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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

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Gongloe predicts aftermath of 2023, if Weah wins



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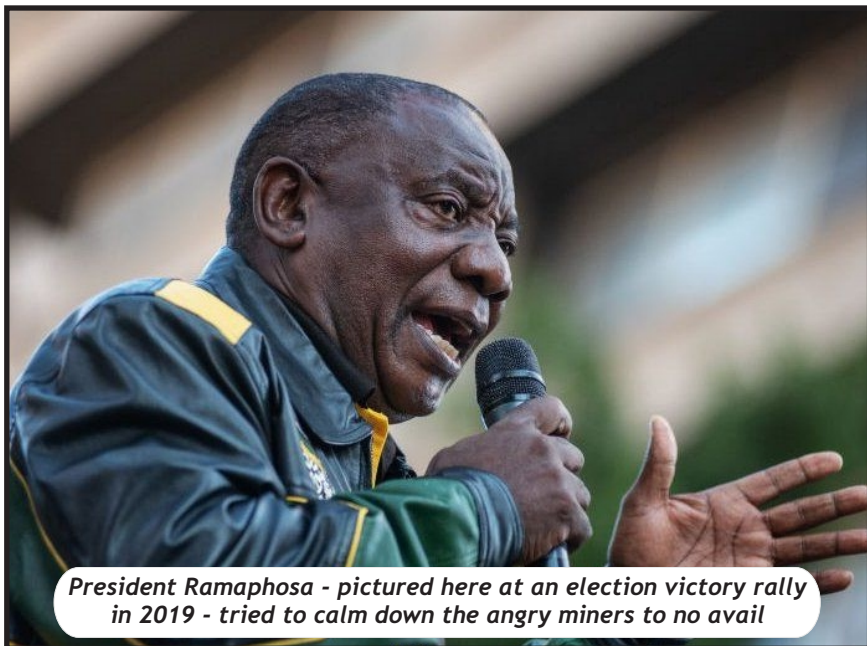
South Africa president abandons rally after booing

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa had to leave a May Day rally after workers stormed the stage where he was speaking. Chanting "Cyril must go," they held up signs demanding a wage increase during a ceremony in a stadium near the north-western city of Rustenburg.

The protesters, who worked at a local mine, have been striking for weeks.

President Ramaphosa tried to address the miners' concerns but was greeted by booing.

The workers want an annual salary pay rise of 1,000 rand (\$63; £50) - a demand which President Ramaphosa addressed directly. "We have heard that message and we will be dealing with that matter," he is quoted as telling the miners by the IOL news site. He also pledged to speak to the relevant authorities to meet their demands, IOL reports. In a two-minute video of the disruption, the president can be seen making repeated attempts to calm



President Ramaphosa - pictured here at an election victory rally in 2019 - tried to calm down the angry miners to no avail

the workers down, only to be greeted with further jeering and booing. At Sunday's event, which had been organised by South Africa's trade union federation Cosatu, police had to step in while a bodyguard led the president away from the venue, according to IOL.

The workers were from Sibanye-Stillwater, which is a metal mining company and the world's largest primary producer of platinum, according to its own website.

South Africa's economy has been hit hard by the Covid crisis,

and unemployment is now around 35%.

Mining is one of South Africa's most important sectors - accounting for 8-10% of national income and employing almost 450,000 people - but it has been in decline in recent years.

May Day is a key event in the yearly calendar of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) and its trade union allies, and usually draws huge crowds. The fact that what looked like just a few hundred workers turned

out to see the president speak was an indication that he was not welcome.

Questions are now being asked about how and why security assessments did not pick up that this might happen. But perhaps the more important question is why the ANC and Cosatu leaders seem to have been surprised at the level of anger on the ground. It suggests a level of disconnect between the experiences of ordinary people, and those in power. It

is worth noting that some of those who jeered President Ramaphosa at the rally were members of the union he helped to found. Mr Ramaphosa was the first general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers.

This is a year in which the ANC holds elections which will decide who leads the party into the country's next general election. This sort of reception from a key constituency - workers - may foreshadow some of the challenges Mr Ramaphosa could face in seeking re-election. BBC

Train hostages used as human shields - Buhari



Train travel is deemed safer by passengers travelling from Abuja to Kaduna

Dozens of passengers kidnapped on a high-speed train in northern Nigeria are being used as human shields by their abductors, making their rescue difficult, President Muhammadu Buhari said on Monday.

Photos of 62 people who are allegedly being held as hostages surfaced on social media last week but it's not clear when the pictures were taken. Families of those missing said they recognised their relatives in the photographs.

In an address to mark Eid al-Fitr, the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, President Buhari said rescuing the hostages was a "delicate situation".

"They are using civilians as

human shield thereby making it difficult to confront them directly... They don't care about killing their hostages if they come under attack," he said.

"Any rescue operation that results in the death of any hostage cannot be deemed a success. The government doesn't want this kind of tragic outcome."

He said the situation required proper handling with the objective to "free the hostages safely, unharmed and alive".

Kidnapping for ransom has become commonplace across Nigeria.

This was the second time the railway line between Nigeria's capital, Abuja, and Kaduna city had been targeted in the last six months, but it's by far the most serious. BBC

when, according to his supporters, a private jet he believed would take him to Burundi, instead landed in the Rwandan capital Kigali. In September last year he was found guilty of backing a rebel group behind deadly attacks in 2018 and 2019 in Rwanda.

At the time, the US, where Rusesabagina is a resident, said it was concerned by the conviction. BBC

Family of Hotel Rwanda hero files \$400m US lawsuit

The family of Paul Rusesabagina, the subject of Oscar-nominated film Hotel Rwanda, have filed a \$400m (£307m) lawsuit in the United States over his alleged abduction and torture.

He was sentenced to 25 years for terrorism by a Rwandan court last year in what supporters called a sham trial.

His family say the Rwandan government lured

him from Texas, where he was living in exile, back to Rwanda.

He is credited with saving some 1,200 people during the 1994 genocide. In a statement, Rusesabagina's family accused the Rwandan government and high-ranking officials of conspiring to "facilitate and execute an elaborate plot to lure" Rusesabagina from his home in San Antonio to Rwanda "where he would be tortured and illegally detained for the remainder of his life".

The statement added that the \$400m sought in compensation will "grow every day that Paul Rusesabagina is held in captivity". The complaint was filed in Washington DC, the statement said, and has been served on the government of Rwanda, which has not yet commented publicly, nor responded to the BBC's request for comment. The Rwandan genocide lasted 100 days from April 1994, when 800,000 people, mostly from the Tutsi ethnic group, were slaughtered by extremists from the Hutu community.

Rusesabagina - a hotel manager at the time - protected some 1,200 people from the violence, after they sought shelter in the building. The Hollywood film, Hotel Rwanda, was made in 2004, and featured Don Cheadle as Rusesabagina.

The following year he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by then-US President George W Bush for his efforts. But Rusesabagina's journey from celebrated



Paul Rusesabagina photographed in court in February 2021

EDITORIAL

Averting calamity at R.I.A.

THE ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, once a pride of Liberia, has sunk to its lowest ebb as a result of Managerial incompetence characterized by partisanship and nepotism. The Airport can no longer meet basic international standards due to lack of electricity thus, forcing flights bringing passengers to Liberia to turn away.

ANY SERIOUS GOVERNMENT OR country should not allow this to happen or to become a pattern as it is being experienced in Liberia. Why should services at our national airport degenerate to this level due to lack of basic thing like electricity?

OUR ATTENTION IS DRAWN to report that SN Brussels Airlines with destination to Liberia was constrained upon arrival at RIA to return to neighboring Sierra Leone because of lack of electricity at the runway and air control tower!

HOW DOES THE WEAH administration expect to grow revenue when the airport which serves as one of the major sources of revenue generation is crumbling under his watch without taking action? Does this administration understand what it means to operate an international airport?

NO WONDER WHY A major airline like Air France has suspended flight here, because we seem not to be presenting ourselves as a serious people and country.

IT IS IN THIS light that we welcome call by the President of the Liberia Council of Churches Bishop Kortu Brown for President George Manneh Weah to immediately dismiss the entire management team at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) for gross incompetence.

