

Échapper à l'ombre de Bibi

JÉRUSALEM - Le Premier ministre israélien Naftali Bennett est rentré comblé de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques (COP26) de ce mois-ci. Fréquenter les grands dirigeants de ce monde en Écosse confère une crédibilité à l'image qu'il souhaite projeter en tant que successeur compétent de Benjamin Netanyahu, son prédécesseur clivant et charismatique, qui a régné sur Israël pendant plus de 12 ans. Or, cette dynamique favorable à Bennett - et à son gouvernement - pourrait être de courte durée si le nouveau Premier ministre échouait à faire preuve d'un leadership prudent au cours des mois à venir.

Au mois de novembre, la Knesset israélienne (le parlement) a adopté de nouveaux cadres budgétaires pour 2021 et 2022 - un accomplissement majeur pour Bennett, dans la mesure où la Knesset n'avait plus approuvé de plan budgétaire depuis mars 2018. Cette victoire est néanmoins à double tranchant, car elle pourrait aisément conduire à un déchaînement de forces politiques susceptible de précipiter la chute du gouvernement.

Le cabinet israélien est une équipe composée de rivaux purs et simples, c'est-à-dire de ministres affiliés à la droite, au centre ou à la gauche idéologiques du pays. Leur engagement à travailler ensemble a été forgé dans le creuset de leur aversion commune pour Netanyahu. Un rejet comparable des comportements et politiques de Netanyahu règne chez les dirigeants de plusieurs capitales étrangères, dont les poils se hérissent à l'idée de son possible retour au pouvoir. C'est ce qui renforce Bennett, sachant les vives critiques internationales qui auraient été formulées à l'égard d'Israël si Netanyahu était resté au pouvoir. Netanyahu est en quelque sorte le ciment qui vient jusqu'à présent consolider la position de son successeur.

Ce liant pourrait toutefois se dissoudre. L'une des conséquences importantes de l'approbation du budget 2021 réside dans la quasi-neutralisation de l'opposition, qui a besoin de 61 sièges sur 120 à la Knesset pour former une coalition autour de la candidature d'un Premier ministre alternatif - probablement Netanyahu - susceptible d'évincer le gouvernement actuel. Or, les résultats chaotiques des quatre dernières élections parlementaires israéliennes organisées en rafale, qui ont vu Netanyahu fréquemment échouer à remporter 61 sièges de législateurs en soutien, fournissent les preuves convaincantes de l'improbabilité d'un tel scénario. L'ancien Premier ministre admet désormais avec abattement qu'il lui faudra sans doute trois ou quatre ans pour faire chuter la cohorte Bennett.

La propre spirale de Netanyahu vers l'insignifiance politique vient encore davantage entraver ses espoirs de renversement prématuré de Bennett. Bien que le Likoud demeure le plus important caucus au parlement, sa tentative de boycott des commissions de la Knesset ne convainc plus, ce qui plonge dans la division et le désarroi le gouvernement putatif de Netanyahu. De plus en plus préoccupé par les audiences judiciaires liées aux accusations de corruption qui pèsent sur lui dans le cadre de ses mandats de Premier ministre, il doit en parallèle s'efforcer d'apaiser ses alliés frustrés, qui s'étaient habitués aux attributs du pouvoir.

Le vide qui en résulte confère à Bennett et à ses ministres le luxe suspect d'un moment de répit

plus propice que jamais à la promotion de leurs agendas partisans respectifs. Un conflit ouvert parmi les antagonistes de longue date qui cohabitent désormais au gouvernement, autour du cap fixé par celui-ci, pourrait en fin de compte rendre intenable leur alliance fragile. Subitement, et paradoxalement, le gouvernement naissant apparaît vulnérable à l'implosion.

Plusieurs différends au sein du cabinet s'observent dernièrement autour de l'éventualité pour le gouvernement de criminaliser six agences palestiniennes - les groupes concernés se prétendant organisations légitimes de la société civile, tandis qu'Israël les considère proches de factions terroristes - et d'accorder le feu vert à la construction de nouveaux logements de colons en Cisjordanie. Les défis prochains liés aux tensions en série aux frontières d'Israël avec Gaza et le Liban, à la possible reprise des négociations diplomatiques concernant les ambitions nucléaires de l'Iran, ainsi qu'à différents aspects de législation intérieure, risquent également d'accroître les dissensions au sein de la coalition.

