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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR		
DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022	LS\$150.8067 /US\$1.00	LS\$152.6708 /US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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UP tears Weah's speech apart



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I. DIPLOMACY AND DEVELOPMENT

The Three Proverbial Questions



My experience as a diplomat fueled an unquenchable thirst to understand the complex dynamics of foreign policy and the diverse interactions among nation-states. Comprehension and mastery of international subtleties enhance a nation's ability to direct and manipulate events. History supports this. A few small nation-states have utilized their understanding and mastery of geopolitical dynamics, not only to foster their national interests, but to elevate themselves regionally and influence global policies. Japan, Singapore and more recently, Botswana, are examples.

My basic strategic approach as a diplomat took a rather radical twist. Because I was not a "career diplomat," I was not hampered by preconceived notions indoctrinated and acquired in foreign policy institutional training programs.

This allowed outside of the box, unorthodox approaches towards my goal of affecting meaningful awareness and elevation of Liberia's interests. Of course, I remained cognizant of the boundaries of "foreign policy" courtesies and protocols which ought not to be breached. Additionally, I had to ensure that whatever approaches or strategies I pursued were within the "Foreign Policy Framework" of Liberia which, was then and even now, to a large extent, is ambiguous.

My approach and methods were driven by several concepts, some of which followed mainstream foreign policy theory and practice, while others could be construed as unconventional or even radical. Essentially, formulation and implementation of foreign policy depends upon a multiplicity of factors and dynamics that can be referred to as "building blocks." Three critical building blocks are: Domestic/National Agenda, Strategic Geo-Political Considerations and Global Dynamics.

These building blocks are based on several elemental strategic considerations which serve as the cohesive component in binding the building blocks created to accomplish vital national interests. The critical strategic considerations are concentrated around three cardinal questions:

1. What do we want?
2. What must we do to get what we want?
3. Are we willing and prepared to do what we must do to get what we want?

While these three questions may, on the surface, appear as an overly simplistic approach to something as vitally important as a nation state's foreign policy, careful contextual analysis will indicate that they do form the crux of any relevant foreign policy decision. If one does not know what he wants in any endeavor, it is impossible to discern a direction or purpose to pursue. This eliminates any likelihood of "success" in any framework. Conversely, if one has an inkling of what he wants, he must clearly establish what needs to be done to accomplish that objective; and, by logical extension, he must be willing and prepared to undertake whatever it may take to accomplish the stated objective. The building blocks encompass the following principles.

1. Domestic/National Agenda - National Direction/Vision
A key variable which must be incorporated in the formulation of effective, cutting-edge foreign policy is the National Strategic and Development Vision and Agenda of the Nation State. A clear, concise, realistic strategic development plan should be the centerpiece and driver of a developing nation state's foreign policy. A good plan should incorporate several key factors. First, the plan should comprise a current development model including the general direction, objectives and sustainability of the nation for security, stability, growth and economic prosperity. Such a plan should focus on remedies to overcome hurdles, impediments and other internal and exogenous factors such as capacity, resources and global influences that could affect outcomes.

The plan must be comprehensive and include a workable strategy for structural initiatives that would insure reliable and efficient institutions, continuous development and expansion of human capital, strong policies that guarantee consistent wealth creation, savings and investment. To insure sustainability, the plan must also include schemes for real, rapid and permanent technology transfer; empowerment and participation of all citizens and long term programs which address the critical matter of backfilling exhaustible resources with renewable replacements.

Finally, and most critically, this development plan must be strongly supported with wide national commitment and strong political will. In the absence of these two critical factors, a development plan will not be worth the paper on which it is written.

2. Strategic Geo-Political Considerations - A Matter of Objective Reflection & Analysis
Any nation state attempting to formulate effective foreign policy must start by initiating a comprehensive and thorough self-assessment and analysis of its own national strengths and weaknesses. This should incorporate an exhaustive list of the assets, strengths and characteristics that make it attractive to other nation states in pursuit of their interests. Contrarily, such assessment should include those weaknesses, liabilities, limitations or deficiencies that potentially hinder effective and sustainable relations with other nation states.

Some of the critical factors that must be incorporated in this crucial assessment include:

a. Geographic Location - Historically, a nation's geographic location was considered strategic predominantly from a military perspective. For example, a nation like Liberia presented strategic value to the Allied Powers in World War II in their attempts to provide logistical support and the movement of men and materiel to the front in the North African Theater. More recently Liberia's geographic location proved strategically important to the United States when its CIA needed a "listening post" and monitoring point for global interstellar communications and intelligence traffic. For many years, up until serious escalation of the Civil War in the 1990's, Liberia hosted a highly classified sophisticated operation in the outskirts of its capital, Monrovia, which met this

specific purpose and effectively served the security interest of the United States.

Another excellent example of the value of geographic location in a non-military application is reflected in the scenario of the Government of Guinea attempts to exploit its vast deposit of iron ore located adjacent to the border with Liberia. Studies conducted by the Government of Guinea indicate that it would be economically unfeasible to construct a rail line covering hundreds of miles from the source to the Port of Conakry. The most favorable option would be the utilization of rail line running from northern Liberia border with Guinea (in close proximity of the deposit) to the Liberian Port of Buchanan on the Atlantic Ocean. Liberia could benefit if such an arrangement was bilaterally consummated, solely because of the advantage of its strategic geographical location. The matter of the significance of a nation's geographical location, in the foreign policy context, evolved as globalization altered the geopolitical paradigm. The new drivers of this factor spotlight how geographic location facilitates global trade, contributes in the fight against global threats (terrorism, drug running, illicit trade, piracy etc.); and promotes the mobility of the world's population.

b. Natural Resource Wealth/Reserves - The strategic value and magnitude of natural resources is basically measured in terms of scarcity and demand. Generally, the higher the global demand for a resource, the better could be the strategic position of the nation that owns (or controls) the resource. Additionally, some natural resources are scarce but comprise an essential component of highly specialized products - for example uranium, used in nuclear technology, or coltan, an essential element in the production of mobile phones. By their nature, such resources could strengthen the potential strategic position of nations possessing them.

It is important to note that within today's modern dispensation, the definition of natural resources could transcend the traditional concept of mineral resources in and on the earth (and seas) to include human capacity, intellectual property, and specialized methods and practices.

c. Economic, Social and Political Significance - Economic strength, social motivations and political dispositions are all key variables in determining a nation state's standing in the geopolitical foreign policy arena. Astute architects of effective foreign policy must remain cognizant that nations with weak, dependent and unstable economies or nations with "unorthodox" social/cultural practices (that may be perceived as nonconformist) are generally deemed either "unfit" or "undeserving" of a position in the global geopolitical inner circle. Those that find themselves in the circle despite being deemed "undeserving," are usually there for other strategic reasons. For example, even though Iran is not considered an economic powerhouse, and is generally perceived and portrayed as unconventional in its social and political dispensation, it has been, in many instances, an active participant in important fora because of issues relating to weapons of mass destruction.

Of course, basic tenets of diplomatic protocol dictate the utilization of certain courtesies of "inclusion." However, in reality, key strategic decisions are made by the "real powerbrokers" to serve their own national interests. The classic example is reflected in the structure of the United Nations. The UN is comprised of six organs: The General Assembly, The Security Council, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Secretariat and the International Court of Justice.

EDITORIAL

Looking back
4 years after

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH Weah is in the fifth year of his administration, having got elected in 2017 and inaugurated subsequently in 2018.

HE ASCENDED TO the Presidency as a populist politician and international soccer icon, winning the minds and admirations of Liberian youth, who constitutes 60 percent of the country's population.

BUT FOUR YEARS after, the euphoria has evaporated and expectations are far from becoming a reality, indicated by the thousands of jobless youth roaming the streets of Monrovia daily in an economy that is at a slow pace in showing hope.

MR. WEAH CAMPAIGNED on the slogan "Change for Hope" which many slum dwellers, particularly ghetto youths thought provided an opportunity to change their standard of life and improve their lots.

HOWEVER, FOUR YEARS after, many of the youth are disillusioned and they expressed their frustrations thru protest votes during the December 8, 2020 Senatorial By-election by electing an opposition instead, right in Montserrado County, once dubbed stronghold of the governing Congress for Democratic Change.

MANY LIBERIANS HAD thought by now insecurity across the country would become something of the past. It isn't so, as jobless and drugs-addicted youth command the streets of Monrovia after dusk, terrorizing peaceful citizens for their personal belongings at gun, knife or cutlass point.

