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VOL. 11 NO. 218

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2021

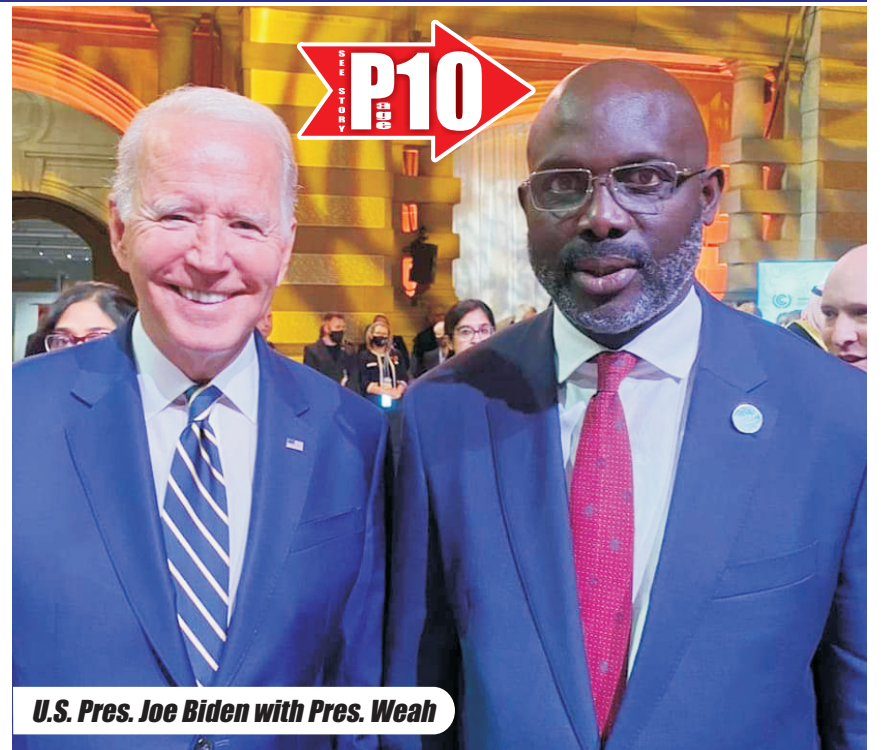
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Continental News

Looting halts critical food aid in Ethiopia towns

The World Food Programme (WFP) has suspended distribution of food aid in two northern Ethiopian towns after gunmen looted its warehouses.

Looters from rebel Tigrayan forces held aid staff at gunpoint in the town of Kombolcha, the United Nations said.

They stole large quantities of essential food supplies - including some for malnourished children.

Northern Ethiopia is facing mass starvation amid an ongoing civil war between Tigrayan and government forces.

After more than a year of fighting, more than nine million people are in need of critical food supplies in the Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions, the UN says.

A spokesman for the UN, which runs the WFP, said its staff there had faced "extreme intimidation" during days of looting in the industrial hub of Kombolcha in Amhara.

He added: "Such harassment of humanitarian staff by armed forces is unacceptable. It undermines the ability of the United Nations and all of our humanitarian partners to deliver assistance when it is most needed."

The spokesman also accused military personnel of commandeering three WFP humanitarian trucks and using them for their own purposes.

That led to the decision to halt food distribution in Kombolcha and nearby Dessie, two strategic towns in Amhara that sit on the road to the capital Addis Ababa. The Tigrayan rebels have not commented on the allegations that their fighters stole food aid.

The Ethiopian government recently announced that it had recaptured the towns

from the Tigray rebels. But the rebels said the army had only recovered areas they had abandoned. The conflict has killed thousands of people, displaced more than two million and driven hundreds of thousands into famine-like conditions, according to UN figures. The UN has encountered huge obstacles delivering aid to the affected areas, while there has been a communications blackout in Tigray so it is impossible to know the true scale of the suffering.

Nearly 200 children under the age of five died of starvation in 14 hospitals in Tigray between late June and October, according to the AFP news agency quoting data collected by doctors and researchers in Tigray.

Between 16% and 28% of children in the three regions were malnourished, the UN said in a statement last month.

Even more alarming, up to 50% of pregnant and breastfeeding women screened in Amhara and Tigray were also found to be malnourished, it added. Fighting broke out over a year ago between government troops and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which dominated Ethiopia for decades and now controls most of Tigray.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sent troops into the Tigray region to quash the TPLF after he said it had attacked army camps.

But the rebels mounted a comeback, recapturing most of Tigray and advancing into the neighbouring regions of Amhara and Afar. US State Department spokesman Ned Price said the humanitarian catastrophe in northern Ethiopia remains an "absolute priority" for the United States.

He called on both sides to negotiate an end to the conflict and allow aid to reach those in need. This is yet another example of the dangerous environment humanitarian workers have to operate under in Ethiopia.

Since the beginning of the conflict a year ago, 28 humanitarians have been killed, making the country one of the most dangerous for aid workers, according to the UN.

Then there's the red tape. For months now, aid agencies have been pleading with the Ethiopian government to cut bureaucracy and allow more humanitarian access. But so far only a fraction of what is urgently needed is getting to people in the Amhara, Afar and Tigray regions. At least 100 trucks are required in these regions daily - but only a trickle is arriving there despite millions starving.

Aid agencies are also facing fuel and cash shortages, which they need to continue operations. BBC



More than nine million people in northern Ethiopia are in need of critical food supplies, the UN says

Africa needs China and the US to work together

Seventeen African countries are taking part in a two-day Democracy summit hosted by US President Joe Biden, billed as an event to discuss ways to defend against the rise of authoritarianism. Observers say it highlights the contrasting priorities of the US and China on the continent.

The summit comes just over a week after the triennial Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Focac) was held in Senegal's capital, Dakar, which has grown in significance as China became the continent's largest trade partner. China's President Xi Jinping announced investments of at least \$40bn (£30bn) in projects spanning agriculture, digital economy, climate

change, industrialisation, as well as one billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines in donation and joint manufacturing.

"It appears counterintuitive, but the more democratic a country, the closer they get to China," said W Gyude Moore, a senior policy fellow at the Center for Global Development.

"The biggest need in Africa happens to be infrastructure, and the funder to turn to in the last 20 years has been China," he added. At the Focac event, a photo of Sierra Leone Foreign Minister David John Francis handing over an artist's impression of a yet-to-be-built 7km (4 mile)- long bridge to his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi demonstrated China's important role in Africa.

The estimated \$1.2bn (£900m) Lungi bridge linking the peninsula capital Freetown to the main airport will offer a quick alternative to ferries which take hours and can be unreliable.

Some observers say President Julius Maada Bio



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sees the bridge project as key to his 2023 re-election campaign, although others say there is no economic justification for it, pointing out that the money could be better spent on dealing with social challenges like illiteracy and maternal deaths. In The Gambia, President Adama Barrow recently won re-election after touting the Chinese-built bridges which have boosted trade with neighbouring Senegal, as well as promising to deliver a China-backed road project. Folashade Soule-Kohndou, a senior research associate at the University of Oxford, says African politicians often need Chinese infrastructure funding to deliver their electoral promises.

According to the African Development Bank the continent needs \$130-170bn a

year to meet its infrastructure needs, but there's currently a massive shortfall, in the range of \$68-108bn.

That gap could potentially be filled by the European Union new \$340bn infrastructure plan, the Global Gateway, as well the US's Build Back Better (B3W) scheme, which are both being promoted as alternatives to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

But for the moment, these two projects are short on detail, compared to BRI which has already built roads, railways and ports around the world. Trade expert Francis Mangeni says it would be best for Africa if the various initiatives focussed on synergy not competition.

"Rather than seeing Chinese influence in Africa as negative and responding by competition and antagonism or containment, I think the other powers should complement it," he said. BBC

EDITORIAL

A father's cry for his abused daughter

NAT BAYJAY, MINISTER Counselor for Press and Public Affairs at the Liberian Embassy in Abuja, the Federal Republic of Nigeria is frustrated and psychologically wounded. As a father and a family man, he suffers emotional pain after alleged sexual abuse of his 8-year-old daughter inside the embassy's premises in Abuja that has left both physical and psychological scars on the minor whose promising future is under threat as a result of the act.

WHAT IS HURTING Nat the more is that, there seems no tangible intervention by the Government of Liberia to cater to the health needs of the little child in a foreign land except the immediate family whose meager salary as a diplomat can't continuously foot medical bills singlehandedly in an extravagant capital such as Abuja. The family needs urgent financial intervention to save their promising daughter from total ruins.

