

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT  
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

**www** **Advertize Here!**  
Subscribe to our website  
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

**CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA**  
**MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES**  
**LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR**

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022	L\$150.1283 /US\$1.00	L\$151.8304/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**

**TRULY INDEPENDENT**

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON  
**Google Play**

QPR CODE: 797005  
**Down Load New Dawn Android App**

VOL. 12 NO. 080      MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022      PRICE LD\$40.00

# Boakai: Weah should take decisive steps



**P11**

**UP Standard Bearer Boakai**



**CDC militants in training**

# Worrisome images

**- LIROI describes CDC's recruitment in Lofa**

**just \$65** ~~\$99~~

**Rechargeable 4G Router.**

Browse uninterrupted with or without **current.**

**DATA DA LIFE**

**Lonestar Cell** | **MTN**



# Continental News

## South Africa Has New Surge of COVID From Omicron Sub-Variants



People queue at a COVID-19 testing center in Soweto, South Africa

South Africa is experiencing a surge of new COVID-19 cases driven by two omicron sub-variants, according to health experts.

For about three weeks the country has seen increasing numbers of new cases and somewhat higher hospitalizations, but not increases in severe cases and deaths, said professor Marta Nunes, a researcher at Vaccine and Infectious Diseases Analytics at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto.

"We're still very early in this increase period, so I don't want to really call it a wave," Nunes said. "We are seeing a slight, a small increase in hospitalizations and really very few deaths."

South Africa's new cases have gone from an average of 300 per day in early April to about 8,000 per day this week. Nunes says the actual number of new cases is probably much higher because the symptoms are mild and many who get sick are not getting tested.

South Africa's new surge is from two variations of

omicron, BA.4 and BA.5, which appear to be very much like the original strain of omicron that was first identified in South Africa and Botswana late last year and swept around the globe.

"The majority of new cases are from these two strains. They are still omicron ... but just genomically somewhat different," said Nunes. The new versions appear to be able to infect people who have immunity from earlier COVID infections and vaccinations, but they cause generally mild disease, she said. In South Africa, 45% of adults are fully

vaccinated, although about 85% of the population is thought to have some immunity based on past exposure to the virus.

"It looks like the vaccines still protect against severe disease," Nunes said.

Nunes said that the BA.4 and BA.5 strains of omicron have spread to other countries in southern Africa and a few European countries, but it is too early to tell if they will spread across the globe, as omicron did.

The increase in COVID cases is coming as South Africa is entering the Southern

Hemisphere's colder winter months and the country is seeing a rise in cases of flu.

At a COVID testing center in the Chiawelo area of Soweto, many people are coming in to be tested for COVID but are learning they have the flu.

"Now we're in flu season ... so it's flu versus COVID-19," said Magdeline Matsoso, site manager at the Chiawelo vaccination center. She said people come for testing because they have COVID symptoms.

"When we do the tests, you find that the majority of them, they are negative

when it comes to COVID, but they do have flu symptoms," said Matsoso. "So they get flu treatment and then they go home because the majority is related to flu and not COVID."

Vuyo Lumkwani was one of those who came to get tested.

"I wasn't feeling well when I woke up this morning. I woke up with body pains, a headache, blocked (nose), feeling dizzy, so I decided to come here," she said.

"I was terrified about my symptoms because I thought it might be COVID-19, but I told myself that I'd be OK because I have been vaccinated," said Lumkwani. She said she was relieved to be diagnosed with the flu. She was advised to go home with some medications and get some rest. VOA

## Somalia's presidential election: Where just 328 people vote



Voting is taking place in an airport hangar

The unusual circumstances highlight Somalia's security issues, as well as the lack of democratic accountability.

The capital, Mogadishu, is in total lockdown until Monday morning.

Four of the 36 candidates have made it through to a second round of voting, which is taking place now.

- They are:
- Said Abdullahi Deni, president of the northern, autonomous Puntland state - 65 votes
- President Mohamed Abdullahi "Farmajo" - 59 votes
- Former President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud - 52 votes

Former Prime Minister Hassan Ali Kheyre - 47 votes

As the first-round votes were being counted, mortar shells are said to have landed close to the airport. It is not yet clear if there were any casualties.

The winner will have to deal with the impact of the ongoing drought, in which 3.5 million Somalis are at risk of severe famine, according to the UN.

But the big task he - the four remaining candidates are all men - faces is to wrest control of much of Somalia from al-Shabab.

The al-Qaeda-linked Islamist militant group continues to dominate large parts of the country and carries out frequent attacks in Mogadishu, and elsewhere. BBC

said. Dr. Alex Gasasira heads the World Health Organization's country office in Zimbabwe. He says the U.N. body has been working with the government to ensure that the disease is contained through

immunization. "The vaccine is the best prevention. We are also strengthening surveillance, ensuring parents, community members are aware and they report any child who has any symptoms suggesting measles. We are also ensuring that opportunities for vaccination are enhanced. VOA

## Religious Beliefs, Terrain Hampering Measles Immunization Program in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's government says religious beliefs, topography and school closures are hampering efforts to contain a measles outbreak which has claimed at least 20 lives and infected hundreds of other people in the eastern part of the country. As The World Health Organization says the country must intensify its surveillance system and vaccinate all children.

Dr. Cephas Fonte, the Mutasa district medical officer where the measles outbreak was discovered last month, says more than 100 children are being treated for the infectious viral disease which causes a fever and a red rash. Fonte says logistical factors have impacted the response time.

Dr. Cephas Fonte, the Mutasa district medical officer where the measles outbreak was discovered last month, says more than 100 children are being

treated for the infectious viral disease which causes a fever and a red rash. (Columbus Mavhunga/VOA)

Dr. Cephas Fonte, the Mutasa district medical officer where the measles outbreak was discovered last month, says more than 100 children are being treated for the infectious viral disease which causes a fever and a red rash. (Columbus Mavhunga/VOA)

"Mutasa is a mountainous area, so some areas are hard to reach. We have some of our friends who are religious objectors, so it has been hard to break through to them, though they are slowly responding now. I think by the end of next week, we would have achieved something," he said.

He also says school closures have posed a challenge but that with schools reopening now...

"We are now reaching those children while they are clustered at one place, which becomes faster for us," he



A poster in Harare calling on Zimbabwean citizens to immunise children against measles

# EDITORIAL

## Chief of Staff Maj./Gen. Johnson was brutally frank

**MINISTER OF DEFENSE** Daniel Ziankan had no reason leaving his busy schedules to come clarify a leaked audio on social media in which the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) Maj./General Prince C. Johnson, III, strongly criticized the Minister of Finance Samuel D. Tweah, for a 20 percent cut in soldiers' salary. We believe the cut was absolutely wronged in the first place, and shouldn't have taken effect.