SUSPICIOUS DEATH OF four auditors, including the director-general of the Internal Auditing Agency (IAA) E. BarthenNyenswa in 2020, coupled with the murder of three high profile individuals, two of them sons of two former presidents and an officer of the Liberia Immigration Service in 2021 cast a dark cloud over the nation.

INTO THE FIFTH year of the Weah administration, bread and butter issues are still a challenge for many ordinary Liberians. The economy is generally stagnated with inflation biting amid high prices and dwindling purchasing power.

NOTWITHSTANDING, PRESIDENT Weah has made some gains in infrastructure development, particularly roads, free university education, health, free speech and freedom of the press and peaceful assemble, among others. But systemic corruption at all levels of the government is becoming a drawback to these earnest efforts.

TWO MORE YEARS to go, the government that is seeking reelection would do itself a great favor by publicly demonstrating commitment to fighting corruption and other negative vices bent on eroding its image and credibility.

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

COMMENTARY

By Elsa Fornero

The Right Recipe for
Reforming Pensions

TURIN - Pension reform is a thankless but necessary task. Pensions are a difficult and emotional subject that affects every citizen, and changing how they are calculated or when workers can retire involves negotiating a complex web of rules, habits, and entitlements that neat academic models do not capture.

In countries with national pension systems, the main pillar is typically written into law and managed by the state. Other sources of retirement income come from occupational pension funds and individual investments, which are dependent on the market but subject to regulatory bodies, such as the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority.

Even though the state does not provide all pension income, governments have good reasons to be involved in reform efforts. After all, more than efficiency is at stake in the provision of pensions, and the insurance market's ability to protect people in old age is limited. Moreover, relying on the market to provide senior citizens support risks causing an increase in poverty.

Twentieth-century social protection programs were created with these considerations in mind. Despite profound demographic and economic changes, they are no less relevant today.

The government pension pillar typically is financed on a pay-as-you-go (PAYG) basis that depends on an intergenerational contract. The working population pays social security contributions via payroll taxes to the government pension agency, which pays this money more or less immediately in the form of annuities to the retired population.

Unlike private insurance programs, the PAYG system does not rely on financial reserves, but on the understanding that those who are working pay for retirees and that the young and yet-to-be-born will do the same for those currently working. The state, not the market, can "guarantee" this contract by pegging future pensions to mathematical formulas, taking into account the entire flow of contributions and a rate of return that corresponds to the growth rate of labor income.

Funding pension programs through private entities has sometimes been touted as a better option than the public PAYG system. This approach assumes that the interest rate will be higher than the rate of economic growth, so pension income - for the same volume of contributions - will be higher. But in countries in Latin America and Eastern Europe where this kind of radical reform has been introduced, it has not been a success. In some cases, a painful policy reversal has been necessary.¹

Today, a mixed system that combines both public and private options has become more common. But even in a mixed system, reforms are required to make sure that pensions are both sustainable and adequate. And careful oversight is necessary as well, to reduce or eliminate possible distortions in the system. These include implicit taxation on work performed after the minimum requirements for retirement have been met, and the possibility that wealthier workers will benefit more than poorer ones, owing to weak correlation between contributions and pensions in defined-benefit formulas.

The main challenge confronting PAYG systems is the need to adapt to major structural demographic and economic shifts. As populations

age, fertility rates decrease, and migration flows stall, the intergenerational contract that forms the foundation of PAYG systems becomes difficult to maintain.

In the past 25 years, pension reform in Europe has focused on changes that increase the effective retirement age, equalize rules for retirement between men and women, and strengthen the correlation between individuals' contributions and benefits. Adopting some type of defined-contribution formula makes it possible to tailor pensions to individual workers' contributions without having to capitalize in financial markets. In this type of program, a worker's initial benefit at retirement and its subsequent indexation are determined by applying to the accumulated notional capital an actuarial factor that considers expected longevity.

In a good reform, the pension system cannot be separated from the labor market and the economy. Dynamic and inclusive labor markets that make it easier for workers to find a job and for employers to hire are the best prerequisite for adequate pension systems. Long-term employment-enhancing policies such as apprenticeships and lifelong learning must be given higher priority and more resources.

Reforms must also ensure that public pensions promote social solidarity, so that those who are disadvantaged in the labor market do not struggle in retirement. Solidarity can take the form of tax-financed notional contributions directed to workers in hazardous jobs, those who are unemployed, or workers who provide long-term care to relatives.

Economic growth remains the main variable determining the adequacy and sustainability of a public PAYG system. Growth at appropriate rates creates additional jobs, reduces unemployment, encourages labor-force participation, and increases the likelihood that citizens of active age (20-65) are employed.

But pension reforms are never merely a technical issue amenable to technocratic solutions. Because they affect wealth, expectations, and life plans, reforms are political. They must be approved by government institutions and backed by the public. Without popular support, any reform runs the risk of being either formally reversed or practically bypassed.

To increase the likelihood that a reform will succeed, workers must have an understanding of their pension wealth. They must be aware of their investment opportunities and retirement options in order to make sensible choices and avoid disappointment, such as a shortfall in pension benefits.

Workers also need to comprehend the basic rationale for the pension reform. Governments must explain how it will reduce generational imbalances, strengthen the pension program's financial sustainability, and limit distortions and privileges. In order for workers to understand this reasoning, they must have some level of financial literacy. Unfortunately, surveys have shown both gaps in knowledge about pensions and widespread financial illiteracy.

Preparing for retirement is a lifelong endeavor, and financial education is a fundamental part of it. Governments must do more to ensure that workers have what they need to make the best decisions about their retirement.

OPINION

By Mark Leonard

The Rule-Maker Race

In the coming decades, the question of who sets the global rules, standards, and norms guiding technology, trade, and economic development will be paramount. Having lost their exclusive prerogative in this domain, some Western governments have begun to rethink the universality of the rules-based order.

BERLIN - Will the West remain committed to the rules-based international order when it is no longer the one making the rules? That will be one of the most intriguing questions of the next two decades. If there is one principle that has united electorates, policymakers, politicians, and media across the West, it is that rules matter for just about everything else. Disrespect of common rules has long been met with intense anger and a forceful response.

Consider the United Kingdom, where Prime Minister Boris Johnson's raw charisma enabled him to win and hold on to power, effectively redrawing the country's political map in the process. Until recently, his public approval had withstood florid displays of incompetence, a rising pandemic death toll, and an economic recession. But Johnson is now finally hemorrhaging support for one simple reason: he and his government went too far in disregarding the rules. The revelation that there was a Christmas party at 10 Downing Street (the prime minister's residence) last year while the rest of the country was in lockdown has hurt Johnson's reputation more than any of his other scandals or transgressions.

At the international level, Western governments routinely condemn others for rule-breaking. Russia, for example, has been rebuked for its annexation of Crimea, repeated cyberattacks on other countries, and physical attacks on Russian dissidents abroad. China, too, has been condemned as a major transgressor. US President Joe Biden may not agree with much that his predecessor said or did, but he has maintained a striking continuity with the Trump administration's characterization of China as a global menace that steals intellectual property, maintains illegal subsidies, permits rampant corruption, and is carrying out genocide.

And yet, in the coming decades, the biggest global threat will not be China the rule-breaker, but China the rule-maker. China's growing influence over international norms, standards, and conventions is a game changer. For centuries, Western powers have taken it for granted that they are the world's norm-setters, massively influencing other countries' policies through the "Washington Consensus," the "Brussels effect," and other channels.

A term coined in 1989 by the economist John Williamson, the Washington Consensus now broadly refers to market-based economic policies and a limited role for the state. For decades, this Western liberal approach underpinned the work of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization, because it was seen as a universal recipe for good governance and prosperity.

The Brussels effect is a newer coinage, popularized by legal scholar Anu Bradford to describe the global impact of the European Union's regulatory policies. The EU's standards governing data privacy, product safety, genetically modified organisms, sexual rights, and other issues tend to be adopted as a matter of course by multinational corporations and other countries seeking access to Europe's massive single market.

Over the last decade, however, the free-market Washington Consensus has been challenged by a "Beijing consensus" of managed globalization, industrial policy, and state capitalism, while the Brussels effect has run up against a potential "Beijing effect": China's export of technology standards through its "Digital Silk Road."

Moreover, many global rule-setting bodies that once underpinned European and American predominance now have Chinese leaders. These include (or have included) the International Telecommunication Union, the International Organization for Standardization, and the International Electrotechnical Commission. China is poised to set the standards for rapidly developing technologies such as artificial intelligence and robotics, and Chinese companies' technological infrastructure - built to Chinese standards - has spread to numerous countries.

As Bradford notes, while the Beijing effect operates differently than the Brussels effect, it still has far-reaching consequences. And as China becomes a bigger trade partner to more countries, its global influence will continue to increase.