“YOU DON'T RUN [A] government like that. If President Weah wants his government to be taken seriously, then he must take action to avoid embarrassment,” Bishop Brown expressed in frustrations.

PEOPLE SHOULD NOT GO with impunity for glaring lackadaisical attitude at the nation's airport. They must be made to account for their ineptitude and the ball stops at the feet of President Weah.

THIS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES has added its voice to the many voices decrying poor services at the RIA. President Weah has reportedly provided solar light at the airport to ensure continuous electricity but what went wrong that forced SN Brussels to return to Sierra Leone without getting attention from Liberian authorities?

THE RIA HAS BEEN found wanting at all levels from COVID-19 testing, cargo handling and much more since the Weah administration came to power. This needs to be checked. Lest the government should forget, this is a serious image problem that it needs to address immediately before things turn ugly one day at the airport.

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COMMENTARY

By Margrethe Vestager
and Josep Borrell

Why Europe's Digital Decade Matters

BRUSSELS - This week, the European Commission presented its vision for a European “digital decade.” With policy targets for 2030 focusing on the four cardinal issues of skills, infrastructure and capacities, public services, and the digitalization of business, the European Union aims to be at the forefront of today's digital revolution.

To ensure that technology empowers citizens and businesses to build a more prosperous and inclusive society, we will need open and competitive markets. Enterprises of all sizes must have an equal opportunity to innovate and deliver their products and services to consumers.

More broadly, digitalization is now the key to building economic and societal resilience and exercising global influence. Our shared future is already taking shape in the digital domain. In a world marked by geopolitical competition for technological primacy, we must ensure that the EU's vision of digitalization - based on open societies, the rule of law, and fundamental freedoms - proves its worth over that of authoritarian systems that use digital technologies as tools for surveillance and repression.

By boosting its own capabilities, the EU can help shape the world's digital transformation for the better. The success of Europe's digital decade will require the EU to forge strong alliances and working relationships with likeminded countries, both bilaterally and multilaterally. After all, reaping the full benefits of technological innovation requires maintaining an open digital economy in which investments can flow freely. And whether we are deploying digital health solutions, fighting terrorism, mitigating climate change, protecting biodiversity, or using technology to predict natural disasters and future pandemics, we will need much more international technological collaboration.

But digitalization carries serious risks, ranging from mass surveillance and cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure to the spread of state-sponsored disinformation designed to polarize societies and undermine democracy. This means we must strike a balance between openness and our other core interests and values.

Specifically, we should adhere to three overarching principles: a level playing field in digital markets, security in cyberspace, and freedom online (including protections for free speech and assembly, and against discrimination and violations of privacy).

In keeping with our determination to strengthen the EU's bilateral relationships, set clearer standards, and establish more resilient digital supply chains, we have already approached US President Joe Biden's administration with a proposal to create a joint Trade and Technology Council.

The EU is also seeking to form a global coalition around a shared vision of human-centric digitalization. We must join with others who are willing to cooperate to provide effective democratic governance over technology and

the digital economy. Any such coalition should be open to all who are ready to defend an open, decentralized model of the internet and the principles of fairness in digital markets, security in cyberspace, and individual freedoms online.

By working together, we can set standards for artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies on the basis of shared values, reaping the fruits of one another's innovations and building stronger protections against cyberattacks. A coalition of likeminded partners can ensure that the interdependence of our digital supply chains becomes a source of security and resilience, rather than added risk.


Equally important, the digital decade is our last chance to follow through on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. We know that digital technology has the potential to facilitate inclusion and access to public services around the world. In Africa, the share of the population with internet access has increased from 2% in 2005 to 40% in 2019 enabling more children to be educated, and more women to secure employment. Until we close the global digital divide, however, we will not be realizing the full potential of new technologies.

To that end, the EU will soon propose an initiative combining financial resources and technical assistance to help its partners develop their own digital governance frameworks, including in areas such as cybersecurity and data protection. For example, a new Digital Connectivity Fund could underpin these efforts; together with our partners, we will be exploring the feasibility of such ideas in the coming months.

Finally, preserving a safe but open internet requires that we develop a more inclusive model of multilateralism, bringing together not just governments but also representatives of civil society, the private sector, and academia. This model can then guide our actions within international organizations - from the United Nations and the World Trade Organization to the International Telecommunication Union - to ensure that international rules are fit for purpose.

Through it all, a common thread, woven from shared principles, will guide our efforts to achieve a more human-centric digital transformation that maximizes the benefits of technology and minimizes the risks it poses. In cyberspace as in the physical world, Europe will continue to stand up for core global values. The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights established the dignity of the individual, the right to privacy and to non-discrimination, and the freedoms of speech and belief. It is our common duty to make sure that the digital revolution lives up to that promise.

Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age, is EU Commissioner for Competition. Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, is Vice President of the European Commission for a Stronger Europe in the World.



By Jayati Ghosh

Next Steps for a People’s Vaccine

NEW DELHI - The Biden administration’s decision to stop opposing a proposed COVID-19 waiver of certain intellectual-property rights under World Trade Organization rules is a welcome move. The US Trade Representative acknowledges that “the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic call for extraordinary measures.” While affirming that it “believes strongly in intellectual property protections,” the Biden administration, “in service of ending this pandemic, supports the waiver of those protections for COVID-19 vaccines.” Already, the US decision may be persuading other rich-country holdouts in Europe and elsewhere to follow suit.

While the rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines was a truly impressive achievement, it has been tarnished by constraints on global vaccine supply and the related inequities in distribution. As of May 4, less than 8% of the world’s population had received even one dose of any COVID-19 vaccine, while just ten rich countries accounted for 80% of all vaccinations. The reason is not just that rich countries have been buying up all available doses; it is also that there simply have not been enough doses to go around.

But this scarcity itself is largely artificial. Vaccine production has been limited by pharmaceutical companies’ refusal to share knowledge and technology. Though the companies producing the approved vaccines have benefited from public subsidies and publicly funded research, they nonetheless have taken advantage of patent protections to maintain a monopoly, limiting production to their own factories and a select few other companies to whom they have granted licenses.

These patents are enshrined and enforced internationally through the WTO’s Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which allows for action to be taken against countries that provide compulsory licenses allowing “someone else to produce a patented product or process without the consent of the patent owner.” It is this threat of legal action that led a majority of WTO members to propose a temporary waiver for COVID-19 drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other technologies needed to fight the pandemic. And yet, even this minor step has been blocked in the WTO TRIPS Council, because (mostly) rich countries have been prioritizing big pharmaceutical companies’ interests over global health.

A waiver has become all the more urgent with the coronavirus on the rampage across South America and India, where a near-complete breakdown of overstretched health services is resulting in a catastrophic loss of life. Worse, the rapid spread of the virus has already given rise to dangerous new variants. We absolutely must vaccinate as many people as possible before vaccine-resistant variants emerge.

Temporarily waiving IP rights is essential, but it is only the first step. A waiver agreement would address the previously insurmountable legal side of the problem. But much more will need to be done to make a “People’s Vaccine” universally available as soon as possible.

The next step is to push for concrete measures to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology. From Canada to Bangladesh, many potential vaccine producers with the required facilities have so far been denied the licenses and technical know-how to proceed. Not a single pharmaceutical company has joined the World Health Organization’s voluntary facility for sharing technology, the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP).

Governments in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere, having given large subsidies to develop the approved vaccines, can and should pressure the companies to share the knowledge that public money helped provide. We know this can be done, because the Biden administration has already persuaded Johnson & Johnson to share its technology with Merck to boost domestic production of its single-dose vaccine. Surely the other companies that have benefited from public support could be pressured to do the same with producers around the world.

In the meantime, the TRIPS waiver could increase vaccine production in other ways as well. Moderna, which relied almost completely on US government funding, has already declared that it will not enforce its patent. But its mRNA vaccine uses some knowledge that it has licensed (and paid for) from other companies, which could in turn sue any other producer using the same technology.

The TRIPS waiver would eliminate this possibility, allowing production to be scaled up rapidly. With Moderna now indicating that it will produce three billion doses in 2022 alone, the mRNA vaccines are apparently quite amenable to expanded production. They are also said to be easily adapted to account for new variants.