**IN A LEAKED** audio, a rather furious Maj./General Johnson is heard criticizing the cut and condemning the Finance Minister's decision, which he notes, poses serious threat to Liberian troops serving peacekeeping mission in Mali, where they face issues of rental and other obligations.

**AMID CURRENT ECONOMIC** stagnation in the country, the least that a responsible government would do is to reduce soldiers' income. In the words of opposition politician Alexander B. Cummings public service workers should earn a living wage. But in Liberia, this is far from reality except for cronies of the President.

**THE GLOBAL SEARCH** engine Goggle defines living wage as a theoretical income level that allows individuals or families to afford adequate shelter, food, and other necessities. The goal is to allow employees to earn enough income for a satisfactory standard of living that would prevent them from falling into poverty. Economists suggest that it should be sufficient to ensure that no more than 30 percent of income is spent on housing.

In Liberia, public service workers, including security forces live below the poverty line, with their disposal income unable to meet their basic needs, let alone wants.

**AND SO, WHEN** the Chief of Staff of the military, who is directly accountable for troops sacrificing their lives in foreign land, gets to learn that their already meager income is being arbitrarily sliced by 20 percent, he is frustrated, because it lowers morale.

**ANNUAL BUDGET FOR** the Ministry of Defense is below US\$20 million that includes the Infantry and the National Coast Guard. When the army was dissolved after the civil war in 2023, enlisted men received a life-time benefit of US\$520 each and this was the end.

**IT IS ONLY** thru peacekeeping missions that soldiers, particularly in Africa earn a decent income that could sustain their upkeep after active service. But when this money is being cut for whatever reason, such as in the case of Liberian troops serving peacekeeping mission in Mali, there is every reason for dissatisfaction and frustration.

**THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD** be circumspect in how it treats soldiers, who sacrificing their lives for the country. They deserve all honor and respect, particularly as it regards their wellbeing.

**WE BELIEVE THAT** Maj./Gen. Johnson was only performing his duty under the unpleasant circumstance. He used the brutal military language that he has been trained to express, and there is nothing to apologize for.

**New Dawn**  
DAILY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,  
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,  
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /

# COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

## Fiddling While India's Workers Burn

**N**EW DELHI - Kim Stanley Robinson's prescient science-fiction novel *The Ministry for the Future* begins with a stark description of a major heat wave in a northern Indian city that kills millions of people. The novel is set some decades in the future. But, with people across northern and central India and Pakistan suffering an unprecedented heat wave since late March, it seems terrifyingly current.

In April, usually a time of late spring weather with average maximum temperatures of at most 35° Celsius (95° Fahrenheit), daytime temperatures in New Delhi exceeded 46°C. Temperatures in many places in the region have hovered around 45°C for two months, reaching 49°C in Jacobabad, Pakistan, on April 30, and 47.2°C in Banda in central India. This was the hottest April weather in at least 120 years.

Although the heat has abated slightly since the start of May, the region's hot season has barely begun. Meteorologists are already predicting that, partly owing to less rainfall than usual in this period, temperatures will rise above 50°C across much of South Asia as summer sets in. The effects can be lethal, because the combination of extreme heat and high humidity can prevent sweat from evaporating, reducing the body's ability to cool down.

This is why the so-called "wet-bulb" temperature, which accounts for both heat and humidity, is significant. When this temperature is around 32°C, outdoor activity becomes difficult and enervating. If it exceeds 35°C, then spending even a few hours outside in the shade with no physical activity can lead to death. Several Indian cities have recently experienced wet-bulb temperatures of close to 30°C. These could increase in coming heat waves and kill people, in exactly the way Robinson describes in his novel.

But this evidence that climate change is outpacing even some of the most pessimistic scientific predictions does not seem to be generating any official urgency to change economic strategies, in India or elsewhere. Like too many other governments around the world, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration has shown no appetite for undertaking the policy changes and public spending required to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and cut pollution, which are essential to avert a climate disaster.

In fact, the government is not even doing the absolute minimum necessary to help India's predominantly poor population cope with the climate changes already affecting them. Modi has asked state governments to take measures to prevent deaths due to heat waves and fire incidents, but how exactly are they to do this? The National Action Plan on Heat-Related Illnesses does not focus on protecting people from heat exposure, but rather outlines relatively minor strategies for dealing with the consequences, and is really

intended to be used by government health departments and private health-care facilities.

That will do nothing for the nine out of ten employed people in India who are engaged in informal activities with no legal or social protection. These workers have virtually no fallback option if they do not go out to earn their living, no matter how terrible the weather. An International Labour Organization (ILO) report on heat stress and work identified agriculture and construction - the two largest employers in India - as the sectors that will be worst-affected in terms of deteriorating conditions and working-time losses as the planet warms. Other at-risk occupations like refuse collection also are dominated by very poor and low-paid informal workers.

These are the activities most likely to lead to serious health problems, and even death, if performed in extreme heat and humidity. But the hundreds of millions of Indians who work such jobs typically have no choice but to keep doing them.

One aspect of heat stress at work that even the ILO ignored concerns the unpaid work of hundreds of millions of women and girls in India who fetch water for daily household use. Scorching heat dries up existing surface water sources and reduces ground water supplies, forcing women and girls to walk longer distances and spend even more hours collecting and carrying water. It also makes these tasks more arduous and potentially life-threatening.

The ILO emphasizes that governments have to be the main drivers of adaptation to higher temperatures with respect to heat stress at work, including by providing universal social protection and ensuring occupational safety even for informal work. But the Indian government's public pronouncements and stated policies contain nothing of the kind, even as more intense and frequent heat waves are poised to become bigger killers in the subcontinent than the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The government is essentially leaving people to fend for themselves in a foreseeable tragedy. And it envisages continued investment in fossil fuels for decades to come.

"Mother Nature is just chemistry, biology, and physics. That's all she is," the environmentalist Robert Watson has said. "Mother Nature always bats last, and she always bats 1,000."

Governments must recognize that fundamental truth. But if record heat waves cannot persuade them, it is not easy to see what will.

*Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.*

O-PED

By Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

## To Fight Inflation, Fight Protectionism

**N**EW HAVEN - One of the main goals that US President Joe Biden has set for his administration is to empower American workers and the country's middle class. Many believe that globalization (along with several other factors) contributed to stagnating real wages, rising inequality, and the sense that American workers have lost out to workers in other countries with lower labor standards. But in its attempt to reverse these trends, the Biden administration has embraced protectionist rhetoric and policies that will cause American workers to lose once again.