Un risque supplémentaire pour l'intégrité de la coalition Bennett émanera d'acteurs de la communauté internationale qui généralement saluaient son approche, mais qui pourraient - maintenant que le spectre de Netanyahu s'éloigne - faire preuve de moins de tolérance concernant certaines politiques israéliennes qu'ils désapprouvent. La réaction de l'administration Biden aux récentes annonces d'Israël s'agissant des nouvelles constructions a été marquée par un ton résolument plus sévère, ce qui suggère qu'un point de basculement pourrait avoir été atteint.

Biden s'est-il engagé à reporter la réouverture du consulat américain à Jérusalem jusqu'à la conclusion du débat sur le budget en Israël - une décision susceptible de « déstabiliser ce gouvernement », a averti le ministre des Affaires étrangères Yair Lapid. Peut-être cela annonce-t-il un renforcement de l'exigence internationale d'une plus grande souplesse de la part de Bennett. Une fois franchi l'obstacle du budget, Bennett pourrait bien se retrouver confronté aux limites de son pouvoir, et son mandat prendre fin brutalement si certains de ses partenaires de cabinet le jugeaient trop accommodant vis-à-vis des exigences étrangères.

La marge de manœuvre que les alliés d'Israël accorderont à Bennett est encore incertaine. Ils pourraient préférer tolérer ses comportements controversés afin d'ouvrir la voie à un Lapid - que certains pourraient considérer comme plus compatible avec leurs objectifs politiques au Moyen-Orient - susceptible d'accéder aux fonctions de Premier ministre en août 2023, tel qu'envisagé par l'accord de coalition.

En attendant, Bennett va devoir faire preuve d'adresse s'il entend demeurer en poste suffisamment longtemps pour consolider les changements structurels qu'il a amorcés afin de pouvoir mettre en œuvre sa politique nationale et étrangère. Quasiment dépourvu de base électorale propre, le Premier ministre aura à cœur de courtiser de nouveaux électeurs, mais devra avancer prudemment dans le champ de mines des politiques et principes concurrents d'autres acteurs.

Un faux pas Bennett pourrait se payer cher, avec pour conséquence potentielle un cinquième affrontement électoral contre un Netanyahu redynamisé (s'il tient bon) ou un nouveau chef du Likoud - une bataille à laquelle Bennett risquerait ne pas survivre.

NEC clarifies US\$182K Thermometer (AI device)

The National Elections Commission (NEC), says the facial recognition device it has acquired is not just a thermometer, rather it is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) device to be used as an accountability tool.

NEC Chair, Madam Davidetta Brown Lansanah told the New Dawn in an exclusive interview Wednesday during a follow up on the US\$182,000 rented thermometer story that the equipment is an AI device which actually collect data and also use for electronic verification.

In its Monday November 15, edition, the Daily Observer broke a story that the NEC has spent a total of US\$182,320 to rent twenty pieces of facial recognition system for the conduct of the just ended by-elections in four counties.

But Madam Brown Lansanah told the New Dawn that NEC has the purview to decide any equipment that it wants to use for any of its processes; and that since the attention is on the electronic verification equipment, the decision was made to use that equipment for the training of temporary staff to

Commission followed all the legal processes as require by the Public Procurement and Concession Commissionor PPCC.

“I can say to you all the documents in here which require and have to go through were followed. The PPCC gave us a letter of no rejection. You can procure the equipment by itself maybe it will cost you US\$1,200 or US\$1000 something, I don’t know the cost. I never went on Amazon to check but once we got through with the process and the vendor was chosen, it was a package they provided to us and part of that package of was what people call thermometer and the customized software that comes along with it.” The NEC boss said. “The machine collects data and help us to conform to the norms of the GAC.”

On August 27, 2021, the PPCC wrote NEC: “The Commission upon review and careful scrutiny of the NECs By-Elections Procurement Plan, expressed justifications and subsequent accompanying documents...are hereby approved.” The approval letter was signed by Jargbe Roseline NagbeKowo, Chief Executive Officer of the PPCC, suggesting that all due diligence had



conduct the by-elections.

“People know it to be thermometer but it’s not just a thermometer, it’s an artificial intelligence or you can also say it is a verification equipment which has different features. For the purpose of the Commission, it was customized to be used during our training, and as accountability tool with respect to the payment of temporary staff, because in the past we have paid them by bulk cash that we have to carry to the various counties. But again, we have to fall in line with the GAC (General Auditing Commission) rules and you know the trend, and now everybody is now paying by mobile money. Even with the mobile money since the 2020 up to now, we are still verifying who the temporary staffs were. So this is why we are now verifying them during the training before the actual conduct of the by-election.”