WHILE BEING IN Monrovia for about two months, pursuing the issue, the minor's health, he laments, continues to deteriorate and her schooling is being interrupted due to poor health that impairs her from attending classes regularly. It is sad and unfortunate for a father that means well for his family, particularly his offspring that he has a God-given duty to upkeep.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Information, and Justice have taken steps to forward the matter to court but Nat says this is not enough in helping to medically cater to the immediate needs of his abused daughter.

HENCE, HE HAS written formal communications to President George Manneh Weah, Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, First Lady Clar Marie Weah, the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel Farlo McGill and the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, respectively, among others, asking for support to save his daughter's life, pending court procedures.

WE JOIN BRO. Nat Bayjay in his cry for financial help to save his daughter 'life. Our appeal goes to President and First Lady Mrs Weah, and Vice President Taylor, father and mothers of the country to do something immediately to save Little Bayjay. She needs urgent help! Time may be running out.

PRESIDENT WEAH, AS Liberia's "Feminist-In-Chief" is under moral duty to come to the rescue of the minor, for who knows, she may grow up to serve in our Foreign Missions tomorrow, taking up from her dad. First Lady Weah and VP Taylor this is a call to save a child's future womanhood, a tomorrow's mother.

THIS APPEAL SHOULD speak to your consciences to do something right now! Bro. Bayjay is asking for your help as a father to get the best medications for his daughter; yes the law may eventually take its course, but her life is more important right now, not only to parents, but the nation, because they are serving our country abroad when this devilish act occurred.

IN THIS PERIOD of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, we also crave for the intervention of female advocacy groups in Liberia, including the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL), Female Journalists Association of Liberia (FeJaL), students, and civil society in the fight to save Mr. Bayjay daughter's life.

WILL SOMEONE PLEASE hear the cry of a committed father for help to medically treat his sexually abused daughter and repair her emotional and psychological pains? This is an appeal to humanity and our national conscience, as a people.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 /
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

COMMENTARY

By Federico Fubini

When Democracy Gets Old

ROME - This week, US President Joe Biden will hold a virtual Summit for Democracy, to be followed in roughly a year's time by a second in-person gathering of leaders from around the world. More than 100 governments have been invited to attend.

Granted, not all invitees are democratic stalwarts. In fact, the democratic credentials of many are questionable, to say the least. Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Serbia made the cut, despite their authoritarian leanings, and geopolitical considerations also led the White House to include Brazil, India, the Philippines, and Poland, notwithstanding those countries' democratic backsliding in recent years.

In any case, the more interesting question concerns those countries whose democratic credentials are not in doubt. Do they have common characteristics beyond the fact that they hold free and fair elections, maintain the rule of law, and ensure freedom of expression and other individual rights?

One thing is certain: The cohort of true democracies is smaller than it was ten years ago. Although far-right movements have recently lost some traction in Western Europe, and though populist autocrats have become less popular in Brazil, Hungary, Turkey, and even Russia, there has been a well-documented global trend toward comparatively more authoritarian political systems over the past decade. Among the 146 countries with more than two million residents, Freedom House considered only 39 to be "fully free" in 2020, down from 43 in 2010.

But a less noticed feature of today's true democracies is that they tend to have aging populations. Of those 146 larger countries, almost none has both a convincing democracy score (above 85 on Freedom House's 100-point index) and a relatively young population. The only exceptions are tiny Costa Rica and Uruguay, which have strong democratic institutions and median ages in the mid-30s.

As the chart below shows, no sizable country is both young and free. The democracies are clustered in the top right corner, representing the world's strongest civil and political rights as well as its oldest populations. This development has been accelerating over the past decade and will become only more entrenched in the future, given demographic trends. This is not to suggest that political freedom causes populations to age, or that older societies are more conducive to democracy. The only causal link one can assert is that the well-being furnished by open societies tends to lengthen life spans and allow for better family planning.

But in an age of rapid global change and multiplying crises, these demographic trends

raise urgent questions. Does a growing share of older voters affect how a country will adapt and respond to international shocks, financial crises, inflationary or deflationary threats, disruptive technologies, migration waves, and all the issues associated with climate change?

This was a central question in Germany's recent federal election (though it lingered beneath the surface of the usual party rivalries). Germany, followed closely by Italy, has the highest median age in Europe. More than half of each country's electorate is older than 50. The number of eligible German voters fell by 1.3 million in the last general election, owing to demographic decline. In West Germany's 1987 national election, 23% of voters were under the age of 30, and 26% were over 60. In 2021, 14.4% were under 30 and 38.2% were over 60. A similar or even sharper trend can be seen in Italy, Japan, and South Korea.

Age, of course, bears heavily on psychological traits and political preferences. Older individuals tend to be a little wiser; but they are also more cautious and slower to understand new developments. They are generally less able or willing to adapt to the twists and turns of history. Younger people, by contrast, tend to be flexible, less risk-averse, and more resilient to shocks.

To be sure, these characteristics of individuals are not always reflected at the level of countries. The first mRNA vaccine against COVID-19 came from graying Germany. The oldest society in the world, Japan, is also a world leader in robotics, precisely because it needs to ensure care for the elderly and maintain productivity with fewer and older workers. Clearly, countries with relatively fewer young people are still able to innovate.

In other respects, however, these countries' demographically driven conservatism (or at least complacency) and lack of a bold long-term vision is undeniable. Consider Europe's panicked reactions every time there is even a minor wave of migration, or the relative tolerance for deflationary trends in Europe and Japan, where millions of retirees are living off rents. Moreover, democratic countries' increasing reluctance to take risks in geopolitical crises played no small part in the West's humiliations in Syria, Libya, and Afghanistan.

The absence of boldness, openness to novelty, and long-term vision in today's democracies is not reassuring. Worse, there is no obvious antidote, other than to try to give young people a greater voice. In Germany, where the new coalition government includes the two parties most favored by younger voters, the Greens and the Free Democrats, a reduction of the voting age to 16 has now made an official appearance on the government's to-do list.

That may be a prudent reform for other democracies to discuss at this year's Summit for Democracy.



Lord, the General is back!

Dear Father,

Have you heard? They say the General is back oo. They say this time she has come with reinforcement and is not playing.

Which one of the generals you are talking about my son?

Father, I am talking about the famous General Broh, the no nonsense woman, who had intended to stand on 3rd street to see ELWA junction by removing all the shacks along the road. I saw her just the other day and it was like the old days were back-she only needed that power one of my friends said.

Hmmm, this woman again? I thought the people from the Footballer's Camp said she was a terror to the village displacing poor people. You remember, during the Iron Lady time when even chiefs at the Traditional Council were crying all over the place in her name?

Yes, Father, I remembered. But you see oo, the thing the General was doing and they were accusing her of violating human rights around here da the same thing they beg her to come and do after trying for whole three years.

Not, only trying for whole three years my son, but they had to wait for one white man to come and cursed the entire village as dirty people first.

Um, hayaka, the other day, they said she went to one Lebanese man restaurant it was not easy there.

Tell me something my son!

Hmmm, they say the first thing she did was to introduce herself calling her full name. You know, they way she can call her own name as if she expects the person to run upon hearing it eh. They say just like that poor old Lebanese man must bury himself underground.

You joking, my son!

Oh, Father, they say the woman na play there oo. Now go and see the place na na. It clean like broken plate.

And Father not only that place oo. Yesterday she passed by my office all the old toilet houses were down. But da small fine she issuing all over the place.

Hmmm, I hope some of the people behind her are not using this as a means to start harassing people, the way the used to it already.

But come to think of it Father, this village na like soft people-it's like bad sore, it like bad medicine. People like General Broh, they are not looking for favor, so when you give them a piece of job, rest assure it will be carried out to the letter.

My son, I hear all the thing them you been talking but let me ask you ya, the Footballer must wait for one white man from Uncle Sam's cousin village to say the village is the most dirtiest village in our entire clan before he put people to work?-I tire ya.

Anyway, thank God for General Broh, she is back so are we!

UNIVERSITY OF LIBERIA

Section I. Invitation for Bid

(Printing and delivery of the 102nd Souvenir Program, Protocol & Invitations)

IFB NO: UL/SP/NCB/003/2021

November 27, 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 the (printing and delivery of Souvenir programs, Protocols & Invitation) for the 102nd Graduating exercises 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.