Whether the Western commitment to rules will endure therefore has become an urgent question. What if that commitment was always more about the power it conferred than about the underlying principles it upheld? Would Europeans and Americans respect a global rule-based order that followed "Xi Jinping Thought" instead of Western Enlightenment thinkers? Many in China, Russia, and other countries assume that we would not, taking that as proof that our commitment is merely a means to our own ends.

To stay ahead of the curve, some Western governments have begun to rethink the shape of the rules-based order. There is talk of departing from universal, global institutions in favor of a new arrangement based on rules set within likeminded clubs. The EU, for example, is now holding a debate about "strategic sovereignty," recognizing that if it operates as a single bloc, it could have the clout to preserve the rule-based liberal order for itself and other willing participants. The alternative is to submit to illiberal challenges from Xi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, or a return of Trumpism in the US.

A similar shift is visible across the Atlantic, where the Biden administration has gone from supporting global institutions to imagining a new kind of rules-based order comprising the world's democracies. The White House's recent Summit for Democracy could be understood as an archetype for how this new order would function.

It remains to be seen how smaller powers would navigate the changing landscape. One striking clue can be found in the Johnson government's March 2021 Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development, and Foreign Policy. Concluding that, "A defence of the status quo is no longer sufficient for the decade ahead," it advocates a more dynamic approach than merely "preserving the post-Cold War 'rules-based international system.'"



Office of the Director General

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY

United Nations Drive - Old USTC Compound - 1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia

P. O. Box 9027



MTB-DG-010-GSA-2022

Invitation for Bids

1. The General Services Agency (GSA) has received funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2022 budgetary allotment and intends to apply part of this funding for the Procurement of goods under the contract packages listed in the table below.

Code	Contract Package	Quantity	Bid Closing Date	Bid Opening Date
IFB#: GSA/NCB/ 001/22	Building Materials	Assorted	Feb.25,2022 10:00AM	Feb.25,2022 10:30AM
IFB#: GSA/NCB/ 002/22	Supply of Vehicle Spare Parts	Assorted	Feb.25,2022 10:30AM	Feb.25,2022 11:00AM
IFB#: GSA/NCB/ 003/22	Supply of Generator Spare Parts	Assorted	Feb.25,2022 11:30AM	Feb.25,2022 12:00PM
IFB#: GSA/NCB/ 004/22	Supply of Cleaning Materials	Assorted	Feb.25,2022 12:00PM	Feb.25,2022 12:30PM
IFB#: GSA/SBA/NCB/ 001/22	Supply of ICT-Equipment	Assorted	Feb.25,2022 12:30PM	Feb.25,2022 1:00PM

2. The GSA now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of goods stated above.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the PPCA and approved by the PPCC, and is open to all eligible bidders.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the General Services Agency and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **\$100.00 US** for each set from **9:00 AM to 4:00 PM** Monday through Friday.

6. All submissions must be signed, sealed in an envelope and clearly marked with the code and name of contract package that is being bided for and must be delivered to the address below at date and time stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after the deadline of bid submission. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount as required in the Bid Data Sheet, in the form of a Bank Guarantee, Manager's Check, or an Insurance Bond. Late bids will be Rejected and returned unopened. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders or their representatives and those who choose to attend at the address below.

THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT

GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY

OLD USTC COMPOUND, UN DRIVE

MONROVIA, LIBERIA

MOBILE NUMBER: 0886554465/0770554465

EMAIL ADDRESS:sloanjohnsonp@gmail.com

7. The General Services Agency (GSA) 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 therefore; Invitation for Bids and Award of Contract will be issued to qualified bidders in accordance with procurement procedures applicable under the Republic of Liberia Amended and restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act published and approved September 18, 2010.

Signed: Johnson P. Sloan
Director of Procurement

Approved: Nancy Brooks
Director General



Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa Project (HISWAP)
P169265

Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)
Statistics House, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 629, Monrovia, Liberia



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Assignment Title: Hiring of an M & E Officer(Local Hire)

Reference No.:LR-LISGIS-271331-CS-INDV

The World Bank has committed to improving the statistical capacity of low-income countries. The Bank initially targeted for at least one household survey to be conducted every 3 years but in May of 2019 incorporated the regional project in order to strengthen the statistical systems of participating countries and regional bodies in Africa to produce, disseminate, and enhance the use of core economic and social statistics.

The Liberia component of the project is being implemented by the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS). The goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity of LISGIS and line ministries and agencies (MACs) to produce, disseminate, and enhance the use of core economic and social statistics in Liberia. LISGIS is thus seeking the services of an M&E Officer to provide support to the Project Management Team.

The duration of the assignment is 12 months.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at: www.emansion.gov.lr

The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services now invites eligible Individual Consultants (“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 listed below.

The Consultant must have minimum qualification and experience as follows:

- A degree in management, Economics, Mathematics, Statistics, Development studies, the social sciences or other field related to Project Monitoring and Evaluations;
- At least three (3) years' experience as an M&E Officer on donor funded projects (specifically the World Bank) or NGOs;
- At least two (2) years of M&E experience on similar projects in developing countries;
- Knowledge/experience of the logical framework approach and other strategic planning approaches;
- Knowledge/experience of quantitative, qualitative and participatory M&E methods and approaches;
- Knowledge/experience of M&E planning and implementation; Information analysis and reporting
- Must be familiar with M & E guidelines, policies and procedures of multilateral Financial institutions (preferably the World Bank Group)
- Ability to find and communicate accurate information concerning processes, policies and procedures to Project stakeholders.
- Excellent skills in project management and communications in English, both written and oral, demonstrated in previous jobs

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 1, 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 Individual Consultant Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. 0900 to 1600 hours GMT.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in written form to the address below via email Only (**No Hand Delivery**) with subject: **“Re: Application - M & E Officer”**

Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa Project (HISWAP)
Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)
Statistics House, Capitol Hill, Monrovia, Liberia

Attn: Augustine F. Tokpa
Acting Project Coordinator
E-mail: tokpa707@gmail.com
Cc: mambog2005@gmail.com

Deadline for Submission of expression of interest is midnight on Thursday, 14th February 2022



Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa Project (HISWAP)
P169265

Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)
Statistics House, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 629, Monrovia, Liberia



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Assignment Title: Hiring of a Senior ICT Advisor

Reference No.:LR-LISGIS-271330-CS-INDV

The World Bank has committed to improving the statistical capacity of low-income countries. The Bank initially targeted for at least one household survey to be conducted every 3 years but in May of 2019 incorporated the regional project in order to strengthen the statistical systems of participating countries and regional bodies in Africa to produce, disseminate, and enhance the use of core economic and social statistics.

The Liberia component of the project will be implemented by the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS). The goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity of LISGIS and line ministries and agencies (MACs) to produce, disseminate, and enhance the use of core economic and social statistics in Liberia. LISGIS is thus seeking the services of an ICT Advisor.

The duration of the assignment is 10 months.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at: www.emansion.gov.lr

The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services now invites eligible Individual Consultants (“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 listed below.

The Consultant must have minimum qualification and experience as follows:

- a. Master degree in Information Technology, Computer Science, Engineering or equivalent degree with technology emphasis or concentration.
- b. Minimum of 5 years of relevant professional experience on a World Bank funded project.
- c. Fluency in the English language and demonstrate excellent written and oral communication skills.
- d. Possess professional certification in the project management field (Prince2 or PMP) and have a minimum of six years of experience in a senior technical role on a similar project in the West African region.
- e. Have at least one of the below quality assurance or ICT Governance professional certifications: MCSA, Microsoft 365 Certification and CCNA.
- f. Minimum of two of the following professional certifications: TOGAF, MCSA, CCNA, Amazon AWS Certified Solutions Architect, Google Associate Cloud Engineer, Cloud, and Microsoft Azure.
- g. Demonstrable experience in overseeing a major data center or enterprise infrastructure in the public sector across the African region.
- h. An in-depth understanding of ICT network communication and technology such as IP networks, VPNs, fiber optics, and WiMAX technology.
- i. An in-depth understanding of cloud hosting, data center management, and datacenter technologies.
- j. Well verse in Windows and Linux operating systems and have managed either at the enterprise level for a minimum of five years.
- k. At least 4 years of experience in advising on ICT related issues in the public sector and have held a senior ICT role in the public sector.
- l. Ability to work closely with functional team members in ensuring that business objectives are delivered.
- m. Proven ability to communicate and relate complex ideas in a way that is understandable by staff and management without an ICT background.
- n. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, as well as strong organizational skills and ability to meet deadlines.
- o. Eight years of practical leadership experience in implementing, operating, and supporting enterprise ICT systems.