The case for public production of such vaccines is clear. “For less than the US government spends on the COVID-19 response daily,” notes the health advocacy organization PrEP4All, “it can build a facility to produce enough mRNA vaccine manufacturing capacity to vaccinate the entire world in one year, with each dose costing only \$2.”

The case for public production becomes even stronger when one considers that private vaccine producers have little financial incentive to meet current global needs. Once the pandemic is contained, the demand for vaccines is likely to revert to much lower “normal” levels. To win the race against the virus, we must build and deploy public manufacturing capacities in the US and other countries. And when COVID-19 is brought to heel, these facilities should be maintained for future pandemics.

The world desperately needs the TRIPS waiver and stronger measures to ensure the transfer of knowledge and technology to produce COVID-19 vaccines. But we also need to start preparing for equally exceptional circumstances in the future. The knowledge on which our health and prosperity depend must be both publicly funded and publicly disseminated.

Jayati Ghosh, Executive Secretary of International Development Economics Associates, is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a member of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

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By Mariana Mazzucato and Rainer Kattel

Waking the Norwegian Green Giant

LONDON - Responding to the climate emergency is a challenge for everyone, but particularly for countries that are economically reliant on petroleum extraction or production. Decarbonization has created an opportunity for many countries to pursue a green industrial revolution. But as more countries embrace this route to future prosperity, the value of fossil-fuel assets, technologies, and capabilities will diminish, threatening jobs, export revenues, and industrial innovation in petroleum-dominated economies.

Among these economies, Norway, the world’s third-largest natural-gas exporter, faces a unique challenge. But, while Norway’s industrial structure and investments are heavily tied to carbon-based industries and services, with hydrocarbons accounting for 36% of total exports in 2019, the country’s domestic energy comes almost entirely from renewable resources (hydropower). The Norwegian economy thus would be ripe for a green industrial transition, except that falling global demand for fossil fuels will hamper its main growth engine.

Norway’s carbon “lock-in” is a symptom of Dutch disease - the problem of one dominant sector’s success coming at the expense of most other sectors. Since hydrocarbon investments dwarf investments in other industries, the fossil-fuel sector attracts the most high-skilled talent. At the same time, the oil and gas sector’s extraordinary profitability has inflated price and wage growth in the rest of the economy, creating difficulties for other exporters.

As a result, Norway has been one of the OECD’s biggest losers of overall international market shares in non-energy export markets since the late 1990s. Its non-oil trade deficit has grown consistently over the last decade, and its manufacturing sector’s share of the economy has shrunk to half that of the other Nordic countries.

Making matters worse, a recent report from Statistics Norway projects that investments in Norway’s energy sector will dwindle over the next decade. Whereas annual investments in the sector averaged more than NOK170 billion (about \$20 billion) over the previous decade, that figure is expected to fall by NOK60 billion between 2025 and 2034 - even without any restrictive petroleum policies.

Clearly, Norway needs a new industrial strategy. In a recent report, we outline how it could use the technical and financial resources of its petroleum sector to become a “green giant.” But phasing out petroleum extraction and moving in a greener direction won’t happen on its own. The challenge calls for bold but carefully calibrated public-sector action. The government cannot micromanage the process, because that would stifle innovation; but nor can it leave the job wholly to the market.

Instead, the government should set a clear direction, by making early-stage high-risk investments that will later draw in private actors, rewarding those who are willing to invest and innovate. In Norway’s case, a green industrial strategy should direct the country’s considerable state-owned financial resources toward investments in a new domestic industrial base centered on green-energy technologies.

For starters, Norway has yet to channel the resources of the world’s largest sovereign wealth fund toward the green transition, either domestically or globally. To the contrary, Norway’s Statens Pensjonsfond Utland (SPU) is one of the largest investors in some of the world’s most devastating fossil-fuel projects currently being planned or already under development. A recent report warns that 12 of these projects alone would use up three-quarters of the world’s remaining carbon budget, making it exceedingly difficult to limit global warming to 1.5° Celsius.

The SPU currently operates under fiscal rules mandating that its petroleum revenues be transferred into an oil fund and invested abroad. The proceeds are then phased into the domestic economy at an annual average rate of 3% of the fund’s holdings. Given the fund’s 3% expected annual return, it can be tapped at this rate indefinitely.

This policy invention has proved effective at limiting the inflationary pressure from oil extraction while providing the government with an extra source of revenue. But what Norway needs now is patient long-term finance to support economic diversification. Because the current fiscal framework allows for large public investments to be kept outside the normal government budget, it is exacerbating the country’s Dutch disease by creating a petroleum-determined path dependency.

It doesn’t have to be this way. The SPU could be transformed into a powerful mission-oriented investor with both a domestic and global presence. Rather than using petroleum revenues to recapitalize the oil fund, this cash flow could be directed into a new public Green Investment Bank, whose work could be coordinated with that of other public funds and agencies working on the green transition.

Norway’s national innovation system is characterized by a significant share of public ownership. Notably, the Norwegian state owns 67% of the Norwegian petroleum industry’s flagship company, Equinor (formerly Statoil). But while Norwegian state-owned companies once played a key role in creating (from scratch) the industrial ecosystem for petroleum production, they have failed to step back into this role to lead the green transition. Rather than reinvesting its earnings in renewable energy, Equinor announced in 2019 that it would spend \$5 billion by 2022 buying back its own shares.

The COVID-19 shock has demonstrated the risks associated with depending too much on volatile energy markets. While the Danish energy giant Ørsted has shrugged off the pandemic and continued its decade-old shift to renewables, Equinor has had to cut dividends and take on more debt to keep its commitment to shareholders in the face of insufficient revenues.

Like its peer in Denmark, Equinor should become a mission-oriented energy giant. That means removing the pressure on its management to distribute earnings among shareholders by restoring its status as a fully state-owned company focused on the country’s economic future.

Mariana Mazzucato, Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London, is Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose. She is the author, most recently, of Mission Economy: A Moonshot Guide to Changing Capitalism. Rainer Kattel is Deputy Director and Professor of Innovation and Public Governance at the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose.

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Invitation for Bid

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
Broad & Mechlin Street
P.O. BOX 9013, 1000 MONROVIA 10, LIBERIA
WEST AFRICA
INVITATION FOR BIDS

Title of Bid: **Supply of Furniture & Fixture**

Contract Identification No: **IFB NO. MFDP/NCB/002/2022**

1. The government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP), intends to apportion funds towards the cost of procuring Furniture & Fixture for the operation of the Ministry, IFB No. MFDP/NCB/002/2022
2. The Ministry of Finance & Development Planning now invites qualified and eligible bidders to submit sealed Bids for the supply of **Furniture & Fixture**. Bidding documents are available between the hours of **9:00 AM- 4:30 PM**, Monday through Friday. Biddings will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act of 2010 and is opened to all eligible and qualified Bidders. These applicable Procurement Procedures are consistent with the Republic of Liberia Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act published and approved; September 18, 2010
3. The supply of Furniture & Fixture as per Ministry of Finance & Development Planning requirements is in the below listed quantities:

Description	Number	Quantity	Delivery Schedule
Furniture & Fixture	IFB No. MFDP/NCB/002/2022	Assorted	Two weeks (2) Upon Receipt of Processed LPO

4. The Supplier must also be able to respond to the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning's schedule of supply. All bids prices should be quoted in United States Dollars. Bid is on sale for a non-refundable fee of **US \$50.00**.
5. Qualification requirements include the following:
 - a. *Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);*
 - b. *Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Liberia Revenue Authority);*
 - c. *Company Profile;*
 - d. *Articles of Incorporation; (Where applicable)*
 - e. *Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);*
 - f. *PPCC Vendor Registry Compliance (Public Procurement & Concession Commission);*
 - g. *Statement of satisfaction from three (3) previous or current clients over the last one (1) year;*
 - h. *Availability of Supplies at all times;*
 - i. *Ability to pre-finance for at least four (4) weeks, and*
6. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain further information from the **MFDP Procurement Unit** at the address specified below.
7. Submissions must be signed, sealed in an envelope and clearly marked, **Supply Furniture & Fixture - IFB No. MFDP/NCB/002/2022** and address to:

THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
3RD FLOOR, ROOM 045
MINISTRY OF FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
P. O. BOX 9013
BROAD STREET & MECHLIN STREETS
1000 MONROVIA 10 LIBERIA
MOBILE NUMBER: 0886579455/0777600521
EMAIL ADDRESS: ebarkoi@mfdp.gov.lr/mvmassallay@liftliberia.gov.lr

All bid must be submitted to **MFDP Procurement Unit** located on the Third floor, on or before **Thursday, May 19, 2022** at 2:00 pm. All Tenders must be accompanied by a Bid Security of **\$5,378.00 USD** of Bid Price. Late bid will be rejected and returned unopened. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Bid opening will be done promptly after closing at **2:00pm** on **May 19, 2022**, in the Conference Room, on the 10th Floor of the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning or on the Procurement Unit on the Third Floor

8. Bid will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives and those who choose to attend.
9. Ministry of Finance & Development Planning 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 to Bid 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: _____

Director of Procurement

Approved: _____

Deputy Minister for Administration

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

African Risk Capacity, UN Women call for concrete action

The African Risk Capacity (ARC) and UN Women have called for concrete action to strengthen African women and girls' leadership and resilience in the face of crisis, natural disasters, and climate change.

Both institutions also made a joint call to promote integration of gender equality and the needs of women and girls in climate change and disaster risk management policies and programs.

Both organizations say, women and girls are disproportionately affected by

Such has been the agreed conclusion of CSW66, which focused on: "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs". "Achieving such ambitious goal will require integrating the specific needs of women and girls in climate change and disaster risk reduction policies and programs, expanding gender-responsive finance, that will increase investment in

for women, and enhancing gender statistics and data on climate change, environmental and systemic risks and disaster impacts disaggregated by sex.

"It must also foster a gender-responsive, and just transition to regenerative green and blue economies."

In this context, UN Women and ARC are joining hands to reduce gender inequalities in access to resilience-building mechanisms and promote a better integration of gender equality in disaster risk management in the Sahel and in other African countries.

The UN Women and ARC, in partnership with UNCDF, are engaging with the private sector in Senegal and Mali to pilot innovative and gender-responsive resilience-building services, including mobile-enabled disaster insurance, financial literacy training, climate services, and early childhood warning systems that are tailored to the specific needs of rural women.

According to Ibrahim Cheikh Diong, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Director-General, "Gender considerations in disaster risk management and financing must be a priority to state and non-state actors as gender aspects cut across all themes. Disaster risk finance, disaster preparedness, and response entail giving maximum attention to women's needs. While women and vulnerable groups are the most affected by disasters, they are not prioritized in the budgets of governments on the African continent."

He says UN Women and ARC are working together for the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration, which calls on Member States and Regional

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



climate change and natural disasters, resulting to a negative spiral of vulnerability and poverty that leaves them exposed to future shocks and crises.

They explained that women and girls' untapped potential capacities remain too often unleveraged in resilience-building processes. Their full participation and leadership in climate change, environmental, and disaster risk reduction policies and programs is critical to make them more effective for all.

gender-responsive climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs," said Oulimata Sarr, Regional Director for UN Women WCARO.

She said critical and urgent actions to build the resilience of women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters, will include financing, provision of sustainable infrastructure and public services, social protection, and decent work

SFTH Climaxes Autism Awareness

The Author and Zwannah, First Autism Classroom, an initiative of Straight from the Heart International over the weekend climaxed a month-long community awareness on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Liberia.

The program which took place on Saturday, April 30, 2022 at the newly renovated office of the organization in the Bernard Farm community, Omega, Paynesville brought together community members, students from at least three junior high school within the community, children with autism-like disorder and their

parents.

Serving as keynote speaker of the occasion, Ms. Luana Korvah of the

department of Mental Health, Ministry of Health congratulated Straight from the Heart International for



Some participants at the autism awareness program

Liberian scholarship students in I. Coast expressed gratitude to President Weah



Nearly 40 Liberian scholarship students at the Félix Houphouët-Boigny National Polytechnic Institute in Yamoussokro, Ivory Coast, are commending President George M. Weah for the opportunity to pursue higher education in that West African nation.

The students are also grateful to First Lady Clar Marie Weah for coordinating the scholarship scheme through her Office along with the Ministries of Education and Finance & Development Planning.

Speaking during a meeting with the delegation comprising the First Lady's Office and the Ministry of Education at the

institution's campus in Yamoussokro recently, the students described the scholarship program as a blessing that has transformed their lives and put them on the path of their destiny.

Recruited through a rigorous process in 2019 and 2020, the students are specializing in various science and technology disciplines as part of a youth capacity development program initiated by President George Manneh Weah.

Funded by the French government through its Development Agency, AFD, the initiative resulted from President Weah's meeting with his French

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

organizing such a unique initiative and remaining committed to supporting people, especially children in such conditions. She said the government is not able to reach out to every community and as such it is the duty for civil society organizations to compliment the efforts of the government. She showered praises on the institution for taking up the challenge in the midst of numerous challenges.

Madam Korvah used the occasion to conscientize community dwellers and the student populace against stigmatization and discrimination of people living with disability. She pointed out that no disability is not communicable disease for the public to avoid such people. She said such people also needs love, care and affection in order to develop and become useful in the society.

Speaking on behalf of the Founder and Executive Director Madam Agnes Fallah Kamara, the Administrator of the organization, Atty. Michael Gebeh emphasized that the challenge ahead was enormous to ensure that children with autism spectrum disorder get the relevant attention. He said the first challenge is for the community to accept people living with such disorder, after

which the issue of their welfare can be tackled. He noted that during the month-long awareness campaign, it was realized that even families with children in such condition were not willing to accept them and as such they keep them in isolation and in most cases, under appalling conditions.

"These children can develop into useful and productive citizens but we first of all have to change our perception towards them" he noted. "For now, we are focusing on awareness and once we get the requisite support, we will put them in a classroom, develop or enhance policies on their wellbeing and put in place program that will support them so that they are no longer a burden to their families and the society at large" he added.

Talking about their challenges faced by the institutions, Atty. Gebeh highlighted the need for logistics for operations, trained medical and education staff amongst others. He lauded the volunteers of the organization to continue to work tirelessly in improving the welfare of children with autism and similar disorders. He also admonished the government as well as other national and international partners to support the working of the organization so that public perception and the lives of people living with disability can be transformed.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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African Risk Capacity, UN

Economic Communities to increase their annual budgetary allocation and establish innovative financing solutions, adding “I am including participating in ARC’s innovative risk pooling mechanism, for the implementation of gender-sensitive and inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies, programs, and plans of action at all levels”.

Adopted at the 8th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 7th High-Level meeting organized by the African Union Commission (AUC), Intergovernmental Agency for Development (IGAD), and UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the Nairobi Declaration is a call to strengthen disaster risk governance to manage

disaster risk through gender and inclusion mainstreaming, by promoting participation and inclusion of women, youth, and other vulnerable groups and by formulating gender-responsive DRR policies, strategies, plans and legal frameworks in line with the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, SDGs and the New Urban Agenda to ensure risk responsive development.

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UN Resident Coordinator Visits

institutions, address gender issues, women’s representations and involvement in government and decision making process, as well as making Liberia economically sustainable. The need for electoral reforms to make the outcome of elections more credible, so

as to avert violence over perceived fraudulent results, were other issues of concerns discussed by the ANC Political Leader and stalwarts including the National Chairman Daniel Naatehn, Vice Chairlady Ms. Victoria Koiquah and Vice National Chairman, Josiah

Kennedy who also attended the meeting. The ANC Political Leader later thanked the UN Resident Coordinator and Assistant for the visit and exchanged of ideas and views on issues of national concerns and importance to Liberia.