Though any mention of the word "openness" is met with suspicion nowadays, the surge in inflation - the US Consumer Price Index was up 8.3% in April - has nonetheless prompted a discussion among economists about whether trade liberalization (and openness more generally) could be used to rein in rising prices. Since one of the main arguments for free trade is that it lowers prices for consumers, the link between open borders and inflation is worth contemplating.

To be clear, no reasonable economist claims that the recent inflation is the result of trade restrictions. By now, the causes are well understood to be a combination of pandemic-driven supply-side shortages, policy-fueled demand, and further supply-side disruptions caused by Russia's war in Ukraine. But as policymakers struggle to contain inflation without causing a recession, they must recognize that "Buy American" requirements, tariffs, and immigration restrictions may be making a bad situation worse.

According to a recent Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) policy brief, a feasible reduction of trade barriers "could deliver a one-time reduction in [CPI] inflation of around 1.3 percentage points." The study is conservative, focusing only on trade restrictions that can plausibly be lifted in the short term, and its authors are careful to emphasize that the result would be a one-time outcome. The proposed reduction of trade barriers would not solve the problem of rising prices; but it would make today's high prices lower.

US consumers would welcome such short-term relief. If the Biden administration finds it necessary to sell oil out of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve despite its commitment to addressing climate change, why shouldn't it also recognize the need to reverse Donald Trump's tariffs? In 2021, according to the PIIE brief, these duties still applied to more than half of US imports "subject to high tariffs, penalty duties, or severe quotas."

Perhaps more importantly, openness, whether it is free trade or immigration, also contributes to consumer welfare in indirect ways. Though these effects are often hard to quantify, they are of first-order importance, which is why economists often turn to first principles when debating them.

One of the most important benefits of free trade is that it exposes domestic firms (and labor markets) to greater competition, which induces them to keep prices low and to innovate constantly to stay ahead of the curve. Similarly, immigration eases labor-supply shortages, and high-skilled newcomers can boost productivity and innovation. Forward-looking countries understand this and embrace immigration. The United Kingdom, for example, has adopted a new skilled-worker visa program that welcomes graduates of top global universities.

It is deeply misguided to restrict trade and immigration at a time when rising domestic prices are of paramount concern. Now that everyone is fixated on inflation, it is worth considering why inflation was so low these past two decades, despite full employment in the United States (prior to the pandemic) and despite ultra-expansionary monetary policies. Globalization (now a loaded term) arguably had a lot to do with it, as did automation (another loaded term).

The prospect of outsourcing jobs to lower-wage countries or to machines constrained workers' bargaining power. At the same time, foreign competition constrained domestic firms' pricing power (though there is ample evidence that the cost reductions they achieved by globalizing production still allowed them to make hefty profits).

Workers and firms face a different reality today. Their jobs and businesses seem more secure now that the US has turned inward and embraced protectionism. The "Great Resignation" and other developments have reduced the supply of workers, increasing the bargaining power of those still in the labor force.

This could be a positive development, except that the high inflation rate has undermined efforts to make the average American worker better off. While nominal wages in the US rose by 5.6% in the year ending in March (more than an extrapolation of the earlier trend would have implied), that month's 8.5% inflation rate implied that real wages fell by 2.7%.

If there is any silver lining to today's inflation, it lies in the lessons that this episode has provided to policymakers and the public alike. Because the benefits of open borders (lower prices) are less salient than the costs (lost jobs or lower wages), and because consumer interests are not organized, while worker interests often are, there is a bias toward protectionist sentiment. Today's inflation highlights the need to resist this bias.

The current decline in real wages is a reminder that our well-being depends not only on the nominal wages we earn as workers but also on the prices we pay as consumers. Open borders can help keep prices low during a challenging time. Reversing the tariffs imposed by the Trump administration would be a step in the right direction.

*Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg, a former World Bank Group chief economist and editor-in-chief of the American Economic Review, is Professor of Economics at Yale University.*

OPINION

By Jayati Ghosh and Debamanyu Das

## Hidden Carbon Subsidies Will Destroy Us

**N**EW DELHI - The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change should terrify policymakers and ordinary people around the world. The IPCC warns that some disastrous climate outcomes are now likely to occur not in the distant future, but within the next 15 years, or even the next decade.

But instead of waking up to the threat and responding quickly, policymakers remain focused on Russia's horrific war against Ukraine and its immediate consequences. While this may be understandable, the Ukraine crisis has also exposed the excessively short-term policy orientation of Western governments. Many have quickly reneged on even the relatively meager and obviously inadequate climate pledges they made only a few months ago at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.

The invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent Western-led sanctions against Russia triggered a dramatic increase in fuel prices, when the energy market was already heating up because of the economic recovery in the United States and Europe. Yet, instead of seeing this price spike as an opportunity to hasten the shift away from fossil fuels, governments in advanced economies have tried to reduce the pain by keeping domestic energy prices low, for short-term political reasons.

US President Joe Biden's administration, after unsuccessfully imploring Saudi Arabia to increase oil production, has promised to release one million barrels a day from the US government's strategic reserves for the next six months. In Europe, which has been hit much harder by the fallout from the war because of its heavy reliance on Russian natural gas, the talk is not just of more nuclear energy but also of reviving coal-based power. Coal is by far the "dirtiest" fossil fuel, and rich countries routinely pillory India and China for using it.

Only those who previously swallowed Western governments' insincere green rhetoric, rather than examining the reality, should be surprised by this turn of events. These governments have been heavily subsidizing their own fossil-fuel industries even as they exhorted much poorer countries to do more to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. But the full extent of these subsidies has been hidden by the methods used to measure them.

The standard way to measure government support for fossil-fuel production or consumption is to look at direct budgetary transfers and subsidies, as well as tax breaks for the sector. Using this method, the OECD and the International Energy Agency estimate that governments across 52 advanced and emerging economies - accounting for about 90% of global fossil-fuel energy supply - provided fossil-fuel subsidies worth an average of \$555 billion per year from 2017 to 2019.

This support declined to \$345 billion in 2020, mainly because of the collapse in fuel prices and drop in consumption during the COVID-19 pandemic. But, even before the Ukraine war, there were fears that rebounding fuel prices could push up subsidies as the global economy recovered.

Those fears were more than borne out. It turned out that the bleakest estimates massively understated the actual fossil-fuel subsidies that governments provide. In a recent study, the International Monetary Fund devised a more comprehensive measure that includes both explicit subsidies, or undercharging for supply costs, and implicit subsidies, or undercharging for environmental costs and foregone consumption taxes.

The IMF estimated that global fossil-fuel subsidies in 2020 totaled \$5.9 trillion, more than ten times the OECD-IEA estimate. That is not surprising: Implicit subsidies accounted for 92% of the total.