3. Specification and quantity:

ItemNo.	Description	Temporary quantity	Total quantities
i.	Printing of Protocols	1	To be Determined
ii.	Printing of Souvenir program	1	To be Determined
iii.	Printing of Invitations	1	To be Determined

4. Qualification requirements include:

- a. Valid Government of Liberia (GOL) Business Registration with Code C1811
 - 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. PPCC Vendor Registry
 - e. Current Bank statement for the past two (2) years - present with the closing balance of US\$3,000
 - f. 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 27, 2021 - December 27, 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 60 days after the opening of bids.
 7. Interested Bidders are advised to visit the Procurement Department (see address below) to view samples before submitting bids.
 8. Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 p.m., December 27, 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 PRINTING & DELIVERY OF PROTOCOLS, INVITATIONS & SOUVENIR PROGRAMS"
REF.: IFB NO.: UL/SP/NCB/003/2021


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: 
Fatu Ruth Tpoteh (Mrs.)
Director/Procurement/U/L

Approved: 
Benetta Joko Tarr (Mrs.)
Vice President for Administration/U/L

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University of Liberia

Republic of Liberia
Fendall Campus
Louisiana, Liberia

Section I. INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS (Desktop Computers)

IFB No.: UL/NCB/010/2021

1. The University of Liberia has allotted portion of its internally generated revenue for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and intends to apply it towards the Procurement and Supply of **DESKTOP COMPUTERS** for the **DIGITAL TESTING CENTER** and **DCIS PROGRAM** of the University of Liberia.

2. The University of Liberia now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the procurement and supply of **DESKTOP COMPUTERS**.

3. 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 and Concessions Commission (PPCC), and is open to all eligible bidders in the Country.

4. Specifications and quantity:

Item No.	Description	Quantity	Unit of Measure
1.	Desktop Computers	105	pieces

5. Eligibility and Qualification requirements include:

- Valid Government of Liberia Business Registration with Activity Code (G4741)
- Valid Government of Liberia Tax Clearance
- Must be registered with the PPCC Vendor Registrar
- Bank guarantee of 2% of the contract price from a renowned commercial bank in the Country
- Past performance records including the names and contact details of at-least three (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.
- Bids will be examined for proper signature, stamp and completeness before consideration for further evaluation.

6. A set of bidding document in English can be obtained by interested bidders for a non-refundable fee of **Fifty United States Dollars (US\$50.00)** from the Procurement Department, Fendall Campus beginning November 9 to December 9, 2021, Administrative Complex Building, Fendall, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m. Mondays to Fridays.

7. All bids must be accompanied by a Notarized Bid Securing valid for 60 days after the opening of bids.

8. Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m., December 9, 2021, and will be opened in the presence of the bidders or representatives who choose to attend on December 9, 2021, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room, Room #: AC1-01, Administrative Complex Building, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow:

In the upper left corner of the envelope, print:

"SEALED BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF DESKTOP COMPUTERS"


REF: IFB No.: UL/NCB/010/2021

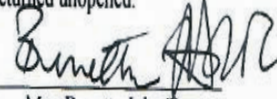
Below the bid reference number, print the bidder's address

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

Procurement Department
Administrative Complex Building
Fendall Campus
Louisiana, Liberia

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

Signed: 
Fatu Ruth Tipoteh (Mrs.)
DIRECTOR
Procurement Department, UL

Approved: 
Mrs. Benetta Joko Tarr
Vice President for Administration/UL

1

UNIVERSITY OF LIBERIA

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

November 8, 2021

- 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 Academics for the 102nd Graduating Class, 2021.
- 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.

3. Specification and quantity:

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

4. Qualification requirements include:

- Valid Government of Liberia (GOL) Business Registration with Code M7410
- Valid GOL Tax Clearance
- 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.
- Current Bank statement for the past two (2) years - present with the ending balance of **US\$5,000**
- 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 envelope, 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 envelope, 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: 
Fatu Ruth Tipoteh (Mrs.)
Director, Procurement/UL

Approved: 
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 Montserrat 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:

- Company's Profile
- Articles of Incorporation (Where applicable)
- Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry with appropriate Coding for Insurance).
- Current Tax Clearance Certificate
- Statements of past performance satisfaction from at least three (3) previous and current clients - including names and contact numbers
- Copy of CBL License (CBL/RSD/002/2013)
- Compliance with PPCC Vendor Registration procedures.
- 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, Montserrat Co.
Republic of Liberia

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

Signed: 
Fatu Ruth Tipoteh (Mrs.)
Procurement Director

Approved: 
Benetta Joko Tarr (Mrs.)
Vice President for Administration

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

Reviewed

Paul Fagbali
11/08/21

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CBL dedicates regional cash hub in Gbarnga

The services of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) will be enhanced and more inclusive, following the dedication of a regional Cash Hub in Gbarnga, Bong County.

The Cash Hub, a flagship CBL Project, aimed at

The dedicatory ceremony is expected to be performed by His Excellency Ambassador George Manneh Weah, Sr., President of the Republic of Liberia, in the presence of members of the Cabinet, Chairmen of the Banking Committees of the House and Senate, the President

handling liquidity requests of commercial banks and other regulated financial institutions in the rural parts of the country for enhancing CBL's cash distribution capability in the economy and the National Payment System infrastructure. It will also facilitate the provision of services to the government and its agencies, including revenue collections and salary payments.

CBL Executive Governor, J. Aloysius Tarlue, Jr. said: "The location of the Cash Hub in Gbarnga, Bong County is ideal for accessibility because of the central location in Bong County. It will attract banking institutions to rural areas as it will address one of the key challenges faced by commercial banks operating in the rural areas with respect to cash movement between commercial bank branches and their head offices in Monrovia, especially during the rainy season".

Operators of huge cash, such as petrol stations, department stores, and merchants, will also have easy access to their funds at commercial banks, as those banks will now be able to deposit and drawdown on their accounts at the CBL Hub.



modernizing financial centers, will be dedicated on Friday, December 10, 2021, at 12:00 noon in Gbarnga, Bong County. This Hub will serve as a blueprint for subsequent cash hubs to be constructed in other parts of the Country.

of the Liberia Bankers Association and International Partners. Local county officials are also expected to attend the occasion.

The Cash Hub is the first of four cash hubs earmarked for construction across the Country and contains a banking hall for

Publishers go to the poll today

Members of the Publishers Association of Liberia (PAL) are expected to go to the poll today, December 10, 2021 to elect their leadership for another three years term.

Today's election will feature five candidates who will be vying for several positions including the President, Vice President, Secretary General and

Secretary General and the Financial Secretary positions are being contested on white ballot by James G. Kiazolu of the Express newspaper and Abraham Donzo of the Public Agenda newspaper.

The elections today will highlight a debate between the candidates at 11am which will be followed by a daylong election.

Only publishers who have



LACC wants special corruption court

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) Executive Chairperson Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin has appealed to the Government of Liberia through the Legislature for the enactment of a specialized court to fast track prosecution of corruption cases here.

"There is a need for the enactment [of] of a specialized court for prosecution of corruption. Criminal court 'C' is overwhelmed and can't handle more than five corruption cases in a term," Cllr. Martin said Thursday, 9 December 2021 during celebration of the 2021 International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD).

The LACC also wants the statute of limitations in corruption cases to be amended so that there can be an open and unlimited time for the prosecution of corruption cases.

According to Cllr. Martin, the lack of prosecutorial power by the LACC is



responsible for delay in the prosecution of corruption cases across the country, adding that the proposed special court for corruption cases will help.

The international theme for the IACD program is "Your Right, Your Role: 'Say No To Corruption,'" with the local theme: "Promoting the culture of excellence, character - building and integrity for national

prosperity and development."

Presenting his Anti-corruption day message, Cllr. Martin noted that working through the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to prosecute alleged corrupt individuals is a complete delay to the LACC job.

He lamented that those that have been liable in their investigative report usually

Financial Secretary.

Those qualified by the PAL three-man election committee headed by the Publisher of the New Republic Newspaper, Alphonso Toweh include for the presidency; Othello Garblah of the New Dawn newspaper and Robert Kpardeh of the Parrot newspaper.

For the Vice Presidency; Sam O. Dean of the Independent newspaper and Helen Nah Sammie; while the

paid their dues will be qualified to vote. All ceremonies will be held at the headquarters of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) on Clay Street.