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 1, 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 Individual Consultant Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. 0900 to 1600 hours GMT.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in written form to the address below via email Only (**No Hand Delivery**) with subject: **“Re: Application-Senior ICT Advisor”**

Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa Project (HISWAP)
Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)
Statistics House, Capitol Hill, Monrovia, Liberia
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Deadline for Submission of expression of interest is midnight on Thursday, 14th February 2022

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Pres. Weah failed on his promises

-Sen. Steve Zargo

The faction of the opposition Liberty Party headed by Senator Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence has responded to President George Manneh Weah's annual message, saying that the President has failed on his promises to the people. Addressing a news conference in Monrovia Tuesday, January 25,

to deliver on his promises.

Sen. Zargo continues that the President has disappointed Liberians, including those who voted for him in 2017, adding that Mr. Weah's plan for Bali Island was never mentioned in his address, while his Coastal Highway pronouncement remains an abstract thought, and promise of bringing 6,000 teachers from Nigeria has become wishful thinking.

He describes the past four

laments.

He says President Weah and supporters are always in a state of denial relative to the wellbeing of Liberians, noting that the 2022 Annual Message delivered by the President is reminiscent of the past that has been with elaborate promises.

The Lofa County Senator recalls that during Liberia's 174th Independence Celebration when leaders were seeking ways forward for the country, President Weah was busy releasing songs for Rita Marley, widow of the late Jamaican Reggae Superstar Bob Marley, and also during the 2021 Christmas season when many ordinary Liberians could not afford food and other basic needs, the President was in studio making song, telling Liberians "My Christmas on you O-O."

"Why would the President display his material possessions that an average Liberian can only dream of, requesting Christmas from the very people he has helped to make poor. How could a President mock Liberians who live below the poverty line?" He asks. Meanwhile, the LP factional chair is calling on the government to reduce unnecessary spending and redirect savings to the workforce, saying that government needs to invest in women and the youth.

He also notes that growth in the Agriculture sector is obstructed because of lack of support. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



factional chairman Senator Stephen J.H. Zargo, noted that President Weah has failed to implement those things he outlined in 2018 as his priorities. He says the President promised access to healthcare, to create jobs, stop corruption, restore independence of the judicial system, protect and improve the lives of Liberians, but after four years, he has failed

years under the Weah administration as devastating, saying that times are now harder for Liberians as compared to when the President took office.

"Food is unaffordable for average Liberians, adequate healthcare is a dream, crimes against women are on the increase and without proper judicial recourse, while inflation drives more Liberians beyond the poverty line", the Senator

Liberia remains under performer in corruption fight

-CENTAL CPI Reveal

By Lewis S. Teh

29, compared to 28 in 2019 and 2020 respectively, it remains an under performer and one of the biggest decliners worldwide, since 2012," CENTAL reported here Tuesday, 25 January 2022.

The pro - integrity group says the 2021 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) finding has ranked Liberia 136th in the fight against corruption.

Releasing the institution's 2021 CPI report, CENTAL Executive Director Mr. Anderson Miamen told a press conference at his office in Sinkor that the finding places Liberia far below the score of countries that made significant progress, including neighboring countries in the West African region.

According to Miamen,

(CENTAL) has reported that Liberia remains an under performer and one of the biggest decliners worldwide since 2012 in the fight against corruption.

"Although Liberia's score is



Just a day following President George Manneh Weah's 5th annual address to the 54th Legislature, the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia

Lack of textbooks, libraries fails students



-High school principal laments

By Lewis S Teh

The Principal at the Sekou Ibrahim Sheriff High School Mr. Vamuyah Sheriff has attributed the failure of Liberian students to the lack of adequate textbooks and laboratory.

"I'm glad that [an] official from the Ministry of Education is here, because we are quite aware that the reason behind students failing in national exams is due to [the] lack of textbooks and laboratory," said Mr. Sheriff.

Speaking at the at the Monrovia City Hall during the honoring ceremony of the Sekou Ibrahim Sheriff High School for topping the just - ended West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) administered by the West African Examination Council (WAEC) - Liberia, Mr. Sheriff extend gratitude to his teachers for standing along with the institution.

Assistant Education Minister Mr. Tarnue Mawolo agreed that the limitation of

Liberian students in national exams is due to lack of sufficient textbooks and libraries.

He extolled the administration of the Sekou Ibrahim Sheriff High School for ably preparing its students which resulted in the great success, making the institution a top performing school.

Additionally, Mr. Mawolo explained that the decision of President George Manneh Weah to pay students' WASSCE fees was to lift the burden off the shoulders of their struggling parents.

"You may not understand, but the president's decision to have paid WASSCE fees for students is to remove the burden from struggling parents," said Mr. Mawolo.

Michael Doe, Jr., of the Sekou Ibrahim Sheriff High School extended profound appreciation to the City Government, particularly Mayor Jefferson Koijee for his continuous support given to the student community.

He also used the occasion to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 8

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Liberia now ranks 136/180 and remains further down the table, joining the list of countries significantly declining on the CPI.

With the exception of Saint Lucia that has dropped fifteen points and Syria 13 points, globally, only Liberia has fallen thirteen points since 2012.

Miamen narrated that since the country attained its highest score of 41 in 2012, it has failed to perform any better. "It must be indicated that Liberia's improved performance then was largely due to passage of key laws and establishment of public integrity institutions," Miamen said.

"Unfortunately, the Country has since failed to make these institutions and laws work, as the laws are not enforced/respected and

public integrity institutions are not fully supported (morally, financially, and otherwise) to satisfactorily deliver," he continued.

CENTAL said its deeply worried over Liberia's continuous poor performance, especially being placed among the worst decliners worldwide.

In part, Miamen said, this speaks to the Liberian Government's inability to address entrenched culture of impunity and fully enforce existing anti-corruption laws and policies.

He indicated that Liberians have heard more words and promises from the President and other public officials than concerted genuine efforts/actions in the fight against Corruption in the country.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Pres. Weah reports growth at 3.6 percent

President George Manneh Weah says despite challenges of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy grew by 3.6 percent from negative 3 percent in 2020.

He predicts that growth in 2022 is expected to hit 4.7 percent, through increased agricultural and public investments in social compact program, adding

presented his economic agenda for 2022 and the state of the nation during the past year, said during the period under review, government succeeded in increasing gross international reserves to more than US\$600 million, which represents more than four months of import of goods and services in compliance with ECOWAS convergence target.

"In our effort to extend the

country that will make it easy to access financial facilities", the President discloses.

He continues that as part of the currency reform approved by the 54th National Legislature, the Central Bank of Liberia brought into the country the first consignment of banknotes totaling L\$4.0 billion Liberian dollars in November 2021, out of the approved L\$48.734 billion Liberian dollars being printed to mop up mutilated currency in the market.

He further disclose the second consignment is expected here this January, and that the first and second consignments are all denominated in 100 dollars bills, intended to respond to the liquidity demand in December of last year and to commence the replacement of mutilated banknotes respectively.

President Weah says bulk of the new currency, which will include coins, is expected in the second half of 2022, while the balance will be coming in 2024.

He notes that in compliance with the restriction of the Joint Resolution of the National Legislature, there will be no printing or delivery of the new currency in 2023, even though the exchange exercise will continue through 2023.

He says in the interest of transparency and credibility, the Central Bank of Liberia has ensured that the process is inclusive of the National Legislature, media

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 8



that in nominal value, the Liberian economy expanded by more than US\$300 million in 2021 with inflation reduced to less than 6 percent in November 2021, from 13.1 percent in December 2020.

Addressing the 54th Liberian Legislature in joint assembly Monday, January 24th at the Capitol when he

visibility of the Central Bank of Liberia beyond Monrovia, the Bank completed the construction of a modern cash hub in Gbarnga, Bong County, to provide more financial services for our people outside Monrovia, which was dedicated by me last month. The Bank is planning to commence the construction of an additional four (4) cash hubs in other rural areas of the

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"There can be no successful fight against Corruption if the Rule of Law is not upheld; if the Legislature and the Judiciary are weak; if infrastructure projects are prioritized over governance and anti-corruption issues," said Mr. Miamen. He claimed that the president remains silent on numerous allegations of corruption against his officials and the laws are meant for others and not senior government officials and their friends and relatives. According to Miamen, the national budget is used as a tool for political corruption and investigations into major scandals and allegations of corruption are stalled or seemingly endless. Meanwhile CENTAL said if

Liberia remains under

Liberia must get on the right trajectory of fighting corruption as compared to its counterparts in the region, President Weah must take the lead in pursuing a sincere and holistic fight against corruption.