Under both methodologies, India is a heavy subsidizer of fossil fuels - although lower-income countries can be partly excused, given the high cost of the green-energy transition. But other countries' rankings change in interesting ways when implicit subsidies are considered. Russia was the largest provider of explicit fossil-fuel subsidies, but the US - with an estimated \$662 billion of implicit subsidies in 2020 and nearly \$800 billion in 2021 - extends significantly more subsidies overall. China provided the largest implicit subsidies in 2020, totaling an estimated \$2.2 trillion.

These important numbers highlight the extent to which government intervention is skewing prices, and therefore market incentives, in favor of fossil fuels, rather than against them. While governments were supporting the fossil-fuel industry to the tune of \$5.9 trillion in 2020, the IPCC estimates that global climate finance from both public and private sources totaled only about \$640 billion that year.

Given this huge disparity, no one should be shocked at the fossil-fuel industry's continued resilience. The world is rapidly running out of time to limit global warming to 1.5° Celsius and avert a climate catastrophe. But the global economic system and many governments appear unable to take the threat seriously.

*Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism. Debamanyu Das is a research scholar at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.*



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

**1. SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-22-00009

**2. ISSUANCE DATE:** May 11, 2022

**3. CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** June 1, 2022, 11:59 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia

**4. POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at [LiberiaHR@usaid.gov](mailto:LiberiaHR@usaid.gov)

**5. POSITION TITLE:** Project Management Specialist (Strategic Information/Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning [SI/MEL])

**6. MARKET VALUE:** USD \$ 35,104 – 56,160 FSN-10

In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value. Note that all U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff are expected to observe and fulfill all tax obligations imposed by the Government of Liberia and you will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before employment.

**7. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** This contract will be for up to five years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.

**8. PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia.

**9. ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.

**10. SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility access.

## 11. STATEMENT OF DUTIES

### Basic Function of Position

The USAID Project Management Specialist (Strategic Information/Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning [SI/MEL]) position sits within the USAID Liberia Health Office, Service Delivery Team, and supports the development of and reporting on PEPFAR strategic information and monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems in support of Contracting/Agreement Officer's Representatives (C/AORs), Activity Managers and Advisors managing Mission PEPFAR programs/projects/activities as well as the interagency PEPFAR team.

The SI Specialist provides technical expertise for program monitoring and evaluation; data collection, use and analysis of large complex data sources; and surveillance and health informatics analysis and visualization for the USAID Mission, the broader PEPFAR inter-agency and host country stakeholders. He/she serves as the coordinator for meeting key reporting timelines related to the interagency Liberia PEPFAR program. The incumbent will be responsible for reporting on progress toward achieving PEPFAR targets as well as translating strategic information into improved PEPFAR programming, responsive service delivery and providing accountability for use of PEPFAR resources. S/He will coordinate data collection across the implementing agencies for all PEPFAR data streams, including performance indicators, site improvement through Monitoring System (SIMS) results, and expenditure analysis data.

The job holder guides USAID Implementing Partners (IP) and collaborates with development partner stakeholders and host country counterparts on mutually identified critical operational research and/or targeted public health evaluation questions; provides assistance in development of strategies and protocols to address those questions; and helps disseminate findings to the broader community within USG, development partners and host country stakeholders. The incumbent may be expected to perform work-related travel.

### Major Duties and Responsibilities

#### A. Program/Project/Activity Performance Management and Reporting (50%)

- Responds to strategic information inquiries; gathers and compiles regular updates for OGAC, PEPFAR West Africa Region, USAID/Washington; assists CORs/AORs/Activity Managers by interfacing directly with implementing partners on data reported to USAID, the interagency and/or to the Government of Liberia (GOL).
- Addresses program-related vulnerabilities; and shares pertinent information on other development partner programs. S/he conducts regular site visits to review and provide feedback on program implementation, this may include meeting with beneficiaries.
- Provides technical guidance to Health Office, Mission staff, IPs, and other USG agencies on MEL concepts, processes, design, training, and best practices. Provides guidance to IPs in understanding of the Performance Monitoring Plan systems, and their role in the process, and advises on specific measurement techniques appropriate for their programs/projects/activities.
- Provides technical strategic information (SI) and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) expertise to the Program Office, USAID/Washington, and other USG agencies in order to plan and manage Health Office responsibilities related to the PMP, including collection, assessment of validity, and improving data quality. Develops innovative and cross-cutting monitoring tools, including Data Quality Assessment and Improvement (DQA/I) tools in coordination with the Program Office and SI/MEL contractors; tracks and maintains multiple sets of key indicators, common indicators related to standard components in all USAID programs/projects/activities, indicators at the strategic objective level, and detailed indicators at the activity level; and, ensures proper collection of data, and that indicators serve in an appropriate measure of their corresponding result.
- Leads, designs and performs assessments/studies/research requiring independent analysis and interpretation, on a regular and recurring basis; studies and research are cross-cutting, and include substantive and often sensitive Mission and Health Office topics. Briefs Health Office and Mission leaders on findings and makes recommendations to impact strategic, operational and programmatic direction.

#### B. Technical Support (35%)

- Provides guidance to PEPFAR/Health team on defining measurable indicators and targets for desired results addressed by their program/project/activity, and edits quarterly, semi-annual, and annual performance reports. Provides technical expertise for program monitoring and evaluation; data collection use and analysis of large complex data sources; and surveillance and health informatics analysis and visualization for the USAID Mission, the broader PEPFAR inter-agency and host country stakeholders.
- Provides technical direction to the PEPFAR team to monitor progress toward objectives as detailed in the Regional Operations Plan (ROP).
- Provides technical and operational support to ensure necessary and timely program-level data analytics requirements from OGAC are accurately interpreted and communicated to relevant USG agencies, in preparation for the annual ROP/Strategic Direction Summary (SDS) planning and development process, as well as country and program-level quarterly reviews.
- Serves as a key member of the Mission's M&E Team coordinated by the Mission's Program Office; and as a reviewer of Mission evaluation designs and reports, participating on Mission evaluation teams.
- Guides USAID IPs and collaborates with development partner stakeholders and host country counterparts on mutually identified critical operational research and/or targeted public health evaluation questions; contributes to development of strategies and protocols to address those questions; and helps disseminate findings to the broader community within USG, development partners and host country stakeholders.
- Provides support on the development of standards and indicators for assessing program effectiveness and quality to be assessed on site visits and feedback provided to program staff.
- Provides support to strengthen the capacity of USAID and partners staff in the use of appropriate data management systems to measure and track progress made toward achieving targets based on required indicators. Advises on data collection and program monitoring tools and systems.
- Leads work and coordination with IPs to ensure PEPFAR data reporting requirements are met on a timely basis. Related activities include reviews of guidance documents, PEPFAR targets for the annual ROP, quarterly progress reports, and stakeholder meetings to analyze progress against targets.
- Assists in the analysis and interpretation of quantitative and qualitative data from various sources including SIMS (Site Improvement Monitoring System), Data for Accountability, Transparency, and Impact Monitoring (DATIM), District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2), and facility and partner-level data.
- Participates in the review and approval of annual work plans and periodic reports of USAID partners.