Members of the PAL Election Committee include Alphonso Toweh; Publisher of the New Republic Newspaper, Chairman, Mohammed Kanneh of the Heritage Newspaper, Co-Chairman and Joel Cholo Brooks of the GNN-Liberia Newspaper, Secretary.

escape under the cover of darkness.

Cllr. Martin reminded the public and private individuals that are involved with public funds and assets that the LACC will not witch hunt, nor will it be used for any illegal purpose.

He warned that the LACC will not dwell on hearsay evidence or perception on allegations of corruption in the public and private sector to fight corruption. Instead, Cllr. Martin noted that people should provide evidence and tangible facts to help the LACC fight corruption.

"The LACC will not investigate any allegations of corruption that lack facts and evidence. We took over at the LACC when it lost its image.

Moreover, the building housing the commission was in complete shambles but today I can boast that with the meager budgetary allotment given the commission in four months, the entire building housing the commission has been renovated to represent an image of an integrity institution" Martin said.

However, Cllr. Martin called for budgetary support for the LACC, noting that limited budgetary allotment for the commission has made the institution unable to decentralize itself outside of the capital city.

Martin argued that signs of corruption are not only visible in Monrovia, but the rural parts of Liberia where resources of

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Be non-selective in corruption fight -CENTAL urges govt.

By Lewis S. Teh

The Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia or CENTAL has urged the Weah administration to be non-selective in the fight against corruption.

"As Liberia joins other countries to celebrate the 18th anniversary of the International Anti-Corruption Day, as the national chapter of Transparency International (TI), the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) would like to call on the national government to be sincerer, robust and non-selective in the fight against corruption", says Executive

enablers of Corruption in Liberia cannot be overemphasized.

"It is about time that those who are in positions of trust act with integrity and transparency in their dealings, especially so when citizens are reneging in trusting their leader."

Director Miamen notes that CENTAL's recent State of Corruption Report, which was released August 2021, observed that more citizens said they trust the Media, Religious Institutions, and Civil Society to do a good job at fighting against Corruption than the Executive, Legislature, and even public integrity instructions.

He says these calls for concern, as these are the

reality that the fight against the disease is far less supported by the state, especially those who have the power to strengthen to do."

He reveals that the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission has been making efforts to rebuild public confidence in the Commission and Government's Anti-Corruption efforts, saying CENTAL highly welcomes this development, given that LACC has been in the media for all the wrong reasons before now, including but not limited to allegations of Corruption and misdealing involving some top officials of the institution.

He emphasizes that as the LACC implements her mandate and makes marginal progress, it is important to do so with outmost robustness and impartiality—giving equal attention to all cases and allegations of corruption as they come in, including the Commission's vice chairperson, Cllr. Kanio B. Gbala, who was recently accused of conflict of interest regarding his involvement with a potential conflict of interest saga at the National Port Authority of Liberia.

"We urge the LACC to give the case involving its own the fullest attention, as the public awaits logical conclusion of the matter, just as all other corruption cases before the body. How the Commission treats the case involving one of its own will send a very strong message about its preparedness, robustness, and impartiality in dealing with all cases and issues of Corruption in the Country."

This he said is necessary to clear any dark cloud that may exist over the Commission, which has the proclivity to affect the effectiveness of the Vice Chairman and the Commission at large.

"We call for speedy investigation and prosecution of other cases before the Commission, including but not limited to the one involving officials of the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation and the recent saga involving the National Elections Commission's alleged overpricing of thermometers used in the immediate past by-elections", Director Miamen reminds.

institutions and bodies statutorily mandated to lead the charge against Corruption in the Country. He adds that besides, over 90 percent of citizens surveyed said Corruption is a major problem in the Country, a similarly worrying trend that calls for sober reflection on existing efforts and plans to tackle the menace.

The CENTAL boss details that corruption has significantly contributed to the current poor state of the Liberian society; it has deprived ordinary citizens of a better living standard, while the few privileged, who sit at the echelon of power, abuse public trust and resources at the expense of the vast majority of the population.

"Sadly, he says, "It is a glaring



Director Anderson Miamen.

Addressing a news conference Thursday, December 9, 2021, at CENTAL head office in Sinkor, Monrovia, Director Miamen noted that December 9th each year is celebrated as International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD).

He says the day is set aside in recognition of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNODC), which was signed in Mexico in 2003. On this day, different sectors of the society join forces and renew their commitments to strengthening the fight against corruption. This year's celebration is being held under the theme: "Your Right, Your Role: Say no to Corruption."

He says It is about time that the government "moves away from theoretically tackling the vice and starts to do so holistically and practically", adding that the need to bring to an end the culture of impunity that is regarded as one of the main



'Rise and take the Giant Steps'

-Tchien Education Officer tells Agriculture youth graduates

Seventy- One youths have walked out of the walls of Oxfam Education for Youth Empowerment (EYE) program with skills in general agriculture, fish, goat pig, chicken cassava and vegetable -production.

This is the third and final batch of graduates of the Reintegration and Recovery Program phase V (RRP5), a development programme of the Republic of Liberia, co-financed by the federal Government of Germany through KfW in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance Development Planning.

The graduates were urged by Madam L. Siede Williams -Kopah, District Education Officer, Tchien District, to engage in the production of vegetables for sustainable development.

youths.

The Lead farmers are teachers who strengthened the capacity of existing farmers in improved farming methods. They also provided technical support through farmers' field school, monitoring, and coaching to peri-urban farmers. As a result of these supports, they have reported increased incomes generation.

At the same time, the peri urban farmers are mostly women who were already involved with farming activities and needed additional technical support. While the under-privileged youth are people who have never been to or drop-out from school.

There were several activities initiated by Oxfam with focus on providing technical training to 500 peri-urban farmers, 10 lead farmers and 180 under-privileged youths for increased



She said, "Now that you have the knowledge and skills needed to grow vegetables, go ahead and increase the number of vegetables that are on markets in Zwedru."

Williams-Kopah, serving as guest speaker, also cautioned the graduates to impact their communities, towns, county, and country to provide poultry meat and egg beginning with markets in Zwedru.

"Who told you, you can't supply Grand Gedeh County with surplus pig, poultry products and lots of vegetables, you only need to recognize your potential, rise and take the giant step," she questioned grads.

The program benefitted three categories of direct beneficiaries which included Lead farmers, Peri urban farmers and under-privileged

agricultural production in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County.

The training included crop production, food processing, harvesting and storage, market and value chain development, business management and nutrition.

The project achieved more than 50 percent female participation and contributed to improved livelihoods opportunities to 600 direct beneficiaries.

According to James E. Kanneh, Acting Education Manager, Oxfam, the project created a linkage to agro input dealers from Nimba, who will supply the farmers upon farmers' request.

He said the linkage was established to minimize the challenges farmers faced in getting agro inputs to Zwedru.

Kanneh furthered that the

Français

Accord minier AML : HPX et Ivanhoe Liberia expriment leur inquiétude

A lors que le troisième amendement de l'Accord de développement minier (MDA) d'ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) est toujours au parlement pour sa ratification, il semble y avoir une guerre minérale imminente entre les entreprises concernant l'accès du corridor de l'infrastructure Yekepa/Buchanan.

Les entreprises HPX et Ivanhoe Liberia soulèvent des inquiétudes quant à la question de l'accès à ce corridor et souhaitent obtenir l'assurance du gouvernement du Libéria de son pouvoir d'assurer un accès à plusieurs utilisateurs conformément à l'accord.

En 2019, les gouvernements du Libéria et de la Guinée ont conclu un accord bilatéral qui a été ratifié par le parlement libérien, soutenant l'exportation du minerai extrait en Guinée via le Libéria, en utilisant le chemin de fer Yekepa à Buchanan et le port de Buchanan. Le Ministère des Transports du Libéria a accordé un droit d'accès provisoire aux services de transport à HPX en août 2021.

Dans une déclaration publiée le mardi 7 décembre 2021, HPX et Ivanhoe Liberia ont déclaré avoir examiné le troisième amendement de l'accord minier qui a été soumis au pouvoir législatif pour être ratifié, indiquant que « bien qu'on ait fait référence à l'accès par plusieurs utilisateurs, les dispositions relatives aux problèmes de transport donnent effectivement à ArcelorMittal Liberia un contrôle

effectif sur l'utilisation par d'autres sociétés minières de cette importante infrastructure qui appartient au Libéria ». Elles demandent au gouvernement du Libéria de prendre le contrôle pour une utilisation équitable.