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Liberian scholarship students in I. Coast

counterpart, President Emmanuel Macron, during a state visit to Paris, France, in February 2018. Commenting on the challenges, the students disclosed that learning the French language, adapting to the new environment, and coping with the demanding Ivorian educational system among others posed serious difficulties to their studies upon arrival. However, the Liberian students noted that they were well adjusted to the various situations and now

working hard to complete their studies. In her introductory remarks, the head of delegation Madam Gaelle Mediem, admonished the students to remain focused, avoiding every form of distraction so as to make maximum use of the opportunity afforded them and make their respective families and country, Liberia proud. Madam Mediem who is also the First Lady’s Chief of Office Staff emphasized the need for the students to maintain high moral and academic standards if they

must succeed and be an example to their generation of young Liberians. The five-member delegation, including the Director for Scholarships at the Minister of Education, Mr. Theophilus Snorton, had gone to follow up on the overall progress and wellbeing of students. Following a series of meetings with authorities of the polytechnic and the students, the delegation was impressed with the general condition of the Liberian scholarship students but urged them to do more.

Liberia prepares for grand finale national Stockholm+50 dialogue

The Government of Liberia through the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) with support from UNDP will on May 4, 2022, conduct the grand finale of the Stockholm+50 National Consultations at the Ministerial Complex in Monrovia at 9:00am. The consultation is expected to bring together an array of dignitaries from government line ministries,

agencies and commissions, members of the diplomatic corps, the private sector, civil society organizations, academic institutions, youth and students, women and religious groups as well as people living with disabilities. Since the launch of the consultations on March 7, EPA with support from UNDP, has held several regional consultations on how the country can attain a healthy

environment that supports the prosperity of all people. Two regional consultations and 5 side meetings, in Harbel, Buchanan, Gbarnga, Ganta and Monrovia, brought together more than 500 participants, of whom 43 percent were women and girls, drawn from the larger society. The Stockholm+50 National Consultations are being organized worldwide to stimulate inclusive discussion on the Earth’s triple crisis -the climate emergency, the unprecedented socio-economic impact of Covid19, and continued degradation of natural ecosystems and biodiversity. The various ideas, views and proposals will be compiled in a national report to be presented at the Stockholm+50 international meeting scheduled to take place in Stockholm from June 2-3, 2022.



MAP Liberia holds first annual forum



The Multi-Actor Platform on Land Governance and Responsible Agricultural Investment in Liberia (MAP Liberia Land Platform) holds the first Annual Forum: conducts in-depth review of its governance structure, finalizes key products, and outlines new paths for advanced collaboration. Since its establishment in 2018, the platform has grown with some major achievements such as: the establishment of a functional secretariat that includes the Liberia Land Authority, the formation of four thematic areas and corresponding working groups, and contribution towards the passage of Liberia’s progressive Land Rights Act. The achievements also include strengthening the civil society organizations (CSOs) Working Group on Land Reform to develop an advocacy strategy, developing a draft country strategy and communication strategy and successfully hosting

Liberia’s first major National Land Conference, among others. According to a press release, on 29 April 2022, some actors of the MAP Liberia Land Platform met in the City of Ganta, Nimba County on the occasion marking the first Annual Forum of the MAP. The meeting was meant to basically reflect progress made and challenges encountered, and better plan for the future: review, finalize and adopt key documents/products, agree of definite organs of the platform’s governance structure and outline new paths for advanced collaboration. MAP Liberia has expressed many thanks to the distinguished delegates, who were able to review and finalize the different products in line with the specific objectives of the MAP. Key products finalized at the Ganta forum are: Membership Guidelines, Criteria for Steering Committee Formation and Organization structure and TORs for the different layers of the MAP Platform.

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Boakai repeats threat

The Unity Party Standard Bearer would be appearing as a state witness for the government here against his opposition colleague, Alexander Cummings, and two other leaders of the Alternative National Congress, for alleged forgery and criminal conspiracy. “The Office of the Standard Bearer of the Unity Party has officially received and signed for a subpoena from the Monrovia City Court to testify in the ongoing Framework Document alteration allegation case,” UP Secretary-General Mohammed (Mo) Ali wrote on his Facebook page recently. Meanwhile, the President of the Liberia Labour Congress Mr. Mulbah Johnson, expresses concern about the wave of mysterious deaths and disappearances of citizens, including dismal performance of

the government. “We at the Liberia Labor Congress are very much concerned about some unfortunate and evil occurrences that are unfolding in the country and we’re calling on the government to move robustly by taking concrete actions to put the situation under control”, he urges. He points to secret killings sometimes involving workers and their families without arrest of any suspect, the lack of electricity at the Roberts International Airport, among others. Mr. Johnson further laments the lack of basic and affordable healthcare services and government’s failure to regulate cost of basic commodities as among factors contributing to the stagnation of the country. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Français

Procès de Cummings : La présidente de la NEC est sommée de comparaître au tribunal

Le tribunal de première instance de Monrovia a sommé la présidente de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC), Mme Davidetta Brown Lansanna, de comparaître avec la copie originale du document-cadre de la Collaboration des partis politiques de l'opposition (CPP) et suspendu temporairement le témoignage de l'ancien vice-président du Libéria, Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

Ayant été sommé de comparaître pour témoigner dans le procès de Cummings

qui est le leader politique de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC) et ancien coprésident du bloc d'opposition CPP, M. Boakai était présent au tribunal lundi.

Le magistrat du tribunal de la ville de Monrovia, Jomah Jallah, a ordonné à Madame Brown - Lansannah de comparaître le mercredi 4 mai 2022.

Cummings est actuellement jugé pour avoir, selon l'accusation, falsifié le document-cadre de la CPP et illégalement apposé la signature d'Urey sur une photocopie du document. Cummings a toujours nié tout acte répréhensible.

À la demande de

l'accusation, le tribunal municipal de Monrovia avait sommé M. Boakai de témoigner. Il a fallu plusieurs semaines pour que M. Boakai compareisse enfin lundi au tribunal avec le secrétaire général de son parti, M. Mo Ali.

Cependant, l'accusation a demandé lundi au tribunal de suspendre temporairement les témoignages de Boakai et d'Ali jusqu'à ce que la copie originale du document cadre de la collaboration des partis politiques soit présenté au tribunal.

Le magistrat Jallah a ainsi accordé la demande de l'accusation et sommé la présidente de la NEC de comparaître avec le document au tribunal.

« Monsieur le greffier, il vous est ordonné par la présente de délivrer une assignation à comparaître à Mme Davidetta Brown Lassannah, présidente de la NEC, pour qu'elle compareisse le mercredi 4 mai en présence de tous les plaideurs », a ordonné le magistrat Jallah.

Il a par ailleurs suspendu les témoignages de Boakai et

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"C'est aussi notre combat"

Le Libérien Brima Sylla a été en première ligne de la mobilisation pour créer un syndicat chez Amazon à New York. Rencontre...

Il y a un mois, des travailleurs d'Amazon à New York votaient en faveur de la création d'un syndicat dans leur entrepôt sur l'île de Staten Island nommé JFK 8. Une première pour l'entreprise sur le sol américain.

Depuis le début de la semaine et jusqu'à ce vendredi (29.04), un autre référendum très attendu est en cours dans un entrepôt voisin.

Derrière ce mouvement de syndicalisation se trouve un groupe de militants très motivés, des employés actuels et passés de la multinationale qui réclament de meilleures conditions de travail. Parmi eux, un Libérien s'occupe de mobiliser les nombreux employés africains francophones.

Il s'agit de Brima Sylla, installé à New York depuis

plus de vingt ans.

Comme il parle français, Brima Sylla s'est occupé de convaincre les nombreux francophones de l'entrepôt JFK 8 de voter pour le syndicat. En effet, plusieurs centaines de francophones - des Congolais, Gabonais ou encore Haïtiens - travaillent dans cet entrepôt gigantesque de 8 000 employés.

"Je me suis dit que c'est aussi notre combat. On ne peut pas s'asseoir à l'arrière du bus. Il faut

être là au début du mouvement", explique Brima Sylla.

Ancien enseignant à New York, Brima venait de passer un doctorat de politiques publiques en 2020 quand la pandémie a paralysé la ville. Comme les écoles et les universités ne recrutaient pas, il a trouvé un travail chez Amazon, dans l'entrepôt JFK

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Éditorial

Il faut éviter une calamité à R.I.A.