The PPCC and the selection process

Displaying a file full of various documents to this paper, Madam Davidetta Brown Lansanah said the

been done and that the requester -NEC had fulfilled all its requirements.


Following the approval by the PPCC, on September 1, 2021 in a letter signed by Atty Joseph A. Yarsiah, Director/ Procurement Services, NEC extended a letter of invitation to three companies: Tuma Enterprises Inc., in Congo Town, HAK Technology on Benson & Mechlin Streets and Smart Systems on Clay Street on September 1, 2021.

On the three companies, only Tuma responded to the bid invitation and was subsequently awarded to the contract following evaluation by the bid committee.

Was there a conflict of interest?

The presence of Davidetta Brown Lansanah brother as operation manager of Tuma has also raised some eye-brows.

But officials at the NEC procurement department said there was no conflict of interest as the due process of the procurement exercise was followed without the involvement of the chairperson. -By *Othello B. Garblah*



Republic of Liberia
Public Procurement & Concessions Commission
Executive Mansion Grounds, Capitol Hill, Monrovia, Liberia
Website: www.ppcc.gov.lr | Email: info@ppcc.gov.lr | Phone Short Code: 4357

Ref. PPCC/RL/CEO/333/21
August 27, 2021
Hon. Davidetta Browne Lansanah
CHAIRPERSON
National Elections Commission
Republic of Liberia

Received by
Tutu Johnson
on August 31, 2021
@ 4:23pm

Dear Hon. Lansanah:


Subject: **PPCC RESPONSE: NEC’S REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF BOMI, BONG, NIMBA AND GRAND GEDEH COUNTIES BY-ELECTIONS PROCUREMENT PLAN (SBA and NON-SBA) SPECIAL BUDGET YEAR 2021**

We present our compliments and wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter which sought the approval of the Commission for the NEC’s 2021 By-Elections Procurement Plan for Bomi, Bong, Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties.

The Commission, upon review and careful scrutiny of NEC’s By-Elections Procurement Plan, expressed justifications, and subsequent accompanying documents, hereby states below:

- That the following packages below outlaid on the Procurement Plans (Non-SBA&SBA) and indicated on explanatory notes, are hereby approved for subsequent execution of stipulated processes:
 - National Competitive Bidding (NCB):**
 - Generator Spare Parts and Lubricants, News Papers and Advertisement, Radio
 - Restricted Bidding (RB)**
 - Computer Supplies and ICT Equipment, Verification Equipment Rental
 - Request for Quotation (RFQ):**
 - Scratch Cards, Election Materials Storage Bags and Tarpaulins, Candidate Nomination Software Upgrade, Production of Radio Jingles and Dramas, Public Service Announcements, Election Song, Conference Halls Rentals, Radio Dramas and Jingles Airing, Motorbikes Rental and Lease, Repair and Maintenance Civil Works;
 - Sole Source (Indicated requested vendors)**
 - Elections Stationery- **Techno IT, Cross Word**
 - Printing and Binding of Elections Materials- **Divine Graphix Inc., Seamarco Printing Press, Victor Printing Press, Superior Group of Companies, Xtra Printing Press, Alley Printing Press, J&P Express, Yeasu Printing Press, Brooklyn Group of Companies,**
 - Production of Elections Forms and Signs- **Sabanoh Enterprise & Yeasu Printing Press**
 - Spare parts and Lubricants-**Master Trading Center**
 - By-Elections Ballots Papers-**Buck Press**
 - Optical Mark Recognition-**Al-Ghurair Printing and Publishing LLC Dubai**
 - Prepacked By-Elections Materials -**Buck Press**
 - Petroleum Products -**Aminata and Sons**

Regulating and Monitoring Compliance with the Public Procurement and Concession Act of Liberia



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Website: www.ppcc.gov.lr | Email: info@ppcc.gov.lr | Phone Short Code: 4357

- Vehicle Rental and Lease- **Bright Star Car Rental, Trans Logistics, Beam Transport, Link Liberia, Mawata Transport Service, Superior Car Rental, Benkadi Transport, Reliable Logistics, Solid Rock Logistics, Crown Prince, Jemmy Inc, Fidelity Solutions.**

The Commission indicates the usage of PPCA section 56(1) given NEC’s stipulated requested method (SS).