#### C. Representation & Public Speaking (15%)

- Attends external meetings, committees, and task teams, including GOL-facilitated technical working groups, as needed to represent the Liberia/PEPFAR interagency team.
- Supports development and presentations for research publications and/or abstracts for national and international conferences and symposiums.
- Presents PEPFAR program performance results, research results and M&E plans to OGAC, USAID/Washington, USAID/Liberia, PEPFAR interagency stakeholders and external stakeholders that include other development partners, private sector partners, GOL, USG counterparts from other countries and PEPFAR IPs.
- Actively engages in local SI capacity building of host country governments and other local organizations to strengthen the collection, analysis and use of data for program planning and direction.

- Travel:** International and local travel may be required.

- Supervision Controls:** None

- Supervisory Relationship:** The USAID Strategic Information / Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning [SI/MEL] Specialist works within the Service Delivery Team, and under the direct supervision of the Service Delivery Team Lead or designee. The supervisor makes assignments in terms of overall objectives and resources available. The day-to-day work is directed by the Care and Treatment Program Management Specialist. Completed work is reviewed in terms of achievement of program/project/activity goals, products produced, effectiveness in meeting host-country and USAID objectives, and integration with other initiatives in the Office and Mission portfolio. Some technical direction may come from other professionals in the Office; in general, however, the incumbent will be expected to exercise considerable autonomy and best judgment in discharging the duties of the assignment.

## 12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

## II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Education:** Minimum of bachelor's degree in social science, statistics, mathematics, mathematics, economics, computer science, epidemiology, health informatics, public health, infectious disease, zoonotic disease, biology is required.
- Prior Work Experience:** Minimum of five years of progressively responsible job-related professional-level experience in monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) and other surveillance systems, evaluation of program/project/activity implementation, in direct program/project/activity management, or in a closely related activity is required. Field experience as a public health program and/or technical officer, data collection, data quality evaluation and in fulfilling reporting requirements is required. Experience working in Liberia and/or in another African country and working in a multicultural bilingual environment is required.
- Post Entry Training:** Familiarization training in USAID- and PEPFAR-specific procedures, regulations, reporting tools and methods, and orientation to working from a donor-Agency perspective, will be provided. Successful completion of formal C/AOR training is necessary for proper job performance and will be provided. Training to maintain professional capability in the field, and other courses offered for professional USAID staff, as appropriate; and courses, seminars, conferences, and other activities in fields related to the function and needed to maintain and update professional qualifications may be provided as they become available, subject to availability of funds.
- Language Proficiency:** Level IV (fluent proficiency) in English (reading, written and spoken) is required. Language competence may be tested.
- Job Knowledge:** The incumbent must have in depth, professional-level knowledge of development approaches and methods for performance analysis, data visualization, and program design, monitoring, and evaluation. The incumbent must have excellent knowledge of MEL systems, public health programming, and international donor operations in the sector. The incumbent must have knowledge and understanding of the economic, political, social, and cultural characteristics of the host country; development problems in the health sector in the host country and the region; an understanding of the resources, resource constraints, and overall development prospects and priorities of the host country and the region. The incumbent must have working knowledge of USG legislation, policy, and practice relating to monitoring, evaluation, and learning, and of USAID programming policies, regulations, procedures, and documentation, and of the objectives, methodology, and status of assigned activities.
- Skills and Abilities:** The incumbent must have the ability to plan, organize, manage, and evaluate HIV-AIDS and clinical care activities. S/he must have strong verbal communication skills and diplomatic skills in order to form good working relations with technical level national and local government officials, other development partners and external stakeholders. Verbal communication skills must be sufficient to explain complex data analyses and interpret PEPFAR attitudes, priorities, and concerns. Writing skills must be sufficient to prepare and edit regular and ad-hoc reports with special emphasis on data visualization, in keeping with Agency and PEPFAR requirements. The incumbent must be proficient with Tableau, Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, Word and email platforms. S/he must have strong capacity to manage activity goals and achievements, both technical and financial; must have skills in project programming and strategy development; and must be able to work effectively in a team environment to achieve consensus on policy, project and administrative matters. The incumbent must have the ability to acquire knowledge of USAID programming policies, procedures, regulations and documentation, and of the objectives and methodology of assigned activities.

## III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

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

### 1. Selection Process

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

### 2. Evaluation Factors

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

### FACTOR #1:

In 250 words or less, describe your experience collecting, managing and visualizing HIV and/or other health care data. Highlight your experience with the HIV continuum of care. Provide examples of your information management skills to collect, analyze, manage and visualize data from the HIV prevention and treatment cascade.

### 3. Basis of Rating

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

#### Evaluation Factor: 10 points

Factor #1 10 points

#### Timed writing sample exercise: 50 points

The writing sample will demonstrate the candidate's ability to use a data management tool to interpret, analyze and visualize sample datasets for a typical PEPFAR HIV program.

#### Interview Performance: 40 point

Interview questions will provide the candidate the ability to:

- Management abilities
- Teamwork and interpersonal skills
- Technical knowledge

#### Total Possible Points 100 points

## IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line VA-669-22-00009– Project Management Specialist (Strategic Information/Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning [SI/MEL]) [LiberiaHR@usaid.gov](mailto:LiberiaHR@usaid.gov).

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

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

- A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
- A minimum of three (3) professional references with telephone and email contacts, who are not family members or relatives, with working telephone and email contacts. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities. At least one reference provided should be a current or former supervisor.
- A supplemental document with a written response to the Evaluation Factors. Candidates who are applying for this position must fully meet the education requirement (graduated and degree and/or diploma already received) as specified. Candidates must also meet the full work experience requirement and demonstrate in their application that they are an eligible offeror as required in I.9 above. There is no exception to these requirements.

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

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

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

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

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## ALCOP rejects VP slot in advance

The head of the Elder Council of the All Liberian Coalition Party (ALCOP) Alhaji Garfee Swaray says ALCOP will not succumb to any other political party for a vice presidential slot, stating that its goal is to produce a president.

Speaking Sunday, 15 May 2022 at the launch of a 'dollar rally,' Elder Swaray expressed optimism that the party's political leader Lusinee Kamara is the next President of Liberia after the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

"Lusinee Kamara will be the next President of Liberia.

all Liberians, which is development and reconciliation.