L'aéroport international Roberts, autrefois une fierté du Libéria, a sombré à son plus bas niveau en raison de l'incompétence de sa direction.

L'aéroport ne peut plus répondre aux normes internationales de base en raison du manque d'électricité, obligeant ainsi les vols en destination du Libéria à faire demi-tour.

Tout gouvernement ou pays qui se dit sérieux ne devrait pas permettre que cela se produise. Pourquoi les services de notre aéroport national devraient-ils dégénérer à ce niveau en raison du manque d'électricité ?

SN Brussels Airlines à destination du Libéria a été contraint à son arrivée à RIA de regagner la Sierra Leone voisine à cause du manque d'électricité au niveau de la piste et de la tour de contrôle aérien!

Comment l'administration Weah espère-t-elle augmenter ses revenus alors que l'aéroport, qui constitue l'une des principales sources de génération de revenus, s'effondre sans qu'il n'agisse ? Cette administration comprend-elle ce que signifie exploiter un aéroport international ?

Ce n'est pas étonnant qu'une grande compagnie aérienne comme Air France suspende ses vols ici, parce que nous n'avons pas l'air sérieux.

C'est dans cette optique que nous nous félicitons de l'appel que le président du Conseil des Églises du Libéria, Mgr Kortu Brown, a lancé au président George Manneh Weah lui demandant de licencier immédiatement toute l'équipe de direction de l'aéroport international Roberts (RIA) pour incompétence flagrante.

« Ce n'est comme ça qu'on dirige un gouvernement. Si le président Weah veut que son gouvernement soit pris au sérieux, alors il doit prendre des mesures pour éviter l'embarras », a exprimé Mgr Brown avec frustration. Les gens ne devraient pas faire ce qu'ils veulent en toute impunité. Il faut qu'ils rendent compte de leur incompétence. Il incombe au président Weah de prendre toutes ses responsabilités.

Le Conseil des Églises a ajouté sa voix aux nombreuses voix qui dénoncent les mauvais services à la RIA. Le président Weah aurait fourni des panneaux solaires à l'aéroport pour avoir de l'électricité en continue, mais il faut qu'on sache ce qui s'est passé. Pourquoi SN Brussels a été obligé retourner en Sierra Leone ?

Le RIA a des problèmes à tous les niveaux, depuis les tests COVID-19, la manutention des marchandises et bien plus encore depuis l'arrivée au pouvoir de l'administration Weah. Cela doit être vérifié. Il ne faut pas que le gouvernement oublie qu'il y va notre image. Il faut tout régler immédiatement avant que les choses ne tournent au mal un jour à l'aéroport.

Français

Procès de Cummings : La présidente de la

de Mo Ali jusqu'à ce que la copie originale du document-cadre de la CPP soit mise à la disposition du tribunal.

Avant l'allégation de modification du document-cadre de la CPP, Cummings et Boakai étaient les deux prétendants pour le ticket présidentiel de la coalition de l'opposition.

A u p a r a v a n t , le responsable politique de la NEC, Ignatius Wesseh, avait pour une deuxième convoqué à comparaître le lundi 2 mai, mais le shérif de la Cour a signalé que Wesseh n'avait pas reçu de convocation.

Wesseh avait initialement été demandé de mettre à la disposition du tribunal une copie du document dont il a dit était la copie originale et qui a été manquée par le tribunal. Mais il avait fait croire que c'était la seule copie dont disposait la NEC, donc il ne pouvait la laisser au tribunal.

Mais pour l'accusation, on ne peut pas témoigner sur la base d'une photocopie. D'après elle, la copie originale est la meilleure pièce à conviction devant le tribunal.

Le solliciteur général du Libéria Me Sayma Syrenius Cephus a indiqué que la présidente de la NEC est la principale autorité chargée de mettre à disposition le document original, d'où la nécessité de la convoquer pour comparaître.

Citant le chapitre 9, section 9.12 de la loi de procédure civile du Libéria,

Me Cephus a prié le tribunal pour que la procédure soit reportée à une date ultérieure jusqu'à ce que le document original soit mis à disposition.

Les avocats de la défense, d'autre part, avaient prié pour que la demande soit rejetée, car en vertu de la précédente assignation à comparaître qui avait été signifiée à Ignatius Wesseh, la copie originale avait été produite, attestée, identifiée, marquée et signifiée au tribunal.

Me Abraham Sillah, le principal avocat de la défense, a soutenu que l'accusation ne s'était pas opposée au fait que le témoin de la NEC reparte avec le document en question.

« Il n'est plus question de disponibilité ou d'indisponibilité du document et le fait que le document a été marqué par le tribunal, il peut être utilisé par les témoins pour témoigner », a fait valoir l'avocat Sillah.

Pour lui, la requête introduite par l'accusation n'avait qu'un seul objectif : retarder la procédure et retarder la justice. Il a fait valoir que la loi sur le meilleur élément de preuve citée par l'accusation ne s'applique pas aux circonstances actuelles.

A Me Sillah de dire : "Les Témoins ne témoignent pas du contenu de l'instrument, car il parle de lui-même."

Cependant, le tribunal a déclaré dans sa décision qu'il est clair que les preuves doivent toujours être produites et que les duplicatas ne peuvent être autorisés en vertu de la loi que lorsque l'original n'est pas disponible.

"C'est aussi notre combat"

8, où il enregistre les commandes avant qu'elles soient mises dans des paquets et expédiées.

Conditions de travail déshumanisantes

Dans le même temps, Brima remarque qu'un mouvement est en cours pour créer un syndicat. Mobilisés depuis la crise sanitaire de 2020, les militants réclament une meilleure rémunération, des congés maladie payés et une plus grande sécurité de l'emploi.

En effet, Amazon est souvent critiquée pour ses conditions de travail stressantes voire déshumanisantes. Et ce, alors que la richesse de son fondateur Jeff Bezos a augmenté de 70 milliards de dollars la première année de la pandémie.

Alors, Brima a commencé

à essayer de convaincre ses collègues à travers des discussions en personne et des échanges dans un groupe WhatsApp pour employés africains. Il était plutôt confiant dans l'issue du vote.

"C'était assez facile de convaincre les autres. Il fallait faire quelque chose pour changer. On a le pouvoir. Ils ne vont pas nous arrêter. La révolution va continuer. On veut obtenir de bonnes choses pour tout le monde car la situation économique n'est pas bonne."

Brima et ses camarades de l'ALU espèrent fêter une autre création de syndicat dans quelques jours. Un référendum interne a eu lieu jusqu'à ce vendredi 29 avril dans un autre entrepôt de Staten Island. Plus petit, il ne compte que 1 600 employés. Et il y a moins de francophones à convaincre. Mais Brima reste mobilisé.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Margrethe Vestager
et Josep Borrell

Pourquoi la décennie numérique de l'Europe est importante

B RUXELLES - Cette semaine, la Commission européenne a présenté sa vision d'une "décennie numérique" européenne. Avec des objectifs politiques pour 2030 axés sur les quatre questions cardinales que sont les compétences, les infrastructures et les capacités, les services publics et la numérisation des entreprises, l'Union européenne entend être à l'avant-garde de la révolution numérique actuelle.

Pour que la technologie donne aux citoyens et aux entreprises les moyens de construire une société plus prospère et plus inclusive, nous aurons besoin de marchés ouverts et compétitifs. Les entreprises de toutes tailles doivent avoir une chance égale d'innover et de fournir leurs produits et services aux consommateurs.

Plus largement, la numérisation est désormais la clé pour renforcer la résilience économique et sociétale et exercer une influence mondiale. Notre avenir commun se dessine déjà dans le domaine numérique. Dans un monde marqué par la concurrence géopolitique pour la primauté technologique, nous devons veiller à ce que la vision de la numérisation de l'UE - fondée sur des sociétés ouvertes, l'État de droit et les libertés fondamentales - fasse ses preuves par rapport à celle des systèmes autoritaires qui utilisent les technologies numériques comme outils de surveillance et de répression.