"CENTAL [is] recommending that President George Weah leads by example and pursue a sincere and holistic fight against Corruption that does not protect certain individuals and groups accused of corruption, especially those who appear to be very close to the Presidency," he recommended.

According to Miamen, in 2021, the CPI showed a decade of stagnating corruption level amid human rights abuses and democratic decline in Sub-Saharan Africa.

He stated that Progress is stalled, while over 90 percent of

countries score below 50, noting that the Sub-Saharan Africa average is 33, the lowest in the world.

In the last decade, 43 countries in the region have either declined or made no significant progress. Since 2012, Botswana (55), Liberia (29), Mali (29) and South Sudan (11) have significantly declined on the CPI. "With a score of 70, the Seychelles earned the highest mark in the region, followed by Botswana (55) and Cape Verde (58) as distant runners-up. Only six countries in the region have significantly improved their scores over that period: Seychelles (70), Senegal (43), Ethiopia (39), Tanzania (39), Côte d'Ivoire (36) and Angola (29)," said Miamen.

Speaker Chambers is overly protective

-Rep. Larry Younquoi

By Kruah Thompson

Nimba County District # 8 Representative Larry P. Younquoi has accused Speaker Bhofal Chambers of being overly protective of issues arising in the House.

However, Representative Larry noted that rules that are structured to govern the House, give the Speaker absolute authority so when letters are written to cite individuals to providing clarity on governmental projects, he does not allow for such letters to surface during session.

Speaking to Hot FM recently, he said a letter was

what's more about a communication to bring in the director of Police to respond to a recent situation at the Capitol that left dozens of citizens oozing with blood in the form and manner they did.

Emphasizing the situation that occurred on Tuesday, January 17, 2022, at the Capitol, Rep. Younquoi notes that under normal conditions, "You could put a communication on the floor for a deterrent for people to know what was happening", saying "nowadays, the world has become so small place because you have social media. So if people were blocking traffic, it will show, if others were behaving in a certain manner, it



written to Speaker Chambers to cite the Minister of Finance to provide clarity on a pending government project, but the letter was denied.

He said if Speaker Chambers could deny a simple letter that requests the appearance of the Minister of Finance to inform the House how far the government has gone with the planned census, wherein the international community is raising \$16 million dollars, and to provide clarity on three million United States Dollars (US\$3 Million) that Liberia is to contribute to the census, then

will show. But if nothing like that happened and you just started to shoot tear gas or decided to disturb people at the Capitol, there will be a way of finding solutions and preventing a reoccurring of such."

He continues that Speaker Chambers is trying to protect the image of the government, and because of his action, some lawmakers have intentionally decided to remain silent during sessions as if they're no longer interested in doing their job, which he notes is the problem faced at the Capitol. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

I. DIPLOMACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Start from page 2

Arguably, the Security Council is the most powerful and influential organ within the UN. The structure of the Security Council is a glaring manifestation of a principle I label as “inclusive exclusivity.” The general global direction and destiny, as prescribed by the United Nations, is in effect determined by an “Exclusive Five” aka the Permanent Members. The exclusiveness within the Security Council is assured by the provision of diluted powers to the remaining ten members with their Non-Permanent status.

This is the reality of the world. National self-assessment could provide architects of foreign policy a realistic reflection of their nation’s global standing and allow them to consider how they could use their country’s perceived strengths to leverage and improve their global standing.

3. Global Dynamics - The Art/Science of Exploiting Opportunities
“Whenever I come to consider establishing diplomatic relations with another country, I always ask myself two questions. Can this country provide me with capital? Can it give me technology? If the answers to these questions are not ‘yes’ and ‘yes’; I will not establish diplomatic relations with that country.” (Lee Kuan Yew)
This landmark statement by President Lee encapsulates the essence of the concept of Development Diplomacy. Intrinsic to this statement is the cardinal principle of foreign policy and diplomacy:

NATIONAL INTEREST!
Development Diplomacy is specifically the art/science of formulating and implementing international relations and foreign policy with particular focus on achieving development initiatives and/or specific national development objectives. The focus of Foreign Service Officers should

be squarely on national socioeconomic development - increasing exports, attracting FDI and improving the living standards of the nation state.

Any nation state, that holds development as its cardinal priority and interest should embrace and construct its foreign policy on a foundation of the principles of Development Diplomacy. Every meaningful aspect of the state’s foreign policy engagements should be compelled by the demands of its national development agenda and interests. The most crucial variable to the success of this strategy is the existence of a clear, concise National Development Roadmap which conveys national buy-in, commitment from a wide spectrum of the political leadership and citizens and the solid political will to accomplish its aims and objectives. Additionally, the plan must be understood and well-articulated by the state’s designated purveyors in global circles.

Consistent with this approach, a nation state must consider and initiate strategies to deal with a plethora of complex, multifaceted issues and concepts. One critical challenge lies in deciphering the age old adage: “My enemy’s enemy is my friend and my enemy’s friend is my enemy.” This philosophy does not always apply in the case of a state whose foreign policy is driven by its National Development interests. In some instances, “one’s friend’s enemy does not necessarily have to be one’s enemy”. The underlying principle is that a state should engage and embrace other states that facilitate its interest which is, in this instance, development. Thus, a nation cannot “please all of its friends all of the time” and should anticipate losing some “battles to win the war.” This tactic requires focus, clarity and courage as the end justifies the means.

At the end of the day, a key principle in modern foreign policy dynamics is grasping and

effectively utilizing what I describe as a theory of “Use and be Used.” In pursuit of military, economic, social, and political interests, nation states solicit friendships or become allies (depending on their global disposition) in order to build consensus in enforcing certain policies, values or “rights.” These dynamic interactions result in some nations being used by others to build the requisite consensus in order to address a critical strategic interest. When the United States of America and Great Britain determined that their interest would be served by the ouster Muammar Al Gadhafi, the former leader of Libya, they realized that even with their awesome global powers, they needed to pursue a different approach which comprised “using” the members of the African Union (of which Libya is a prominent and influential member) to isolate Mr. Gadhafi.

African nations were urged to sever official diplomatic ties with Libya. In essence, the African states had to concede to being “used” by America and Great Britain in pursuit of their interests. Once this isolation was accomplished followed by a well-orchestrated internal upheaval by disparate groups in Libya, Mr. Gadhafi was toppled and eventually killed in order to satisfy American and British interests. This particular scenario presents an intriguing question. How were those who conceded to being used benefited by their actions?

The aforementioned principles and concepts provided the guiding ideology behind my diplomatic career at the United Nations and the United States of America. All of my official interactions were, to a large extent, driven by this pattern of critical thought.
References
Lee Kuan Yew, President of Singapore. “Last Address to Commonwealth Leaders.” Kuala Lumpur, October 1989.

Pres. Weah reports

million in August 2021 under the general Special Drawing Rights allocation to IMF member-countries. The President reports that Liberia recently completed its Third Review under the IMF External Credit Facility, and the results show strong fiscal and monetary performance, quoting the Executive Directors of the IMF as noting “The [Liberian] economy is

on track to rebound strongly next year, following setback from COVID-19 pandemic and ‘the medium term outlook is favorable, as Liberian authorities are committed to steadfast implementation of macroeconomic stabilization and structural reform program.

He says this positive review from the IMF was immediately

UP tears Weah’s speech

Start from page 11

of the Internal Audit died and Liberians were informed that he fell from his balcony.

She said mysterious deaths all resulted from revenue generating agencies of a government where L\$16 billion and U\$25 million disappeared in thin air.

“The President yesterday informed us that the Invincible Park Project is 100% funded by him but later on states that NASSCORP, NPA and Maritime supported the project. This confirms that our pension money is being used to fund projects that President Weah would boast

of as his personal projects.”

Earlier in an introductory statement, UP Secretary General Mr. Mo Ali said the Unity Party’s decision to designate Madam Kruah - Thompson to respond to the Annual Message follows the footstep of legal democracy of the mother and father of all democracies in the world, the United States.

“We witness the United States’ consistent promotion of upcoming politicians that they called” future stars ... We are now copying that and we will continue on that path,” he said.

Gov’t to build

Start from page 11

counties. President Weah also points to strides and inroads made in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) including rehabilitation and construction of training centers in six counties.

Additionally, he says an initial number of 76 TVET teachers have been sent abroad for training to support TVET institutions across the country upon their return.

“A number of them will be Master Trainers with assignment at the Booker Washington Institute, which is being scaled up to a TVET Teacher Training Institution for the future. The total number of teachers for this purpose, will be 120, of which 76 have been hired and are in training, while the reminder

44 are being recruited for subsequent training”, the President explains.