According to him, ALCOP is not a Mandingo party, as it is being insinuated in some quarters of Liberia.

He pointed out that the party is for all Liberians, even though it has a tribal base like any other political party in Liberia or across the globe.

"This party is not a Mandingo party, even though it was founded by the late Alhaji G.V. Kromah, who was a Mandingo man. It is inclusive of all the 16 tribes of Liberia," the ALCOP elder explained.

Kamara.

"It was based on the supreme interest of Liberians that I agreed to contest the ensuing 2023 [elections]," stated the ALCOP political leadership.

"Let's work together, let's join hands to improve the living conditions of our country. Our people cannot continue to sleep hungry, they need not to keep crying about bad roads and being unable to bring their farms' produce to town," Mr. Kamara said.

He pointed out that the country needs leadership that can improve the educational system, stressing that an ALCOP leadership is the best way forward.

With some internal wrangling reported within the party, the former House Speaker called on partisans to bury their differences and hold together.

In his doctrine of peace, he stated that it is time that all partisans hold together for the betterment of the party and the country at large.

In agreement with the head of the party's elder council, Mr. Kamara noted: "ALCOP is for all Liberians. It is for the Kpelleh, the Bassa, Lorma, Kissi, Belle and all other Liberians."

"Liberians need an honest leadership and ALCOP provides that condition. Let us hold hands together and let's push ALCOP forward. ALCOP is the party of the poor people, the people who feel disadvantaged to participate. If you don't decide to work together for yourself, no one will do it for you," he added.

The Chairman of the party, Mr. Ansu Dolley remained upbeat that no agenda will undermine the party or stop it from reaching the "promised land."

Like the elder, the ALCOP Chair noted that the party cuts across tribal and religious lines.

## 'Let's prevent the ugly past'

### Ex-Paynesville Mayor cautions youth



By Lincoln G. Peters

Head of the 2023 presidential and legislative elections, former Paynesville City Mayor Madam Cyvette Gibson has appealed to the conscience of young people across the country to prioritize dialogue over violence in order to prevent Liberia from returning to its ugly past.

According to the defeated Montserrado District #9 Representative candidate, youth are responsible for maintaining the peace, not only within their communities, but the country and within various political parties.

Speaking in an interview with this paper at the weekend, Madam Gibson disclosed that the youth make up over 60% of the population, therefore, they should stand their ground but in a non-violent manner.

"We are relying on the youth to build the nation because we

have set the foundation for them to follow. But that can only happen when they maintain the peace," said Madam Gibson.

"The youth now have the stage and platform for them to lay the foundation for their children ... and not us again because we are leaving," she cautioned.

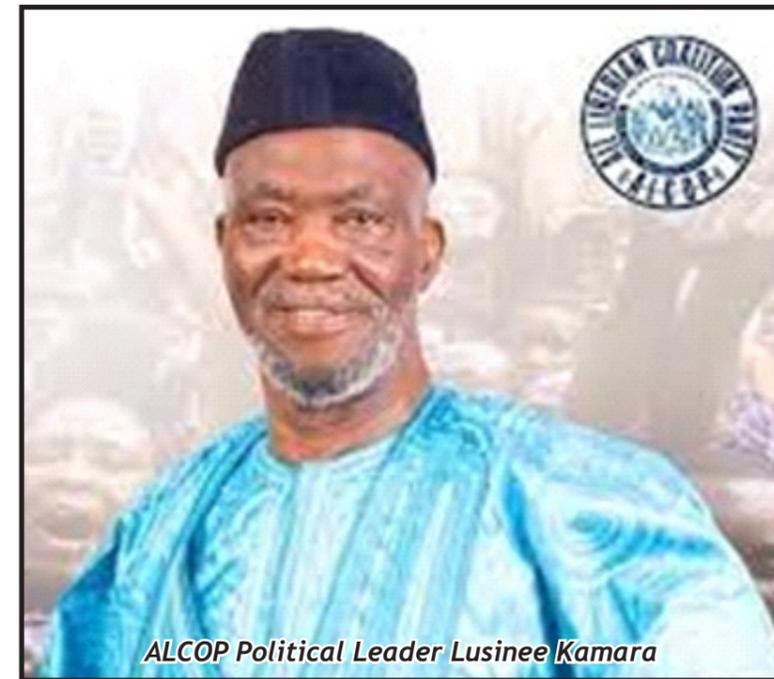
The former Paynesville mayor pointed out that any attempt for the youth to choose violence, they can rest assured of taking the country backward, adding that dialogue is the only path to maintaining the peace and youth should stand their ground in that path.

"Dialogue and learn to express yourself and disagree peacefully. Have clear understanding as to what it is you want and how you want it. However, violence should not be the way to go about doing it," Madam Gibson pleaded with the young people.

She said she's having consultation and taking this message of peace to the youth in the communities and political parties to know their rights and how to go about it.

"We have to maintain the peace even before and after elections," she stressed.

Madam Gibson called on the youth to vote for what is in the interest of the nation and not what is in their interest, cautioning them not to vote based on sympathy but should consider what will see Liberia in the right direction for the upliftment of everyone.



ALCOP Political Leader Lusinee Kamara

I mean Lusinee will not be a vice presidential candidate to anyone. We will not join any party, because we want to know our weight," said Elder Swaray.

"We want to weigh ourselves to know our weight. If we will join other parties, it will be after the first round of the elections, after which we will really know our weight," he said.

He called on partisans and Liberians to join hands to vote for ALCOP in 2023, stating that the party stands for the supreme interest of

Speaking at the rally, the political leader of the party, Mr. Lusinee Kamara, stated that an ALCOP leadership is the best option that will move the country forward.

The former Commerce and Finance Minister stated that ALCOP is geared towards honestly protecting the interest of every Liberian.

"I know the issues and will deal with the issues in the supreme interest of Liberians. We have worked in all sectors of the society, both in the Executive and the Legislature." said Mr.

## VP Taylor wants non-bailable drug law

By Lincoln G. Peters

Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor has stressed the need for everyone to join the campaign in seeking to make illicit drug offenses non-bailable, describing illicit drugs as a dangerous and critical national issue that is gradually damaging the fabric of the society.

Madam Howard-Taylor told journalists in Monrovia over the



weekend that they are looking into the amendment of the drug law to make sure it becomes non-bailable, saying she will continue to engage until the law is amended.

She noted that illicit drug is gradually damaging the society to the extent that it's being sold in schools and even children in kindergarten unknowingly abuse the substance when dealers mix it with candy and sell it to them.