En renforçant ses propres capacités, l'UE peut contribuer à façonner la transformation numérique du monde pour le mieux. Pour que la décennie numérique de l'Europe soit couronnée de succès, l'UE devra forger des alliances et des relations de travail solides avec des pays partageant les mêmes idées, tant au niveau bilatéral que multilatéral. Après tout, pour tirer pleinement parti de l'innovation technologique, il faut maintenir une économie numérique ouverte dans laquelle les investissements peuvent circuler librement. Et que nous déployions des solutions de santé numériques, que nous luttons contre le terrorisme, que nous atténuions le changement climatique, que nous protégeons la biodiversité ou que nous utilisons la technologie pour prévoir les catastrophes naturelles et les futures pandémies, nous aurons besoin de beaucoup plus de collaboration technologique internationale.

Mais la numérisation comporte des risques sérieux, allant de la surveillance de masse et des cyberattaques contre les infrastructures critiques à la diffusion de désinformations parrainées par des États et conçues pour polariser les sociétés et saper la démocratie. Cela signifie que nous devons trouver un équilibre entre l'ouverture et nos autres intérêts et valeurs fondamentaux.

Plus précisément, nous devons adhérer à trois principes fondamentaux : des conditions de concurrence équitables sur les marchés numériques, la sécurité dans le cyberspace et la liberté en ligne (y compris les protections pour la liberté d'expression et de réunion, et contre la discrimination et les violations de la vie privée).

Conformément à notre détermination à renforcer les relations bilatérales de l'UE, à établir des normes plus claires et à mettre en place des chaînes d'approvisionnement numériques plus résilientes, nous avons déjà proposé à l'administration du président américain Joe Biden de créer un conseil conjoint sur le commerce et la technologie.

L'UE cherche également à former une coalition mondiale autour d'une vision commune de la

numérisation centrée sur l'humain. Nous devons nous joindre à ceux qui sont prêts à coopérer pour assurer une gouvernance démocratique efficace de la technologie et de l'économie numérique. Une telle coalition devrait être ouverte à tous ceux qui sont prêts à défendre un modèle ouvert et décentralisé de l'internet et les principes d'équité sur les marchés numériques, de sécurité dans le cyberspace et de libertés individuelles en ligne.

En travaillant ensemble, nous pouvons établir des normes pour l'intelligence artificielle et d'autres technologies émergentes sur la base de valeurs communes, récolter les fruits des innovations des uns et des autres et mettre en place des protections plus solides contre les cyberattaques. Une coalition de partenaires animés du même esprit peut faire en sorte que l'interdépendance de nos chaînes d'approvisionnement numériques devienne une source de sécurité et de résilience, plutôt qu'un risque supplémentaire.

Tout aussi important, la décennie numérique est notre dernière chance de donner suite aux objectifs de développement durable de 2030. Nous savons que la technologie numérique a le potentiel de faciliter l'inclusion et l'accès aux services publics dans le monde entier. En Afrique, la part de la population ayant accès à l'internet est passée de 2 % en 2005 à 40 % en 2019, permettant à davantage d'enfants d'être scolarisés et à davantage de femmes de trouver un emploi. Toutefois, tant que nous n'aurons pas comblé la fracture numérique mondiale, nous ne pourrons pas exploiter pleinement le potentiel des nouvelles technologies.

À cette fin, l'UE proposera bientôt une initiative combinant ressources financières et assistance technique pour aider ses partenaires à élaborer leurs propres cadres de gouvernance numérique, notamment dans des domaines tels que la cybersécurité et la protection des données. Par exemple, un nouveau fonds pour la connectivité numérique pourrait soutenir ces efforts ; avec nos partenaires, nous étudierons la faisabilité de telles idées dans les mois à venir.

Enfin, la préservation d'un internet sûr mais ouvert exige que nous développiions un modèle de multilatéralisme plus inclusif, rassemblant non seulement les gouvernements mais aussi les représentants de la société civile, du secteur privé et du monde universitaire. Ce modèle peut ensuite guider nos actions au sein des organisations internationales - des Nations unies à l'Organisation mondiale du commerce en passant par l'Union internationale des télécommunications - afin de garantir l'adéquation des règles internationales.

À travers tout cela, un fil conducteur, tissé à partir de principes communs, guidera nos efforts pour parvenir à une transformation numérique plus centrée sur l'humain, qui maximise les avantages de la technologie et minimise les risques qu'elle pose. Dans le cyberspace comme dans le monde physique, l'Europe continuera à défendre les valeurs mondiales fondamentales. La Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme de 1948 a établi la dignité de l'individu, le droit à la vie privée et à la non-discrimination, ainsi que les libertés d'expression et de croyance. Il est de notre devoir commun de veiller à ce que la révolution numérique soit à la hauteur de cette promesse.

Margrethe Vestager est vice-présidente exécutive de la Commission européenne pour une Europe adaptée à l'ère numérique, et commissaire européenne chargée de la concurrence. Josep Borrell est haut représentant de l'Union européenne pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité et vice-président de la Commission européenne chargé de renforcer l'Europe dans le monde.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(CONSULTANCY FIRM SERVICES)

Scaling up the Participation of SMEs in the Secondary Wood
Processing Industry in Liberia (SMEs-SWPI)

Assignment Title: Specialized Individual Consultant to undertake the End of the
Project Impact Evaluation and Edit the Draft Project Completion Report.

Fund Grant Number: **5700155003201**
Fund Name: **Fund for Africa Private Sector Assistance (FAPA)**
Project ID No.: **P-LR-AAD-001**
Request for Expression of Interest No: **LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs-
SWPI/EOI/01/2022**

I. Introduction

The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) hereby invites Specialized Individuals
to undertake the End of the Project Impact Evaluation and Edit the Draft Project
Completion Report of the Project entitled: Scaling up the Participation of SMEs in
Secondary Wood Processing Industry.

2. Background

The government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development
Planning and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) as an Implementing
Agency received a US\$1,000,000 project funded by Fund for Africa Private Sector
Assistance (FAPA) to promote the private sector by scaling up the participation of
Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) in the secondary wood processing
industry to promote inclusive green growth, employment and economic
diversification in the Republic of Liberia. After the implementation of the Project
over the past three years (2019-2022), and it is expected to be completed on June
30, 2022, the Bank in collaboration with the Forestry Development
Authority/Government of Liberia planned to undertake an evaluation of the impact
the Project made on beneficiaries. The results of this evaluation will inform the
preparation and design of future projects and interventions, particularly taking into
consideration lessons learned during the implementation of this project.

Job Summary/Description

- i. The Specialized Individual Consultant will undertake six distinct, but
interrelated specifics of the End of Project Impact Evaluation of the Scaling
Up the Participation of SMEs Secondary Wood Processing Industry in Liberia
including i) Analysis of the relevance of the objectives, design, and strategies
for implementation of the project; ii. the Assessment of the effectiveness of
the project based on the achievement of development objectives and project
results (outcomes and outputs); iii) Assessment of the efficiency of the
project in terms of performance against objectives; iv) Assess the change and
beneficiaries strengthening resulting from the project implementation; v)
Analyze lessons learned from the implementation of the project; and vi) Make
operational and strategic recommendations to the client and other
stakeholders that would be useful for preparation for a potential follow-up
project.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the
following websites: www.fda.gov.lr, www.emansion.gov.lr, and www.moa.gov.lr

Minimum Qualification, Skills, and Experience:

The End of Project Evaluation Individual Consultant must possess the following
minimum qualification requirements for this assignment:

- A Master’s degree in education, social science, the management or equivalent
professional; experience, including monitoring and evaluation;
- Relevant experience in programs management with specific reference in
Liberia;
- Minimum of five years’ experience in conducting evaluations of SMEs
development projects;
- Experience with quantitative and qualitative data collection;
- Knowledge of issues that SMEs development projects face within the context
of Liberia;
- Able to meet deadlines and work under pressure;
- Highly proficient in key computer software programs (Word, Excel,
PowerPoint, SPSS, etc.).

Duty Station:	Monrovia
Start Date:	May 15, 2022
End Date:	June 30, 2022
Duration of Assignment:	Forty-five (45) days

The FAPA Project Management Unit (PIU) at the Forestry Development Authority
(FDA) now invites eligible Specialized Individual consultants to indicate interest in
providing these services by giving a detailed technical proposal demonstrating a
thorough understanding of the ToR and including, but not limited to the description
of the methodology; demonstrated previous experience in similar assignments and
qualifications outlined in this ToR, preferably in the form of a writing sample;
proposed data management plan (collection, processing, and analysis); proposed
timeframe detailing activities and a work plan; and a financial proposal with a
detailed breakdown of costs (including all applicable taxes) for the study quoted in
United States dollars (USD).