He continues that during the budget period 2020 / 2021, the government appropriated US\$79.4M out of a budget of US\$570.1M, which amounts to a 14 percent share of the national budget going towards education with Basic, Secondary and Early Childhood education receiving US\$41.8M or 52.64 percent of the budget, dubbed the national cake.

Meanwhile, the President assures that under the 2022 National Budget, his government intends to increase spending in education so that current interventions can lead to transforming the sector from mess to best.

Lack of textbooks,

Start from page 6

thank President George Manneh Weah for investing in the education sector of the country, particularly over the payment of WASSCE fees for students.

For her part, Haja Kamara, dux of the school applauded the Monrovia City Corporation for recognizing

the students’ efforts.

She also called on her colleagues not to give up on their education, adding that success doesn’t come on a civil platter.

“When your parents send you to school, at the end of the year the report card belongs to them,” she said.

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followed by a disbursement of \$23.64 million U.S. dollars to the Central Bank to add to the nation’s reserve stock.

“We have remained committed to the independence and autonomy of the Central Bank of Liberia in support of economic reforms for a stable economy. Although the year under review was challenging for the economy, my Government was fully supportive of policy implementations from the CBL that have kept the

recovery of our economy on course”, President Weah tells members of the 54th Legislature.

Article 58 of the Constitution of Liberia mandates the President to, on the fourth working Monday in January of each year, present the administration’s legislative program for the ensuing session, and give the state of the Republic, covering expenditure and income; **writes Jonathan Browne**

Cont’d from page 7

community, the Liberian Marketing Association, the Liberia Business Association, traditional elders and youths, as well as international partners, including the IMF and Kroll through USAID.

President Weah explains that based on sound management and good performance of the economy, Liberia received \$345.3

Français

Campagne électorale 2023 : Weah apaise les craintes

Le président George Manneh Weah a déclaré que le gouvernement n'imprimerait pas de nouveaux billets de banque tout au long de l'année 2023 où auront lieu les élections présidentielle et législatives.

Le chef de l'Etat veut dissiper la crainte de l'opposition selon laquelle l'introduction de nouveaux billets de banque pendant l'année électorale serait désavantageuse pour elle. Dans sa quête pour obtenir un deuxième mandat présidentiel de six ans par voie de scrutin, le président Weah et la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir affronteront une opposition fissurée lors des élections présidentielle et législatives de 2023.

Prononçant son 5e discours sur l'état de la nation devant le parlement au Capitole le lundi 24 janvier 2022, le président Weah a déclaré que dans le cadre de la réforme monétaire approuvée par l'Assemblée législative, le premier lot de billets totalisant 4,0 milliards

de dollars libériens sur les 48,734 milliards de dollars libériens approuvés est arrivé dans le pays en novembre 2021.

« Dans le cadre de la réforme monétaire que vous membres de l'assemblée nationale avez approuvée, la Banque centrale du Libéria, a apporté en novembre 2021 le premier lot de billets de banque totalisant 4,0 milliards de dollars libériens sur les 48,734 milliards de dollars libériens approuvés.

« Nous n'imprimerons pas

d'argent avant la campagne et en temps de campagne. Je veux donc être enregistré », a déclaré le président Weah sous les applaudissements du public.

Il a déclaré que le deuxième lot de l'argent est attendu ce mois-ci.

“Le gros de la nouvelle monnaie, qui comprendra des pièces, est attendu au second semestre en 2022 tandis que le reste arrivera en 2024”, a déclaré le président Weah.



La dette extérieure du Libéria est de 1,03 milliard de dollars US

Le président George Manneh Weah a déclaré que son administration a fait des progrès significatifs dans la restructuration de la dette intérieure du pays, qui s'élève à 660 millions de dollars. En ce qui concerne la dette extérieure, elle s'élève désormais à environ 1,03 milliard de dollars américains, selon le chef de l'état.

Dans son 5e message annuel prononcé lors de la cinquième session de la 54e législature, le lundi 24 janvier 2022, le président

Weah a déclaré que la dette publique est de 1,69 milliard de dollars américains au 31 décembre 2021.

Il a également déclaré que toutes les dettes dues à la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL), y compris la dette due à l'ancienne Banque nationale du Libéria, ont été regroupées dans un prêt restructuré et consolidé au début du programme soutenu par le Fonds monétaire international (FMI), il y a des années.

Ce prêt restructuré, selon le président Weah, s'élève à 487,5 millions de dollars américains et

le gouvernement verse un intérêt annuel de 13,9 millions de dollars américains à la CBL sur ce prêt et commencera à payer le principal en 2030.

Il a ajouté que la dette a augmenté de 6,29% par rapport à fin décembre 2020 et que cette croissance était due aux décaissements sur les prêts extérieurs et intérieurs.

« Sur les dettes intérieure et extérieure, le gouvernement a payé un montant de 83,4 millions de dollars au titre du service de la dette. Sur ce montant, 62,8 millions de dollars ont été versés pour la dette intérieure à la CBL, aux banques commerciales pour les bons du Trésor et à d'autres institutions, tandis que 20,6 millions de dollars ont été versés aux partenaires multilatéraux et bilatéraux », a-t-il déclaré.

Le président Weah a poursuivi en disant que les bons du Trésor, qui ont été émis par le gouvernement précédent en 2013, coûtent au gouvernement plus de 6 millions de dollars américains en intérêts par an, juste pour les reporter à la période suivante.



Éditorial

Regard rétrospectif 4 ans après

Le président George Manneh Weah en est à la cinquième année de son administration, après avoir été élu en 2017 et pris fonction par la suite en 2018.

Il est monté à la présidence en tant que politicien populiste et icône internationale du football, gagnant les cœurs et l'admiration de la jeunesse libérienne, qui constitue 60% de la population du pays.

Mais quatre ans après, l'euphorie s'est évaporée et les attentes sont loin de devenir réalité, comme en témoignent les milliers de jeunes sans emploi qui errent quotidiennement dans les rues de Monrovia dans une économie qui tarde à montrer de l'espoir.

M. Weah a fait campagne sur le slogan « Change for Hope » que de nombreux habitants des bidonvilles, en particulier les jeunes du ghetto, pensaient être une opportunité de changer leur niveau de vie et d'améliorer leur sort.

Cependant, quatre ans après, de nombreux jeunes sont désabusés et ils ont exprimé leurs frustrations par des votes de protestation lors de l'élection sénatoriale partielle du 8 décembre 2020 en élisant une opposition à la place, en plein comté de Montserrado, autrefois surnommé le bastion du Congrès pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir.

De nombreux Libériens pensaient que l'insécurité à travers le pays appartiendrait désormais au passé. Ce n'est pas le cas, car les jeunes sans emploi et toxicomanes commandent les rues de Monrovia après le crépuscule, terrorisant les citoyens pacifiques en leur arrachant de force effets personnels et argent sous la menace parfois d'armes à feu, de couteaux ou autres objets mortels.

Mort suspecte de quatre auditeurs, dont le directeur général de l'Agence d'audit interne (IAA) E. Barthen Nyenswa en 2020, couplée au meurtre de trois personnalités de premier plan, dont deux fils de deux anciens présidents et un officier du Libéria. Le service d'immigration en 2021 a jeté un nuage sombre sur la nation.

Dans la cinquième année de l'administration Weah, la question du panier de la ménagère reste toujours un défi pour de nombreux Libériens ordinaires. L'économie est généralement stagnante, l'inflation mordant au milieu des prix élevés et du pouvoir d'achat en baisse.

Néanmoins, le président Weah a réalisé des progrès dans le développement des infrastructures, en particulier les routes, l'enseignement universitaire gratuit, la santé, la liberté d'expression et la liberté de la presse et de réunion pacifique, entre autres. Mais la corruption systémique à tous les niveaux du gouvernement devient un obstacle à ces efforts sérieux.

Deux ans plus tard, le gouvernement qui brigue un second mandat se rendrait un grand service en démontrant publiquement son engagement à lutter contre la corruption et autres vices négatifs visant à éroder son image et sa crédibilité.

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ANNUAL MESSAGE TO THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH NATIONAL LEGISLATURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. GEORGE MANNEH WEAH PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

THE CAPITOL BUILDING CAPITOL HILL

MONROVIA, LIBERIA



Liberia recently completed its Third Review under the IMF External Credit Facility. The results show strong fiscal and monetary performance. The Executive Directors of the IMF have noted in the Review that:

QUOTE:

“The [Liberian] economy is on track to rebound strongly next year, following setback from COVID-19 pandemic. The medium term outlook is favorable and the authorities are committed to steadfast implementation of their macroeconomic stabilization and structural reform program.”