"People need to talk about this because it's serious. The media also need to form part of this ... this campaign [to] make drug law a non-bailable offense in our country," the Vice President said.

"Through this, people who bring drugs in our country have enough money and so they usually go to the court and pay money for their release whenever they are caught. But when it's non-bailable, all that will not happen," she argued.

According to VP Howard-Taylor, when she was senator of Bong County, she worked with the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) to amend the drug law.

She said there were some drugs that were not even captured, but worked with them to have them placed on the book.

Madam Howard-Taylor disclosed that she is working with several local organizations conducting drug awareness in high schools across the country, noting that their aim is to ensure that children are informed about the negative impact of drugs and how they can prevent themselves from coming in contact with it.

"We are working with organizations to prevent this from spreading across the country. Our motto is 'Be smart, do not start,'" said Madam Howard-Taylor.

"We want the youth to know that when you start, it's difficult to leave it. We all have to take the campaign to make drug law non-bailable. I fought and made sure that all our 1960 drugs laws were captured, new ones were also added to help save the society," she continued.

She noted that as the Senate returns, she will make sure she works with senators to make this non-bailable by bringing it on the floor for discussion.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Fire disaster declared national emergency

### -As LNFS graduates 135 Fire Fighters

By Lewis S Teh

The Government of Liberia through the Liberia National Fire Service (LNFS) has declared that fire disasters are a national emergency that must be given serious attention.

Over the weekend, LNFS Director Col. Alex Dickson said while it is true that over the past time the Government of Liberia, and the United States have been providing support to the institution, more needs to be done for the institution to adequately carry out its core function in terms of fighting fire.

He made the statement when the LNFS graduated 135 new firefighters during a ceremony held at the Barclay Training Center (BTC).

The graduates completed training in different types of firefighting sciences for about six weeks. Six international trainers from the United States of America, Ghana and Nigeria, among others, facilitated the exercise.

In what was described as a special statement at the graduation ceremony, Director Dickson said his entity has recorded about 46 fire cases with 3 death reports from January to May this year.

Col. Dickson declared the fire incidents in Liberia is a 'national emergency' and encouraged the public to apply all preventive measures in order to be on the safe side.

He lauded the Liberian government for making all efforts to procure eight fire

engines and an ambulance. He revealed that when he took over the service as Director, the LNFS had only one fire truck. But through consistent engagement with various stakeholders within four years, he said the government was able to procure six additional fire trucks which are currently being used.

Col. Dickson explained that eight more along with an ambulance are expected to be procured by the

tireless efforts [you] put in to conclude this training. We are proud of you and it's our hope that you will perform the duty for which you were called. Congratulations again," Col. Dickson noted.

According to Col. Dickson, from 1963 to 2022, the Fire Service has been in a rental building, but he presented a blueprint of what the Fire Service would look like.

He further used the occasion to extend heartfelt thanks to the government and its partners for their support.



government shortly. "Today we all can see what is happening in Ukraine with firefighters on the front line helping to save lives and protecting properties, but this will only happen when your men are trained and this is why we continue to train firefighters, said Col. Dickson.

"To the Graduates, we want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to you for all the sacrifices and the

The graduation ceremony at the BTC brought together an array of government officials including Cllr. F. Musah Dean, Jr., Minister of Justice & Attorney General of Liberia; U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Michael A. McCarthy; Amb. Kwabena Okubi-Appiah, Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana; Defense Minister Daniel D. Ziankahn, Jr.; and Dr. Samora P.Z. Wolokollie, Deputy Finance Minister for Fiscal Affairs.

## LIBA launches digital platform to address local farmers' challenges



The Liberia Business Association (LIBA) in partnership with the Rapid Food Production Initiative (RFPI) over the weekend officially launched the Locality-Sensitive Agriculture Electronic Database (L-SAED) to address the many challenges facing local farmers in terms of accurate data collection.

The platform is intended to serve as a source for all critical data needed for the full implementation of the Liberia Food Production Program (LFPP). The feature also allows real time tracking of monetary value of all input and output of local farmers across Liberia.

When in full swing, the application will also generate a source-by-source basic financial statements and other reports for farmers and post-harvest actors in the agriculture sector of the country.

Speaking during the launching exercise, LIBA president James Strother said the platform is a boost in the quest to tackle food insecurity.

According to him, the application will go a long way in addressing the many challenges facing farmers in terms of accurate data collection.

"With this application, LIBA and her collaborating implementing partners will be able to determine which farmer, in which locality of Liberia, is cultivating how much

land or in what size of facility to produce what types of food," the LIBA president stated.

He reminded farmers at the event of the significance of the L-SAED platform for the rapid production of food in relation to value-added chain mechanism among Liberian farmers.

"This is the domestic capacity that needs to be created before we can take control of the national food security situation, in addressing the issue of Liberia's dependency on food imports," said Mr. Strother.

Mr. Strother used the occasion to call on local farmers to take advantage of the platform in extending and expanding their production.

According to him, while the government is making tremendous effort by creating the enabling environment, farmers need to take the challenge in doubling their proceeds beyond the market of Liberia.

He noted that, with the Liberia Food Production Program initiative, LIBA is facilitating and encouraging its members to produce food on a commercial scale.

Giving an overview of the platform, RFPI Executive Director Michael George said the focus of the initiative is to get farmers into cooperatives in outlining their need to the government and the donor community.

## Sethi workers union reject media report



The Workers Union of the Sethi Brothers steel company has rejected media reports that the union is planning a strike action against the company.

In a press release issued over the weekend, the workers union clarified that the alleged planned strike reported is false and misleading, saying such information has the propensity to undermine the work of the Pro - Poor Agenda and destroy the company's image.

According to the release signed by the workers union's president Mr. Richard Weah, the group's attention has been drawn to ongoing misleading, malicious and false information against the company by some

unscrupulous individuals.

Mr. Weah is quoted in the release as saying that the workers union strongly believes that such misleading information against Sethi Brothers is only intended to damage the good image of the company and put the management and the workers at loggerhead.

Weah added that this is intended to sabotage the economy and scare away potential investors that are in the country, as well as those who desire to make investment here.

Mr. Weah wondered why reputable media institutions will be hosting people who are spreading such news without getting the workers union's side of the story or contacting Sethi Brothers management.

"We want to make this clear, that while we all know that no institution is problem free, let it be known that any grievances we have will always be channeled through the proper authority which is the Ministry of Labor, rather than running to the media," he said.

According to the release Sethi Brothers is one of the renowned companies operating in Liberia that are promoting the image of the government by having many youthful Liberians in their employ in order to reduce the poverty rate in the country.

The release indicated that during the period of the Covid-19 epidemic, workers of the company that were sitting home received their regular salaries on a monthly basis.