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e.
from 0900 to 1700 hours (GMT) on working days.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below
by email by 09 May 2022 @ 1700 hours (GMT) and mention
“**LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs-SWPI/EOI/01/2022**: Undertaking End of the Project
Impact Evaluation and Edit the Draft Project Completion Report of the Project
entitled: Scaling Up the Participation of SMEs in Secondary Wood Processing
Industry.

Attn: Mr. Edward S. Kamara,
Project Coordinator-SMEs-SWPI
Project Implementation Unit
Forestry Development Authority
Whein Town, Mount Barclay
Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: +231770430085/+231886823646
E-mail: kamara.ed14@gmail.com with cc to mikedoryen@gmail.com

Gongloe predicts aftermath of 2023, if Weah wins

Presidential hopeful Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe has predicted the aftermath of the 2023 Presidential election here, saying that re-electing President George Weah would be a complete suicide for the country.

Cllr. Gongloe, widely known as a poor man lawyer here, indicated that ensuring that President Weah does not win the second term would end the suffering of the Liberian people.

His prediction of the aftermath of the 2023

However, Cllr. Gongloe thinks that Mr. Weah has failed on promises made during the 2017 elections and that “massive corruption” under his administration should be a recipe to vote him out of office.

Speaking in an interview with reporters in his office here on Monday, May 2, 2022, the former president of the Liberia National Bar Association noted that President Weah is not leading by example, owing to the questionable wealth he is amassing since he became President.

He said the people of Liberia are beset by enormous hardship because the Weah government

Stadium in Paynesville outside Monrovia has been home ground for the boys in Red, White and Blue, where they knock boots with opposite teams during international matches.

He further noted that almost five years into President Weah’s leadership, poor and young voters who gave him landslide victory have seen their economic woes worsen, with critics laying blame on government incompetence and failure to tackle corruption.

The presidential hopeful continued that Mr. Weah, as President, is not leading by example, noting “Government is a dignified place for service, not for stealing and not forgetting opportunity for you. That’s why we are going to bring to state power.”



elections comes as the opposition bloc remains at loggerhead, with the promising Collaboration of Political Parties (CPP) now dragging constituent members to court to be prosecuted by the incumbent government.

It remains to be seen as things stand as to whether the position parties here can rally hold together to wrestle power from President Weah in 2023.

has deserted them, adding the government has prioritized enriching its officials, while the citizens languished in abject poverty.

He pointed out that the national football team, the Lone Star would not be playing on its own soil due to sanctions imposed by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) on the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex under President Weah.

Cllr. Gongloe said for decades the 36,000-seated Capacity

He said President Weah and his government have turned the country’s economy into a fishing net and now, only government officials are rich people and the poor keeps getting poorer.

In recent days, Cllr. Gongloe has been seen carrying along with a homemade broom at public gatherings, as a symbol of his intention to sweep away corruption, if he is elected President in 2023.

ALHRP seeks protection at workplace

The President of the Association of Liberia Human Resource Professionals (ALHRP) Jonah Soe Kotee, has called on the Government of Liberia and the private sector to ensure adequate safety for

employees in Liberia.

Kotee stressed the need to protect employees through medical and life insurance policies.

Speaking at celebration of International Labor Day in Monrovia, the Association of Liberia Human Resource

Professionals boss noted that employees’ retirement packages must be legislated in order to address constraints faced by workers leaving active service.

He noted that inclusive environments at workplaces would increase the workforce in both the private and public sectors, adding that people living with disability must be considered for workplaces in Liberia.

Kotee said the ALHRP wants heads of institutions in Liberia to increase value for work and decent environment for employees to reduce poverty.

He also recommended that employers should ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion in workplace policy, while urging government and partners to do more in exploring sustainable measures to address growth and development at workplaces.



Boakai repeats threat



By Lewis S Teh

Former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, now Standard Bearer of the ex-ruling Unity Party re-echoes threat here that there will be no by-election in Lofa County if UP’s candidate is not on the ballot.

The National Elections Commission has scheduled senatorial by-election in Lofa for 10th May to fill vacant seat created by the criminal trial and conviction of Senator-elect Brownie Samukai and others for misappropriation of soldiers’ money totaling over One Million United States Dollars, while serving as Minister of Defense during the Sirleaf administration.

VP Boakai’s Unity Party that broke away from the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) was taken before the NEC by the embattled chairman of the Liberty Party Musa Hassan Bility, who petitioned the electoral commission not to qualify the UP to contest in elections because of existing CPP law that bars a constituent party from independently fielding a candidate in an election.

The NEC upheld the petition, but the UP ran to the Supreme Court, where it is now as date for the pending by-election draws near.

But Boakai, who hails from Lofa, laments that this is too much for the Lofa people, having seen the UP candidate Samukai that won the senatorial seat in December 2021 disqualified from taking office due to his conviction and now the party risks similar fate before the High Court.

Joseph N. Boakai accuses the Weah administration of politically exploiting the people of Lofa county and the Unity Party.

“I repeat, that there will be no by-election in Lofa

County if the Unity Party candidate is not on the ballot, for too long the CDC- led government under President Weah has continued to take advantage of the Unity Party and the people of Lofa County”, the former Vice President says.

He reiterated the threat here on Monday, May 2, 2022 during observance of International Labour Day held at the Liberia Labour Congress in Gardnersville along the Japan Freeway.

He alleges that the Weah government continues to intimidate and harass the former ruling party, including the people of Lofa County.

Boakai: “I’m sure you all are following the case involving the so-called CPP framework documents which is in court, and as a law-abiding citizen, I will go and state the truth that you all know me for.” He was making reference to the ongoing trial of the Political Leader of the Alternative National Congress, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, who is accused of tempering with the CPP Framework document, a charge Cummings has repeatedly denied.

However, turning to the Labor Day celebration, Mr. Boakai notes that every time workers complain about salaries, healthy working environment but yet their cry falls on deaf ears.

He says discrimination at workplaces continue to pose serious challenge to mothers and fathers, who must feed their families from their meager salary under unfavorable conditions.

According to the ex-VP, discrimination against persons living with disability has not been addressed relative to employment, adding “On this day we reflect about the trauma that many of you face; some have been sexually harassed with impunity and their bosses take advantage of them, while they are afraid to report them as a result of fear to losing their jobs.”

Ambassador Boakai, who is expected to appear in court to answer questions as requested by state prosecutors, has finally received a subpoena from the Monrovia City Court, weeks after it was issued.

UN Resident Coordinator Visits ANC Political Leader



ANC Leader Alexander B. Cummings

corruption in both the public and private sector.

Mr. Cummings said to tackle corruption civil servants including nurses, teachers and police officers will have to earn "living wages," as well as apply the full force of the law on individuals found guilty of corruption.

The imperative need to make Liberia self-reliance, shifting from the age-old dependency syndrome, create more income streams, including getting more value of the country's natural resources, while respecting previous agreements and taking precautions with new concession agreements, Mr. Cummings said.

The ANC Political Leader observed that by all measurable facts, Liberia is poorly performing as compared to other countries in the West African subregion that are making great strides and progress in the face of the worst challenges. Responding to questions on his impressions, about the prevailing conditions and situations in Liberia, the UN Resident Coordinator spoke of the need to revitalize integrity

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United Nations Resident Coordinator, Niels Scott on Tuesday, May 3, paid a courtesy visit on the Political Leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC), Mr. Alexander B. Cummings at his Congo Town office in Monrovia.

Mr. Cummings welcomed the UN Resident Coordinator and Assistant to his office, and later briefed them on the ANC visions and mission for

change including action plan on dealing with critical areas of good governance, economic recovery and age-old challenges that have deprived the vast majority of a better life.

The ANC Political Leader provided a roadmap for national transformation including human development, job creations, investing and strengthening institutions including health and education and the urgent need to combat

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