« Si le Gouvernement du Libéria n'a pas le pouvoir de dire qui doit avoir accès à l'infrastructure, HPX et

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Procès de l'assassinat de Sankara : un ex-adjoint de Diendéré l'accuse d'être l'un des planificateurs

À l'époque, Abdrahamane Zetiyenga était l'adjoint du lieutenant Gilbert Diendéré au Conseil de l'entente depuis la prise du pouvoir du capitaine Thomas Sankara et ses camarades en 1983. À la barre ce mercredi 8 décembre, il a accusé le lieutenant Gilbert Diendéré d'être l'un des planificateurs du coup d'État. Il affirme avoir reçu un « émissaire » du général Gilbert Diendéré, lui proposant de faire un « faux témoignage » en sa faveur devant le juge l'instruction.

Parti au camp d'entraînement commando de Pô pour une formation, il reçoit une lettre manuscrite du capitaine Thomas Sankara. Dans cette lettre le père de la révolution lui explique que la situation qui prévaut au sein des chefs historiques de la révolution.

Craignant un dénouement sanglant de la crise, l'adjudant Abdrahamane Zetiyenga décide de revenir sur Ouagadougou le 10 octobre et rencontre le président Thomas Sankara avec qui il a un échange sur la situation. Sankara lui promet de

trouver une solution à la crise.

Abdrahamane Zetiyenga rencontre ensuite le lieutenant Gilbert Diendéré, son chef, pour lui faire part de ses préoccupations, mais ce dernier ne manifeste aucun signe d'inquiétude. « Le 11 octobre 1987 j'ai fait le compte rendu de ma rencontre de la veille avec le président Sankara au lieutenant Diendéré. Il m'a écouté sans rien dire. Et là j'ai commencé à m'inquiéter », relate le témoin.

Abdrahamane Zetiyenga affirme avoir tenté de trouver une solution à la crise entre les dirigeants de la révolution burkinabè. Il dit avoir proposé alors une rencontre entre les différentes gardes. Et celle-ci a été convoquée par le lieutenant Gilbert Diendéré dans la matinée du 15 octobre. « Tous les gardes du président étaient présents. Mais un seul garde de Blaise Compaoré a participé à la réunion » au cours de laquelle le lieutenant Diendéré n'a pas dit un seul mot, selon le témoin.

« Quelques instants après la réunion, vers 14h, Gilbert Diendéré m'a dit qu'il a reçu un message de catégorie A, sur un projet d'arrestation de

Éditorial

Le désengagement des enseignants crée l'incertitude à l'Université du Libéria

Les étudiants de l'Université du Libéria sont contraints de rester chez eux en raison de la grève des enseignants qui demandent des arriérés de salaire.

L'Association des professeurs de l'Université du Libéria (ULFA) a publié un communiqué la semaine dernière, se désengageant de toutes les activités académiques jusqu'à la satisfaction de leurs demandes.

L'ULFA est parvenue à cette conclusion malgré l'engagement du gouvernement du Libéria à augmenter les salaires des professeurs.

Cependant, les véritables victimes de la grève actuelle des enseignants sont les plus de 10 000 étudiants en difficulté de l'Université du Libéria, dont la majorité ne peuvent pas payer les frais dans les universités privées du pays.

Ces étudiants n'ont d'autre choix que d'endurer des interruptions inutiles dans leurs programmes académiques en raison d'une mauvaise direction et de décisions administratives.

Le ministre des Finances, Samuel Tweah, a négocié à la dernière minute avec les responsables de l'ULFA la semaine dernière avant leur désengagement, leur demandant de retourner en classe avec la promesse de prendre en charge la masse salariale.

Mais sa plaidoirie n'a donné aucun fruit positif, car les enseignants ont abandonné les salles de classe, exigeant des salaires impayés et le règlement des disparités salariales.

Il devient de plus en plus courant pour le ministre des Finances et de la planification du Développement Tweah de laisser les situations atteindre des proportions de crise avant de tenter d'intervenir. Le cas des enseignants du système scolaire consolidé de Monrovia en est un exemple.

Pour l'amour de Dieu, ces protestations ne peuvent-elles pas être évitées par des interventions précoces ou proactives ? A quoi sert-il d'apporter de l'eau après que l'incendie a déjà rasé tout le bâtiment ?

Lorsque des situations de conflit potentiel atteignent des points de désengagement, il y a toujours des conséquences imprévues ou ce que les économistes appellent des externalités. Les étudiants de l'Université du Libéria subissent actuellement en grande partie à cause d'une mauvaise planification ou d'un manque de planification.

Le désengagement du corps professoral a clairement bouleversé le calendrier académique et laissé les étudiants dans l'incertitude quant au moment où ils passeront les examens avant les vacances de Noël.

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Blaise Compaoré et des autres responsables de la révolution à 20h » souligne l'adjudant-chef major Abdrahamane Zetiyenga.

Gilbert Diendéré décide sur le champ, selon le témoin, de faire arrêter Thomas Sankara

pour « éviter un bain sang ». Et une vingtaine de minutes après l'entrée du président Sankara au Conseil de l'entente, des coups de feu ont éclaté fait savoir l'adjudant-chef major Abdrahamane Zetiyenga.



Français

Accord minier AML : HPX et Ivanhoe

Ivanhoe Liberia craignent que notre projet de minerai de fer de Nimba ainsi que d'autres projets créateurs de richesse ne soient compromis », ont dit les deux entreprises.

Ainsi, HPX et Ivanhoe Liberia se disent prêts à travailler avec les représentants du gouvernement et toutes les parties prenantes sur les dispositions de transport contenues dans cet amendement pour accorder à plusieurs utilisateurs un accès au corridor d'infrastructure Yekepa/Buchanan afin que le peuple libérien en bénéficie.

“Notre projet est bien avancé, avec une construction prévue en 2023, et donc ces avantages ne sont pas une perspective lointaine”, ajoute le communiqué.

La société a indiqué que, comme cela est établi dans son étude de pré faisabilité détaillée, leur projet s'ajoutera aux engagements d'investissement étranger direct au Libéria en générant plus de 600 millions de dollars d'investissements directs supplémentaires au Libéria, créant plus de 5000 emplois permanents dans la construction et l'exploitation, et fournir des montants non spécifiés dans des contrats de services tiers avec des entreprises locales.

En outre, il a ajouté que l'utilisation de cette infrastructure par Ivanhoe Liberia et d'autres sociétés minières générera des revenus substantiels pour le Trésor libérien. Dans le cas d'Ivanhoe Liberia, « nous proposons de payer des frais de transit par tonne qui peuvent être facilement contrôlés de manière transparente. Le niveau de ces frais sera établi conformément à la pratique internationale par le biais de négociations détaillées avec le Gouvernement du Liberia. ». « HPX et Ivanhoe Liberia souhaitent contribuer à la prospérité à long terme du Liberia et au bien-être des communautés locales. Notre expérience dans d'autres pays montre que ces types de grands projets d'infrastructure peuvent être un catalyseur important pour le développement économique local. À cette fin, nous nous sommes engagés dans un certain nombre d'initiatives spécifiques pour soutenir les domaines dans lesquels nous allons opérer. Premièrement, nous plaiderons pour la fourniture de services de transport des passagers et de fret léger sur le chemin de fer pour les communautés locales et pour augmenter le commerce et les mouvements entre le Libéria et la Guinée.

De plus, en partenariat avec d'autres utilisateurs et Gouvernement du Liberia, nous engagerons des ressources dans plusieurs projets de développement communautaire qui ont un impact direct sur la santé, l'éducation et le développement humain.

Nous voulons également nous assurer qu'il existe un certain nombre de mesures de sécurité supplémentaires pour mieux protéger la population. Nous contribuerons au fonds de développement local géré avec soin au profit des communautés de la région. Enfin, nous mettrons en œuvre un certain nombre de mesures de conservation de la biodiversité et de compensation carbone notamment dans la réserve East Nimba conformément aux bonnes pratiques en matière de protection de l'environnement. Tout au long de ce processus, nous travaillerons avec le Gouvernement du Liberia et les communautés locales desorte que nos actions répondent aux normes éthiques, sociales et environnementales les plus élevées, conformément aux dispositions d'une évaluation d'impact environnemental et social approfondie que nous nous engageons à entreprendre.