- The Commission reechoes to the NEC to improve the execution of time-bound elections procurement, specifically the usage of Advanced Procurement Process for proper planning purposes;

The Commission informs the NEC that its By-Elections Procurement Plan will be duly forwarded to the Ministry of Finance and Development and Planning, and that the MFDP will process allotments in keeping with the approved Procurement Plan.

The Public Procurement and Concessions Commission admonishes and deems it a priority that you remain primarily in compliance with the PPCA, 2010, as we jointly aspire to achieve transparency, accountability, equality and ultimately public confidence in our procurement and concessions processes and Liberia’s national development.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely,


Jargbe Roseline Nagbe Kowo (Atty.)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Regulating and Monitoring Compliance with the Public Procurement and Concession Act of Liberia

PYJ explains CDC defeat

By Lewis S. Teh

Senate Prince Yormie Johnson blames his candidate's defeat in the Nimba County district#1 by-election to deception in the ruling CDC chapter in the county, threatening to submit names of those alleged to President Weah for dismissal.

"I will meet the President and McGill [Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel Farlo McGill] and submit the names of those CDC officials who are working in the county, yet still chose to betray the party", he says here hours after results of Tuesday's by-election in Nimba put Independent Candidate Samuel Brown ahead of the poll.

Samuel Brown in Tuesday's district#1 by-election in the county.

According to him, Professor Marwiah's defeat in the by-election was due to deception in the hierarchy of officials of the ruling CDC in the county, alleging that there are officials in the CDC government who are betraying the party, and working against the party underground.

He claims that Candidate Samuel Brown, currently topping the poll is his first cousin.

"I could not support him; I told him this six months to the election, and instead, endorsed Prof. Francis Marwiah, who's from the Mano tribe. During the campaign I went to all the towns in that district, and the people told me that they will vote in

support somebody in a contest and didn't get the expected result you feel bad, but that's the will of our people and it has to be respected."

He blames himself for the dismal outcome, saying "It's my fault, I should have investigated my candidate's relationship with the people rather than just support him."

When asked whether he still commands influence over the people of Nimba, he says it was unfortunate for people to think that he has lost grip of the county due to the defeat of his candidate, Professor Francis Marwiah, vowing "I will beat any candidate going against me in 2023."

Senator Johnson, whose Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) party is in bed with President Weah's governing Coalition for Democratic Change, says the victory of Senator Jeremiah Koug in the December 8, 2020 special senatorial election led him to redesign his campaign strategy, saying that "Politics in Nimba is tribal, but one thing I know is that my morale in Nimba is powerful and very still high"

PYJ insists that he remains in touch with his kinsmen in Nimba and they are inseparable, so no one should think his candidate defeat poses treat to his reelection to the senate in 2023.

"The problem here is I wanted a compromising candidate that the people didn't want, and for choosing a compromising candidate wasn't enough, I should have studied his background before supporting him, but again, Samuel Brown is a strong candidate that's why our people elected him."

Both the governing CDC and the main opposition CPP performed dismally in the by-elections conducted in Bomi, Bong, Nimba, and Grand Gedeh counties, with Independent Candidates taking clear leads, according to provisional results. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

2023, but as for the by-election, they couldn't betray Samuel Brown, and what I saw for myself made me to wash my hands and told them to go ahead with their decision," narrates the two times presidential candidate and kingmaker.

"Look, I'm telling you that I still remain the political godfather of Nimba County, I am still being loved by my people, but for today's election, their will have to be respected", the ex-rebel leader-evangelist-turned politician concedes.

"Look, today's election is just a district election, and this result has nothing to worry about, for as far I'm concern nobody in Nimba can defeat me, it bothers me because when you



"I will make sure they be dismissed, any attempt for them to refuse to listen to my decision, I will wash my hands from the CDC, because we don't want this to continue, we have a crucial election coming and these people could cause us more harm", PYJ expresses.

Speaking to Spoon Talk, a live broadcast via mobile late Tuesday following release of provisional results from the by-election in Nimba County, the man the United States Government described as a notorious warlord maintains that he still remains the political godfather of Nimba despite his candidate losing to Independent Candidate

AFL to recruit

Cont'd from page 6

times when it comes to the physical test, so they will have to face academic tests instead.