UNQUOTE

MR. SPEAKER:

This positive review from the IMF was immediately followed by a disbursement of \$23.64 million U.S. dollars to the Central Bank to add to the nation's reserve stock.

MADAM VICE PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER, MR. PRESIDENT-PRO-TEMPORE, MEMBERS OF THE 54TH LEGISLATURE:

We have remained committed to the independence and autonomy of the Central Bank of Liberia in support of economic reforms for a stable economy. Although the year under review was challenging for the economy, my Government was fully supportive of policy implementations from the CBL that have kept the recovery of our economy on course.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY, FOR THE GREAT THINGS HAS DONE, AND CONTINUES TO DO, FOR OUR GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OUR NATION, LIBERIA.

Despite the challenges of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy grew by 3.6 percent from negative 3 percent in 2020, and growth this year is expected to be 4.7 percent, through increased agricultural and public investments in social compact program. In nominal value the Liberian economy expanded by more than US\$300 million in 2021. Inflation was reduced to less than 6 percent in November 2021, from 13.1 percent in December 2020.

We were successful in increasing the gross international reserves of our country to more than US\$600 million, representing more than 4 months of import of goods and services in compliance with ECOWAS convergence target.

MR. SPEAKER:

In our effort to extend the visibility of the Central Bank of Liberia beyond Monrovia, the Bank completed the construction of a modern cash hub in Gbarnga, Bong County, to provide more financial services for our people outside Monrovia, which was dedicated by me last month. The Bank is planning to commence the construction of an additional four (4) cash hubs in other rural areas of the country that will make it easy to access financial facilities.

MR. SPEAKER:

As part of the currency reform approved by you, the members of the 54th National Legislature, the Central Bank of Liberia brought in the first consignment of banknotes totaling L\$4.0 billion Liberian dollars out of the approved L\$48.734 billion Liberian dollars in November 2021.

The second consignment is expected in January 2022. The

first and second consignments are all denominated in 100 dollars bills, only intended to respond to the liquidity demand in December of last year and to commence the replacement of mutilated banknotes respectively.

The bulk of the new currency, which will include coins, is expected in the second half of 2022, while the balance will be coming in 2024. In compliance with the restriction of the Joint Resolution of the National Legislature, there will be no printing or delivery of the new currency in 2023, even though the exchange exercise will continue through 2023.

In the interest of transparency and credibility, the Central Bank of Liberia has ensured that the process is inclusive of our National Legislature, media community, the Liberian Marketing Association, the Liberia Business Association, traditional elders and youths, as well as our international partners, including the IMF and Kroll through USAID.

Based on the sound management and good performance of our economy, Liberia received \$345.3 million US dollars in August 2021 under the general Special Drawing Rights allocation to IMF members.

MADAM VICE PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER, MR. PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE, AND MEMBERS OF THE 54TH LEGISLATURE, DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I have now concluded the mandatory reporting requirement for the Annual Message, as stipulated in Article 58 of the Liberian Constitution, which requires me to provide details of national income and public expenditure for the previous year, as well as my legislative agenda for the ensuing year, and to comment on the economic condition of the Republic, and the State of the Nation.

Based on the Report that I have just made to you, I can state categorically, and with confidence, that the State of our Economy is Stable and Growing, and that the State of the Nation is Peaceful and Strong!

Let me assure you that as President of Liberia, working in close collaboration with you, I will do all that is in my power to ensure that our Nation will remain peaceful, stable and strong, and that our economy will continue on a trajectory of sustainable growth and development. Together, we can - and will - succeed!

MADAM VICE PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER, MR. PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE, AND MEMBERS OF THE 54TH LEGISLATURE, DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

With regards to our foreign policy, Liberia remains positively engaged with its partners and friends at the bilateral and multilateral levels, as a responsible member of the international community, and with keen focus of our own national interest.

In accordance with the guiding principles of our Foreign Policy Objectives, which stipulate the maintenance of national security; the preservation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country; the promotion of peace and harmony based on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states; and the promotion of unity in the international community based on the values of liberal democracy.

During the period under review, we played significant roles in promoting our Foreign Policy Objectives and strengthening our foreign relations at the bilateral and multilateral levels, which brought productive results and affirmed our leadership in the comity of nations.

MR. SPEAKER:

Consistent with our international obligations, we fully participated in the activities of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN); either virtually or in-person.

We were honored to address the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. We also participated in the Summits of the African Union (AU); as well as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

At the level of ECOWAS, the focus was on crisis areas in our sub-region, namely: the security and political situations in the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Guinea.

In Mali, we continue to support the peacekeeping operations with the presence of a contingent of the Armed Forces of Liberia embedded with the United Nations Mission (MINUSMA).

Also, we are working with our colleagues to resolve the constitutional impasse in the Republic of Mali to restore that country to constitutional democracy and order through the holding of free, fair and transparent elections in the soonest possible time.

We will do all within our power as a Government to remain supportive of the Transition Agenda of ECOWAS for our Sisterly Republics of Mali and Guinea; as well as those in the Sahel, to restore peace, security, stability, democracy, and constitutional order.

During the reporting period, we actively engaged our partners and friends, an endeavor that strengthened our friendly and cordial relations, as well as produced mutually beneficial results for us all.

MR. SPEAKER:

Most notable among the many achievements we made in pursuit of our international policy/relations were the following:

1. We participated and addressed the Generation Equality Forum convened in Paris, France in June of the reporting year.
2. We also attended, and addressed, the 26th UN Climate Conference (COP26), which was convened in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, where we made a proposal for the establishment of a new African Carbon Credit Exchange.
3. We also participated in the 4th Edition of the Paris Peace Forum in November 2021 to tackle global problems and strengthen multilateral cooperation and collective action for a peaceful world.
4. While also in Paris, we attended the occasion marking the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and addressed the 41st Session of the High-Level segment of the General Conference.

5. Pursuant to our strong commitment to peace, security, stability and democracy, particularly in the Mano River Basin, with special emphasis on the political situation in the Republic of Guinea, Liberia took the initiative to invite our neighboring Sister Republics - Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone - to convene the “Mano River Union Diplomatic, Peace, Security and Democracy Conference”, which was held at Farmington Hotel in Margibi County in November

MR. SPEAKER:

In addition to the County Tour Projects, a number of projects were undertaken by the Liberian Agency for Community Empowerment, in keeping with its statutory mandate.

Completed projects include the following:

1. Popo Beach Phase 2
2. Grand Gedeh Housing Units Construction Project II
3. Kendeja Renovation Project
4. The 14th Gobachop Market Phase II - Open Markets
5. The 14th Gobachop Market Phase II - Road Improvement
6. The 14th Gobachop Market Phase II - Backfilling of Market Premises with rocks
7. 100 Housing Units Construction Project in Bong County
8. 100 Housing Units Construction Project in Nimba County
9. Three Additional Market Facilities Constructed in Omega Community
10. West Point-Waterside General Market
11. Wells Hairston High School Annex
12. The Youth Opportunities Project

Ongoing Projects being constructed by LACE include the following:

1. Popo Beach Third Phase
2. Grand Gedeh Housing Units Phase II
3. Monrovia Central Prison Compound Project
4. Duala Road Market Construction Project
5. The Youth Opportunities Project

MR. SPEAKER:

In addition to her official duties and responsibilities as First Lady of the Republic of Liberia, my darling wife, Her Excellency Madam Clar Marie Weah, has shown a keen interest in charitable good works which involve infrastructure to accommodate some of the less fortunate in our society.

As a result of her passion to help Liberians move towards prosperity in support of the Pro-poor Agenda, she established the Clar Hope Foundation in 2018.

TO BE CONTINUE NEXT EDITION

UP tears Weah's annual message apart

By Lincoln G. Peter

Opposition Unity Party (UP) has torn apart President George Manneh Weah's 5th Annual Message, saying it is characterized by deliberate deceit, premature victory laps and overt partisan rhetoric.

A constituent party within the crumbling Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), the UP says President Weah's administration continues to fail the people of Liberia while painting a picture that

Publicity, accused the president of not being sincere about where the country is.

"But we know the truth: the State of the Nation is not strong. The State of the Nation has never been strong since the president took office," said Mrs. Kruah - Thompson.

"Maybe when the President talks to his closest advisors that is the image that they paint. Or maybe the President is just not sincere about where the country is. For those of us who talk to ordinary people, we know there is nothing shiny about the city,"

more music releases than policy achievements, and he plays more football, basketball and volleyball matches than he went to work in the entire 2021.