Nous nous félicitons de l'opportunité de nous engager davantage avec le Gouvernement du Liberia et le pouvoir législatif, et sommes prêts à développer les commentaires faits dans ce communiqué de presse.

Guy de Selliers, Président d'Ivanhoe Liberia, a ajouté :

« HPX, SMFG et Ivanhoe Liberia se sont engagés à exploiter le projet Nimba Iron Ore et les infrastructures associées, à la fois en Guinée et au Libéria, conformément aux normes environnementales et sociales les plus élevées. Lorsque nous prenons des engagements, nous les respectons car nous savons qu'en tant qu'invités dans les pays où nous opérons, nous devons gagner chaque jour notre licence sociale pour opérer.

« Nous sommes profondément convaincus des avantages pour le peuple libérien en ouvrant cette importante infrastructure libérienne à d'autres utilisateurs. Nous cherchons à travailler de manière constructive avec le gouvernement du Libéria, Arcelor Mittal et d'autres utilisateurs potentiels pour rendre cela possible ». À propos de HPX

HPX est une société privée d'exploration et de développement minier domiciliée aux États-Unis.

Ivanhoe Liberia Limited est une société minière enregistrée au Libéria et une filiale indépendante détenue à 100 % par HPX. Pour plus d'informations, veuillez visiter www.ivanhoeliberia.com.

SMFG est une société minière guinéenne constituée en société.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Federico Fubini

Quand les démocraties vieillissent

ROME - Cette semaine, le président américain Joe Biden organise un sommet virtuel pour la démocratie, qui doit être suivi dans un an environ par un deuxième sommet en présentiel de dirigeants du monde entier. Plus de 100 gouvernements ont été conviés à participer au sommet de cette semaine.

Certes, les pays invités ne sont pas tous des piliers de la démocratie. En fait, les références démocratiques de certains d'entre eux sont pour le moins discutables. L'Angola, la République démocratique du Congo, l'Irak, le Kenya, la Malaisie, le Pakistan et la Serbie ont été retenus en dépit de leurs penchants autoritaires et des considérations géopolitiques ont incité la Maison Blanche à également inclure le Brésil, les Philippines et la Pologne, malgré le recul démocratique de ces pays au cours des dernières années.

En tout état de cause, la question la plus intéressante est de savoir quels sont les pays dont les références démocratiques ne peuvent être mises en doute. Ont-ils des caractéristiques communes autres que le fait de tenir des élections libres et équitables, de veiller au respect de l'État de droit et de garantir la liberté d'expression et d'autres droits individuels ?

Un fait est certain : le groupe des pays réellement démocratiques est plus réduit aujourd'hui qu'il ne l'était il y a dix ans. Bien que les mouvements d'extrême-droite aient dernièrement perdu du terrain en Europe de l'Ouest et que la cote de popularité des autocrates populistes au pouvoir ait faibli au Brésil, en Hongrie, en Turquie et même en Russie, une tendance mondiale vers des systèmes politiques comparativement plus autoritaires a été bien documentée au cours de la dernière décennie. Sur les 146 pays comptant plus de deux millions d'habitants, l'ONG Freedom House considère que seuls 39 d'entre eux sont pleinement « libres » en 2020, contre 43 en 2010.

Toutefois, une particularité moins remarquée des véritables démocraties aujourd'hui est qu'elles ont tendance à avoir des populations vieillissantes. Sur ces 146 grands pays, pratiquement aucun n'a à la fois un score démocratique probant (plus de 85 points sur l'indice de Freedom House qui en compte 100) et une population relativement jeune. Les seules exceptions sont le minuscule Costa Rica et l'Uruguay, pourvus d'institutions démocratiques solides et dont l'âge médian se situe au milieu de la trentaine.

Comme le montre le graphique ci-dessous, aucun pays de taille importante n'est à la fois libre et doté d'une population jeune. Les démocraties sont regroupées dans le coin en haut à droite, représentant les pays où les droits civils et politiques sont les plus respectés, ainsi que les populations les plus âgées, dans le monde. Cette évolution s'est accélérée au cours de la dernière décennie et ne fera que s'accroître à l'avenir en raison des tendances démographiques. Cette observation ne veut pas pour autant dire que la liberté politique provoque un vieillissement de la population ou que les sociétés avec un âge moyen élevé sont plus propices à la démocratie. Le seul lien de causalité que l'on puisse avancer est que le bien-être que procurent les sociétés ouvertes tend à allonger l'espérance de vie et à permettre une meilleure planification familiale.

À une époque de changements rapides dans le monde et de crises multiples, ces tendances

démographiques soulèvent toutefois des questions pressantes. Une proportion croissante d'électeurs plus âgés influe-t-elle sur la manière dont un pays s'adapte et réagira aux chocs internationaux, aux crises financières, aux menaces inflationnistes et déflationnistes, aux bouleversements technologiques, aux flux migratoires et à toutes les questions liées au changement climatique ?

Cette question était au centre des récentes élections fédérales en Allemagne (bien que sous-jacente aux habituelles rivalités entre partis). L'Allemagne, suivie de près par l'Italie, a l'âge médian le plus élevé d'Europe. Plus de la moitié de l'électorat de ces deux pays a plus de 50 ans. Le nombre des électeurs allemands a chuté de 1,3 million lors des dernières élections générales à cause du déclin démographique du pays. Lors des élections fédérales en Allemagne de l'Ouest en 1987, 23 pour cent des électeurs avaient moins de 30 ans et 26 pour cent plus de 60 ans. En 2021, 14,4 pour cent des électeurs avaient moins de 30 ans, et 38,2 pour cent plus de 60 ans. Une tendance similaire, ou plus marquée, peut être observée en Italie, au Japon et en Corée du Sud.

Il va sans dire que l'âge influe fortement sur les caractéristiques psychologiques et les préférences politiques. Les personnes âgées peuvent certes avoir acquis une certaine sagesse, mais elles sont aussi plus prudentes et plus lentes à comprendre les nouvelles réalités. Elles sont généralement moins aptes ou disposées à s'adapter aux aléas de l'histoire. Les plus jeunes ont par contre tendance à être flexibles, plus enclins à prendre des risques et plus résistants aux chocs.

Certes, ces traits individuels ne se reflètent pas toujours au niveau des pays. Le premier vaccin à ARNm contre le Covid-19 a été produit par l'Allemagne vieillissante. Le pays dont la population est la plus âgée au monde, le Japon, est également le leader mondial de la robotique, précisément parce qu'il a besoin d'assurer les soins aux personnes âgées et de maintenir la productivité avec des travailleurs moins nombreux et plus âgés. Les pays comptant relativement moins de jeunes sont encore clairement capables d'innover.

À d'autres égards, le conservatisme (ou du moins la suffisance) de ces pays, induit par leur démographie, ainsi que leur absence d'une vision audacieuse à long terme, sont indéniables. Il suffit de considérer les réactions paniquées de l'Europe chaque fois qu'une vague d'immigration, même mineure, se présente à ses frontières ou la tolérance relative envers les tendances déflationnistes en Europe et au Japon, où des millions de retraités dépendent de leur pension de retraite. En outre, la réticence croissante des pays démocratiques à prendre des risques dans les crises géopolitiques a joué un rôle non négligeable dans les humiliations subies par l'Occident en Syrie, en Libye et en Afghanistan.

L'absence d'audace, d'ouverture à la nouveauté et de vision à long terme dans les démocraties d'aujourd'hui n'est pas rassurante. Pire, il n'existe aucun antidote évident, sauf à essayer de faire davantage entendre la voix des jeunes. En Allemagne, où le nouveau gouvernement de coalition comprend les deux partis sur lesquels se sont portés les préférences des jeunes électeurs, les Verts et le Parti libéral-démocrate, l'abaissement du droit de vote à 16 ans figure désormais officiellement sur la liste des mesures à prendre par le gouvernement.