Mr. Collins explained that eligible candidates to participate in the pre-recruitment training and the office recruitment process should be a citizen of Liberia, a high school graduate or equivalent, fully vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine, be clear of human rights abuses and should be between 18- 35 years.

"We are targeting [a] total of three hundred and fifty persons. However, this will be done in two phases," he said.

Mr. Collins noted that the first phase would have 175 candidates, and 175 for the second phase.

"Note, nobody will request anything from you to form part of the recruitment process and if any soldier asks for sex for help from female and money for help from male, report them and we will use the Code of the army to deal with them," Mr. Collins warned.

Additionally, Mr. Collins disclosed that the geographical region for the recruitment will be at different venues. He said the central region includes Montserrado, Grand Bassa, and

Margibi Counties at the Barclay Training Center (BTC).

He said the western region includes Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, and Gbarpolu which will be at Tubmanburg City, Bomi County.

The northern region include Lofa, Bong and Nimba Counties and recruitment will take place at the Gbarnga Sports Stadium in Bong County.

He said the southern region will include Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland, Grand Kru, River Cess and Sinoe Counties and the recruitment will take place at the Zwedru Multilateral High School in Grand Gedeh County.

For their parts the three individuals to head the recruitment process, 1SG Kanneh Hannah, drill training director, Theophilus Mom Duw, and 1st SG Austin Doe, Non-commissioned Officer and Officer - in - Charge of the recruitment process, noted that they will be conducting the process with transparency.

"This is what we are trained to do. We will carry out the process with great transparency. We will not accept any fraudulent process and we will make sure that everyone passes through the channel," they noted.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

COTAE urges Weah

Cont'd from page 7

Incheon Declaration of 2015 and Darkar Framework of Action, endorsed by Liberia, must be upheld and fully implemented by the Liberian government in increasing National Budgetary support to education, especially in the 2022 Budget.

Miamen pointed out that the right to good quality, relevant and inclusive education must be protected in Liberia, especially in these difficult times when several parents and students cannot afford various fees charged, mainly by Private Schools.

As public schools do not have the required space to accommodate the growing number of school-going population, government cannot allow private schools to operate at will as though the decision of many parents to enroll their children into these schools is based on mere preference for private education, he argues.

Miamen continued that it is even more astounded by recent comments attributed to a Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Education that the Ministry lacks the power and authority to determine or regulate tuition and other fees charged by private schools in the country, saying such statement attributed to a

ranking official of the Ministry is extremely troubling and hope-dashing, as it leaves poor Liberian parents and students at the mercy of private school operators, many of whom have proven to be more concerned about maximizing profit from education rather than helping government to fulfill its statutory obligation to her citizens

On Thursday, November 11, 2021, while addressing the Ministry of Information's weekly Press Briefing in Monrovia, the Deputy Minister of Education for Administration, Latim Da-thong announced that government, through the Ministry of Education has no authority to regulate fees charged by private schools in the country.


Miamen narrates that contrary to the Deputy Minister's comments, the New Education Reform Act of 2011 clearly mandates the Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Education to manage and regulate both public and private schools across Liberia.

He says the oversight and regulatory responsibilities of the Ministry of Education are clearly outlined in relevant chapters and provisions of the New Education Reform Law of Liberia.

He specifically cites that Chapter 1.4.1 (under general

The New Dawn

French Version Inside
TRULY INDEPENDENT



Sports

With Emmanuel B. Juduh

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Liberian professional female ends first season in U.S.



By Naneka Hoffman
Monrovia Football Academy-LEAD Forward, Blessing Kieh, who left Monrovia on July 11, 2021 to honor a full time scholarship from Westminster High School in the United States, has ended

her first league season, scoring four goals.
 The Liberian young female forward Kieh managed to score four goals and provided four assists in sixteen (16) games played for Westminster High.
 The 17 years-old forward was offered a whopping

US\$270,000.00 full scholarship from Westminster High School as a Student Athlete that will see her career through to college level. According to Blessing, she is having a great time with her teammates after ending her first league season in such splendid style.


"I just want to take this time and moment to thank the Almighty God for what He has done for me so far, and continue to do every day in my life. And also a big thank and appreciation to Westminster Girls family and to my Monrovia Football Academy family.

Blessing, who played 16 games, won 13, lost 2 and drew one, said she is excited to end her first league season with such great performance.





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