"It is a national embarrassment that we have a President who simply does not care about working. For all the talk about his youthful energy, we have seen nothing to indicate that it is being used for the interest of the country," Kruah - Thompson lamented.

She claimed further that this government has simply rained hardship and pain nonstop on Liberian people, adding that sadly, President Weah seems to not care.

"We listened with dismay and disappointment as the President's address on January 24 was grossly insincere, comical and focused on trivialities," she noted.

She said President Weah has again wasted a golden opportunity to focus the minds of Liberians and the development partners on the cost of living challenges and herculean tasks of nation-building.

Instead, she said, President Weah has left Liberians more confused and disillusioned about the future of their country.

"The President stated that his government has no political prisoners but mysterious deaths are on the rise. Professionals died in a car and the President prejudiced the case by alleging that they were boyfriend and girlfriend," said Kruah - Thompson.

She explained that the boss

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 8



Pre. Weah

Liberia is a shining city on a hill.

The former ruling party says this is the tactic that the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) - led government has used for three years, adding that President Weah's 5th Annual Message was a repeat of a previous Annual Message.

Designated by the UP to respond to President Weah's Annual Message, Mrs. Cornelia Kruah-Thompson, UP's Assistant Secretary General for Press and

she said.

She argued that from the trash on the street, to the insecurity at night, rising cost of education, and inadequate healthcare, the people in this country have been neglected by the President and his government.

"Mr. President, leave Jamaica, talk to the people, and come back and let us know what you think about the state of the nation," Madam Kruah - Thompson continued.

Kruah- Thompson further claimed that the President has

Gov't to build 25 new schools

By Jonathan Browne

President George Manneh Weah says his government has made the largest single investment in Senior Secondary School since the 1970s to address huge infrastructure deficit in the education sector.

He says a US\$47 million grant received from the World Bank with a wide scope of interventions including new construction, rehabilitation, equipping, training, and text books development has greatly contributed to the huge push to fix, in the words of his predecessor, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the 'mess' in the Liberian educational system.

Delivering his 5th Annual Message to the 54th Liberian Legislature sitting in its 5th Joint Session at the Capitol on Monday, January 24, 2022, President Weah disclosed ongoing renovation and rehabilitation of all 156 Public Senior Secondary Schools throughout the country

quarter of this year, now that design and procurement requirements have been completed, adding that each of the three institutions has been designed to accommodate about 1,500 senior high school students, and that the program will be replicated in other school districts to provide a better learning environment for Liberian children.

President Weah reports that available statistics revealed total number of senior secondary schools in the country is 752, as of Academic 2020 / 2021, of which, he says government owns only 156.

"To reduce that gap", he says "the IRISE Project shall fund the construction of 25 new Secondary Schools strategically situated in 25 school districts that are currently without secondary schools."

President Weah also speaks of ongoing training of 35 University instructors abroad, procuring a digital library, revising textbooks for students and upgrading



simultaneously.

He says as of June this year, it is expected that all renovations works would have been completed and dedication shall be planned in phases, preferably by county.

He notes that government has made great strides in improving literacy and other learning outcomes in the educational sector, with milestone achievements in the areas of Access, Quality and System Transformation.

According to the President, these achievements and interventions include development of continuous learning platforms and smart classrooms throughout the country, and the introduction of a distant learning framework along with virtual laboratories

He further reveals that under the IRISE Project and in partnership with the World Bank, government will construct three Model High School complexes in the first

curriculum.

Besides, he says in an effort to address gaps in girls' education, government will provide scholarship for 3,000 girls transitioning from 9th grade in four counties with the highest rates of Girls dropout from High School. "As there are no tuitions in Public Schools, sponsorship shall cover all registration fees, uniforms, textbooks, and annual cash allowances", President Weah adds.

He says for Liberia to develop, the minds of the youths should develop, stressing "We must train our teachers so that they themselves will be able to train the minds of our youths."

He further reports that during the period under review, curriculum training was provided to 1,250 teachers and caregivers who have since returned to their respective places of assignment in Sinoe, Maryland, Grand Kru, Rivercess, River Gee & Bomi

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Clar Hope Foundation

Start from Back page

He says the 29-bed-room facility seeks to restore the desired respect and dignity that senior citizens deserve through quality care.

"Although this old folks home was built with funds raised by the Clar Hope Foundation, I have learned from a reliable source that they intend to turn the building over to the relevant Government agencies, free of charge", says President Weah.

Besides, he says through the Office of the First Lady, a modern vocational training center has been built for the Army Wives Association at the Edward B. Kesselly Barracks along the Robertsfield Highway in Margibicounty.

The facility comprises offices, classrooms and a conference hall. First Lady Weah intends to boost the capacity development of

hundreds of women and girls from military families, thus enabling them to earn a decent living and support their families.

President Weah reveals the project is expected to be dedicated in the next few days.

Another infrastructure development project of the Clar Hope Foundation is the Rock Hill Restoration Project, which aims to restore clean and safe drinking water to some 16,000 residents of Rock Hill Community in Paynesville for the first time in more than 70 years.

"Allow me to thank you, Clar, for your charitable good works in the interest of the Liberian people", says President Weah.

A Jamaican, First Lady Clar Marie Weah is a professional nurse, businesswoman,

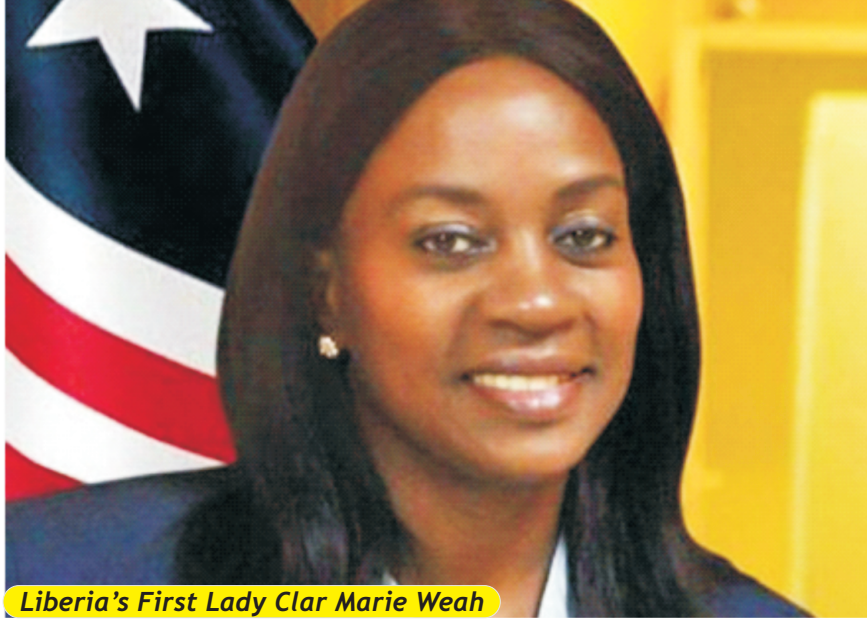
philanthropist and advocate for social justice.

The President notes that in addition to her official duties and responsibilities as First Lady of the Republic of Liberia, Madam Clar Marie Weah, has shown a keen interest in charitable good works, including infrastructure to accommodate less fortunate citizens.

The First Lady established the Clar Hope Foundation in 2018 in her drive to help Liberians move towards prosperity and in support of her husband's developmental roadmap, the Pro-poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity (PADP). **Story by Jonathan Browne**

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Clar Hope Foundation makes headway



Liberia's First Lady Clar Marie Weah

Clar Hope Foundation, owned and operated by the First Lady of Liberia, Clar Marie Weah is reportedly making significant strides with its multipurpose complex, City of Hope, intended to accommodate disadvantaged girls and orphans at 85 percent completion, President

George Manneh Weah discloses here.

First Lady Weah is passionate about improving the lives of less fortunate Liberians, particularly empowering girls with education and skills.

Her husband, President Weah, says when completed, the City of Hope will provide quality education to 200 girls between ages 3 and 5, as well as serve as

a refuge, home, and rehabilitation center for destitute Liberians, including disadvantaged youths, orphans, and street girls.

Speaking before the 54th Liberian Legislature in joint session on Monday, 24 January when he presented his legislative agenda for 2022 and reported on the state of the nation for the previous year, President Weah detailed that the complex is comprised of modern dormitories to accommodate students and staff, a vocational training center, two academic buildings with a 300-student capacity, an administrative building, a number of guest houses, conference center, and clinic.

The President notes that the Clar Hope Foundation in 2021 also built an old folks home in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County named the Decontee Home for the Elderly.

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