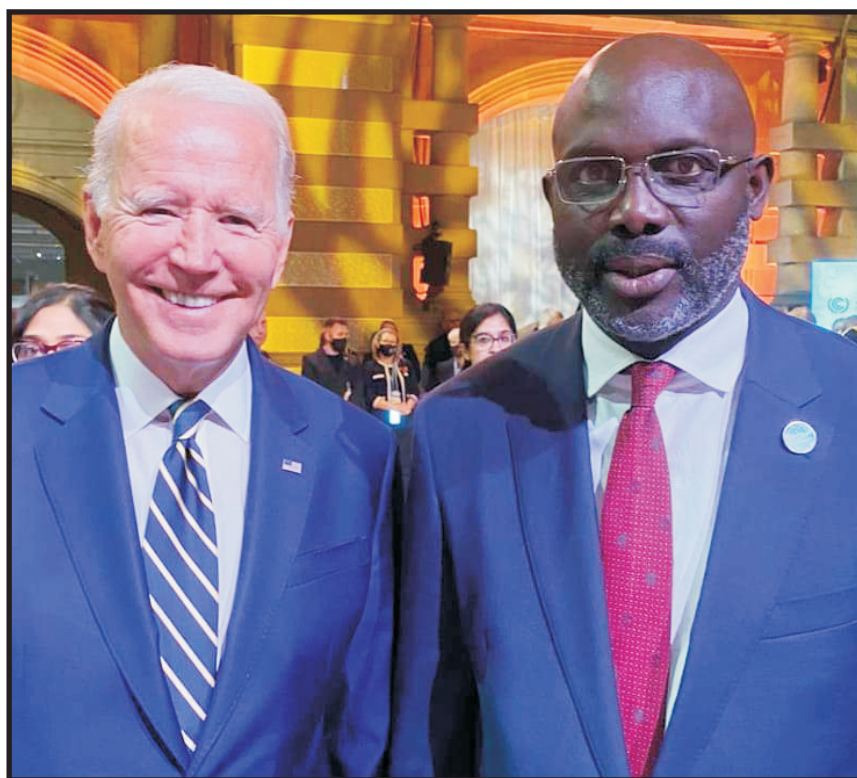
Il s'agit peut-être d'une réforme prudente dont les autres démocraties pourraient discuter lors du Sommet pour la démocratie de cette année.

Weah urges protection in corruption fight

President George Manneh Weah has called for the strengthening of democracy and protection in the fight against corruption in an address to world leaders, while maintaining that the promotion of freedom and human rights, are crucial to the maintenance of democracy.

Speaking at the ongoing Summit on Democracy being hosted by U.S. President Joe Biden, Mr. Weah said his "government commits to fighting corruption at the highest level; we will seek legislative approval to amend the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission Act to grant that institution direct prosecutorial powers."

He explained that as part of his government's continuing efforts in deepening the country democratic roots, it seeks to



established the creation of a dedicated court for the "prosecution and conviction" of public officials and other individuals and institutions

engaged in corrupt practices and financial offenses.

He also used the occasion to enumerate some of the progress being made on

empowering women in achieving gender equality.

"To ensure the protection of women, girls and other vulnerable citizens from rape and other forms of sexual and gender based violence, I declared rape a national emergency in 2019 and set up a national steering committee that formulated the national action plan on women, peace and security.

Mr. Weah further told the gathering that his administration has initiated talks with traditional leaders to end all forms of harmful traditional practices, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). He indicated that he will shortly be forwarding to the Legislature an anti-FGM bill for passage into law.

The summit brings together a gathering of world leaders, civil society and the private sector in a virtual setting to deliberate on the challenges facing democratic institutions and democracy to ponder on

what can be done to strengthen the foundations of democracy around the globe.

Liberia was invited to the two-day summit because of the country's "consistent commitment to non-violent, free and fair elections", U.S. Ambassador Michael McCarthy said last month.

President Weah reaffirmed this position, stating that as the country prepares for the upcoming general and presidential elections, "the time is now to assure the citizenry of government's commitment to freeness, fairness, transparency and accountability in the elections funding, budgeting and processes".

He said the participation of more women in the electoral process will be a "top priority". The Ministry of Information issued a press release Thursday night, 9 December 2021, quoting President Weah as saying the promotion of freedom and human rights are crucial to the maintenance of democracy.

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U.S. sanctions PYJ

"The pay-for-play funding scheme involves millions of U.S. dollars. Johnson has also offered the sale of votes in multiple Liberian elections in exchange for money. Johnson is designated pursuant to E.O. 13818 for being a foreign person who is a current or former government official, or a person acting for or on behalf of such an official, who is responsible for or complicit in, or has directly or indirectly engaged in, corruption, including the misappropriation of state assets, the expropriation of private assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, or bribery", says the release.

Senator Johnson is a notorious warlord and leader of the defunct rebels Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) that captured and killed former President Samuel Kanyon Doe at the Freeport of Monrovia on September 10, 1990 during the Liberian Civil War.

He is current Senator for Nimba County and former Chairman of the Senate Committee on National Security, Defense, Intelligence, and Veteran Affairs, a post the United States Government asked him to vacate earlier this year.

Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Report documents Johnson as having committed atrocities during the country's first civil war.

Meanwhile, the release says on International Anti-Corruption Day, the U.S. Mission in Liberia stands in

solidarity with all those committed to confronting and ending widespread corruption, including those within the Government of Liberia who stand up against corruption, committed Liberian citizens and organizations seeking to challenge the impunity of corrupt officials, and international organizations supporting anti-corruption efforts, adding that Thursday's sanctioning of Senator Prince Yormie Johnson is one small part of that effort.

Same time the United States Treasury Department also notes that International Anti-Corruption Day has been observed annually on December 9 since the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) on October 31, 2003 to raise public awareness for anti-corruption initiatives. It says there are currently 187 States party to the UNCAC.

The release says besides sending a message against corrupt behavior, the Treasury uses its tools to increase transparency, accountability, and the rule of law, and that with these designations, encourages all governments to implement anti-corruption reforms to address vulnerabilities.

Yesterday, December 9, 2021 also marked the official start of the Summit for Democracy, which highlights corruption as one of the three areas most critical for democracies to address. The U.S. Embassy here quotes President Joseph R. Biden, as saying in his June 2021 action establishing the fight against corruption as a core national security interest, that 'Corruption corrodes public

trust; hobbles effective governance; distorts markets and equitable access to services; undercuts development efforts; contributes to national fragility, extremism, and migration; and provides authoritarian leaders a means to undermine democracies worldwide. When leaders steal from their nations' citizens or oligarchs flout the rule of law, economic growth slows, inequality widens, and trust in government plummets.'

The release continues that the U.S. Mission in Liberia has long reported on the pervasiveness of corruption within the Government of Liberia, including in the annual Human Rights Report, noting that organizations such as Transparency International also score Liberia very poorly in terms of corruption, and that more than that, Liberian Government officials and citizens themselves regularly report on corrupt government activities that reach across all sectors of governance and society.

"No government is free from corruption, but no government can improve its democracy without simultaneously attacking corruption, and that effort must start at the very top, both in word and indeed. On this International Anti-Corruption Day, we call on all three branches of the Government of Liberia to acknowledge that public officials should not receive financial benefit from their positions other than their salary and should take all necessary measures to stand



up to the corruption that continues to erode the trust between the government and its people", the U.S. Treasury emphasizes.

The Treasury Department also froze the assets of Grand Cape Mount Senator Cllr. Varney Sherman, for corruption and placed a travel ban on him. Senator Sherman was also indicted for bribing judges in court for favorable justice.

On May 19, the United States government through its embassy in Monrovia strongly condemned the election of Senator Johnson as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Defense and Intelligence.

"Senator Johnson's gross human rights violations during Liberia's civil wars are well-documented; his continued efforts to protect himself from accountability, enrich his own coffers and sow division are also well known," a statement issued in Monrovia on May 19, 2021, by the U.S. Embassy here read.

The United States noted that the Liberian Senate would see fit to elevate the former rebel leader to a leadership role - particularly in the area in which he has done Liberia the most harm -- creates doubts as

to the seriousness of the Senate as a steward of Liberia's defense and security.

Johnson subsequently resigned from the defence committed but noted in a communication addressed to Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie and Plenary dated June 05, that his resignation followed series of consultations with chiefs, elders, youth groups, and permanent individuals.

According to him, high-profile individuals convinced him to step aside and focus on his own reelection bid and that of President George Manneh Weah, ahead of 2023.

"I wish to profoundly thank you, distinguished colleagues; from the bottom of my heart for your tremendous support over the years; I have had the opportunity to serve the great people of Nimba County. You have elected me on many occasions to represent this august body at the ECOWAS parliament where I was privileged to serve the post of deputy speaker at the regional parliament and in this Senate as chairman on National Security, Intelligence, Security, and Veteran Affairs on white ballots," the Senator's communication noted.

Host counties petition Legislature

Group of Citizens from the three ArcelorMittal affected counties residing in Grand Bassa have requested the Liberian Senate to ratify the proposed amended AML agreement before the Legislature.

The call was made on the senate on Wednesday in a petition presented to Senator Saah Joseph, Head a specialized investigative committee on AML US\$800 million agreement.

Presenting the petition to Senator Joseph at a jam-packed town hall at the Tubman Unification Pavilion in Buchanan, the leader of the group Wedde Solopon Yarpa said the ArcelorMittal agreement must be treated with all level of urgency required while the legislature

believe without any doubt that the amendment which paves the way for the expansion of ArcelorMittal Liberia's operations is in the best interest of citizens of Grand Bassa, Nimba and Bong Counties and Liberia in general.

"In so doing, we herewith present to you this petition as our official position and CALL to you to ratify the amended ArcelorMittal Liberia Mineral Development Agreement" the group's petition stated.

The petitioners who are citizens of Nimba, Bong and Grand Bassa counties residing in Grand Bassa bring to THREE the number of Civil Society and citizen groups who have so far petitioned member of the House and Senate to pass the AML agreement into law.

Liberians, they warned must

including almost 3000 good paying jobs created for the people of Liberia. With about US\$300 million paid in royalties and taxes; over US\$40 million County Social Development Fund paid, with senior management threshold in the MDA of 50% to achieve 66% Liberians in top management positions; and over 96% of all positions held by Liberians, with over 50% from Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties; 52% of all ArcelorMittal local vendors are Liberians, they believe the Company deserve to continue partnering with Liberia.

"ArcelorMittal Liberia provides the single largest export from Liberia contributing about 15% of the country's GDP with the countless numbers of support the company has given to various communities including, handpumps, clinics, schools, and other contributions to the economic empowerment of the community, including partnering for the establishment of the Geo-services, Mining and Technical Department at the Nimba University, with recurrent support of US\$50,000 annually", said the petition.

On the debate surrounding unmovable assets in the AML agreement, the petitioners said they support provision in AML new MDA which addresses the matters of rail and port, allowing for multi-users arrangement where other companies can also assess the rail and port, because they believe this promotes cross-border use and avails additional strain of revenues to the Government and people of Liberia.

The citizens of Grand Bassa, Nimba and Bong Counties residing, concluded that they "unambiguously, unanimously, and emphatically", petition "you our lawmakers, the people's representatives to act in the best interest of Liberia and future generations after you, by ratifying the proposed amendment to the ArcelorMittal Liberia Mineral Development Agreement with "urgency", while you engage ArcelorMittal constructively to address all of the community related issues that are in the media.



engages the company constructively to address all of the community related grievances that are in the media.

He noted while the company has not been perfect over years in Liberia and may have not done all that is stated in its current Agreement, but calls for rejection of the proposed amendment is insensitive to the unacceptable joblessness and extreme poverty facing the people of Liberia, particularly, the youths.

Yarpa could be heard arguing that "ratification of this Agreement would move Liberia one step towards addressing the urgent unemployment and other social and economic challenges of our Country.

The Group said, they

bear in mind that due to the fallouts of the protracted and devastating fourteen years of civil strife in Liberia, ordinary people have been made to languish in abject poverty with the international image of the country dragged to the mud with no job for struggling youths.

The mentioned that reconstruction efforts attracted ArcelorMittal Liberia, as the first and largest private sector investment in Liberia's post-war economic recovery, which boosted investment confidence to the world that Liberia was ready for business and global partnership; and AML stayed in country even during the Ebola outbreak when many other companies fled the country.

According to them, the ArcelorMittal agreement when passed will deliver fairly good economic opportunities

LACC wants special

Cont'd from page 6

government are also being expanded.

He indicated that the presence of the LACC in the rural parts of Liberia will aid deterrence, education, prevention, awareness of the danger of corruption and provide risk assessment for local public actors and assets.

"The Liberia Anti-corruption Commission under my watch in the last four months has restituted the amount of 32,894,407.05 Liberian dollars," he said.

"The GAC [General Auditing Commission] audit reports are being speedily investigated while the legal department has succeeded in the prosecution of all indictments that were obtained in the past four months (July-November 2021)," Cllr. Martin disclosed.

Remarking, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative for Liberia Violet Korsah Baffour urged the Liberian government to accelerate the passage of key legislative reforms such as the amendments of the LACC Act, granting the Commission prosecutorial powers and establishing an anti-corruption court.

Mrs. Baffour noted that a holistic approach is necessary to ensure that quick wins are achieved as Liberia intensifies its anti-corruption response.

"Preventing corruption does not merely mean making grand commitments, printing posters, or running adverts on TV and radio," she said.

"Preventing corruption means putting in place concrete measures and firm public management, finance and procurement practices that foster transparency and accountability," she emphasized.

Also speaking, USAID Mission Director Jim Wright called on Liberians to launch a robust fight against corruption because it takes away resources that the Government needs to develop the country.

He added that corruption inhibits foreign investment and blunts the impact of the billions of dollars in development assistance the U.S. Government has provided Liberia since the end of the civil war.

He congratulated anti-corruption agencies, including the Internal Audit Agency and the General Auditing Commission, for their diligence in conducting audits and producing high quality audit reports.

But he said there needs to be follow ups on these reports, and accountability for individuals and institutions who mismanage government's resources.

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December 6, 2021

Re-Survey Notice

Contours, Limited informed the general public that **Mr. Mackerson M.E. Kelley** has duly authorized the Conduct of Detail & Perimeter Re-Survey of **Two point zero (2.0) Lots** of land in Pipeline, Lower Johnsonville, Paynesville City, Montserrado County in **Favor of Mr. Eric Freeman**.

The parcel of land to be Re-Survey is lying and situated in **Pipeline Road, Paynesville City, Montserrado County**.

This Re-survey will commence on Friday, 10th of December 2021 beginning at 10:30AM.

Therefore, all adjoining & adjacent property owners, and interested parties are requested to be present at the site on the day of the survey with their **deed(s), diagram(s), map(s), technical representatives/surveyors, and other relevant document to substantiate their claims**.

Please let this survey notice and announcement claim the attention of the following individuals:

1. The Sumo Family
2. Madam Lorpu D. Johnson & Family
3. Mr. Samuel L. Yarkpawolo & Family
4. Mr. Matthew T. Yarseah---Community Chairman
5. All other interested Parties

INITIALS
W.Y.F.

Signed:
Albert D. Giah Jr.
Registered Licensed Surveyor
Cell #: 0886740519/0770266609

+231886740519

Contours Limited



Cont'd from page 7

'Rise and take

500 peri urban farmers have demonstrated improved knowledge and understanding of modern methods of farming and have applied the knowledge acquired over the period.

While the Youth

Agriculture TVET beneficiaries, the 71 graduates bring the total to 178 of which 102 are females and 76 are males.

They all have received start-up kits which comprise farming tools, hybrid seeds, and a pair of their specialty.

Oxfam Program Director, Eugene Belete said skills development remains a major priority to ensure quality skills development opportunities for youth.

He said Oxfam has implemented several phases

of the Education for Youth Empowerment (EYE) Program in Grand Gedeh County since 2012.

Belete thanked the Government of Liberia, RRP5 Project Steering Committee and RRP5 consortium members which include Welt Hunger Hilfe & Medica Liberia for their productive collaboration.

"Counting from 1995, Oxfam has been working in Liberia over the past 25 years, in partnership with local actors, and has implemented projects addressing issues on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH), Education-technical and vocational training for youth and young women in livelihoods (agriculture and other income

U.S. sanctions PYJ for corruption



Senator Prince Yormie Johnson

The Government of the United States has slammed “Economic Sanction” on Liberian Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, for

corruption in what appears to be ongoing efforts to enclose on the notorious warlord for eventual war crimes charges.

The U.S. Treasury under its Global Magnitsky Act, took the

decision here Thursday, December 9, 2021 in observance of International Anti-Corruption Day, officially celebrated globally. The day was also celebrated in Monrovia by the Government of Liberia.

A release issued Thursday by the United States Embassy near Monrovia details that as a Senator, PYJ has been involved in pay-for-play funding with government ministries and organizations for personal enrichment.

It says as part of the scheme, upon receiving funding from the Government of Liberia (GOL), the involved government ministries and organizations launder a portion of the funding for return to the involved participants.

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