# Français

## Exploitation des terres au Libéria : des Burkinabè, entre conflits et coups bas

L'ambassadeur du Burkina Faso au Libéria avec résidence à Abidjan, Mahamadou Zongo, a échangé, le mercredi 4 mai 2022 à Soubré, avec les compatriotes travaillant dans les plantations dans des comtés libériens de Grand Gedeh et Nimba.

Les conditions de vie des compatriotes exploitant des champs de cacao au Libéria, précisément dans les comtés de Grand Gedeh et de Nimba, n'ont plus de secret pour l'ambassadeur du Burkina

auprès de ce pays, Mahamadou Zongo. Les planteurs, embarqués dans l'aventure libérienne, ont porté leurs préoccupations à sa connaissance, le mercredi 4 mai 2022, au cours d'une rencontre tenue au consulat général du Burkina à Soubré. La plupart d'entre eux viennent de ce département du Sud-Ouest de la Côte d'Ivoire, à partir duquel ils vont au Libéria. Le premier problème soulevé est relatif aux querelles de leadership et autour de la gestion des terres louées généralement auprès des autochtones libériens. Des Burkinabè installés à Grand

Gedeh et à Nimba se déchirent, au point de corrompre des agents de l'immigration pour qu'ils maltraitent leurs compatriotes, les emprisonnent ou les dépossèdent de leurs plantations. Plusieurs témoignages pathétiques ont permis de cerner cette triste réalité.

L'ambassadeur du Burkina Faso, Mahamadou Zongo, a promis que l'Etat travaillera à faciliter les conditions de séjour des compatriotes au Libéria.

« J'ai acquis un terrain auprès des Libériens pour cultiver du cacao. Quand mon champ a commencé à produire, un frère, de mèche avec d'autres compatriotes et les autorités locales ont chassé mes employés pour occuper impunément une partie de mon périmètre », a raconté André Kaboré. Rodrigue Ouédraogo, un autre Burkinabè provenant de Guiglo, a aussi conté ses misères. « J'ai mené des démarches auprès des autorités libériennes, qui m'ont accordé 3 000 hectares

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Embargo de la CEDEAO : le Mali reçoit 52 camions citernes de produits pétroliers de la Guinée (officiel)

À Ouagadougou ce samedi 14 mai 2022, des centaines de jeunes se sont mobilisés à l'appel de l'organisation « Urgences panafricanistes » dont font partie plusieurs autres Organisations de la société civile (OSC) du Burkina Faso pour un Meeting à la maison du peuple afin réclamer « le départ de la France du Burkina ». À l'occasion, la presse était mobilisée pour l'activité. À sa prise de parole Kemi Seba a demandé à ce que soit expulsée la journaliste Franco-Burkinabè de TV5 Monde Afrique.

C'est sous forte escorte que Fanny Naoré Kabré, journaliste franco-burkinabè, correspondante de TV5 monde au Burkina a été expulsée du meeting de « Urgences panafricanistes » qui s'est tenu à la maison du peuple de Ouagadougou. Ce meeting dont le principal orateur n'est autre que Kemi Seba, le panafricaniste

franco-béninois avait pour but, la réclamation du départ de la France du Burkina. Ainsi, dès sa prise de parole Kemi Seba a demandé à la journaliste de TV5 Monde Afrique de sortir. Et c'est avec l'acclamation de la foule, comme pour saluer l'action de Kemi Seba que celle-ci a été raccompagnée sous forte escorte à l'extérieur

de la maison du peuple.

Il faut le dire, la France et sa politique sont de plus en plus contestées et reniées dans certains pays d'Afrique. Aujourd'hui même au Tchad des jeunes ont saccagé un consul de la France au Tchad et vandalisé des entreprises françaises, dont des stations-services de l'entreprise française Total.



## Éditorial

### Chef d'état-major Maj./Gen. Johnson a été brutalement franc

Le ministre de la Défense Daniel Ziankan n'avait aucune raison de venir clarifier une fuite audio sur les réseaux sociaux en dépit de son calendrier chargé si ce n'est très important pour la sécurité nationale.

Dans l'audio en question, le chef d'état-major des Forces armées du Libéria (AFL), le major/général Prince C. Johnson, a vivement critiqué le ministre des Finances Samuel D. Tweah, pour la réduction de 20 % du salaire des soldats.

Nous pensons que cette réduction est absolument anormale en premier lieu et n'aurait pas dû prendre effet.

Dans une fuite audio, on entend un major/général plutôt furieux critiquer la réduction et condamner la décision du ministre des Finances, qui, selon lui, constitue une menace sérieuse pour les troupes libériennes en mission de maintien de la paix au Mali, où elles sont confrontées à des problèmes de location et à d'autres obligations.

Au milieu de la stagnation économique actuelle du pays, le moins qu'un gouvernement responsable ferait serait de réduire les revenus des soldats. Selon les mots du politicien de l'opposition Alexander B. Cummings, les travailleurs de la fonction publique devraient gagner un salaire décent. Mais au Libéria, c'est loin d'être le cas, sauf pour les copains du président.

Le moteur de recherche mondial Goggle définit le salaire vital comme un niveau de revenu théorique qui permet aux individus ou aux familles de s'offrir un logement, de la nourriture et d'autres nécessités adéquates. L'objectif est de permettre aux salariés de gagner un revenu suffisant pour un niveau de vie satisfaisant qui les empêcherait de tomber dans la pauvreté. Les économistes suggèrent qu'il devrait suffire de s'assurer que pas plus de 30 % des revenus sont consacrés au logement.

Au Libéria, les travailleurs de la fonction publique, y compris les forces de sécurité, vivent en dessous du seuil de pauvreté, leurs revenus disponibles étant incapables de répondre à leurs besoins fondamentaux, sans parler de leurs désirs.

Ainsi, lorsque le chef d'état-major de l'armée, qui est directement responsable des soldats qui sacrifient leur vie à l'étranger, apprend que leurs revenus déjà maigres sont arbitrairement réduits de 20 %, il est frustré, car cela fait baisser le moral.

Le budget annuel du ministère de la Défense est inférieur à 20 millions de dollars américains et comprend l'infanterie et la Garde côtière nationale. Lorsque l'armée a été dissoute après la guerre civile en 2003, les hommes enrôlés ont reçu une allocation à vie de 520 \$ US chacun et ce fut la fin.

Ce n'est que grâce aux missions de maintien de la paix que les soldats, en particulier en Afrique, gagnent un revenu décent qui pourrait assurer leur entretien après le service actif. Mais lorsque cet argent est coupé pour une raison quelconque, comme dans le cas des troupes libériennes en mission de maintien de la paix au Mali, il y a toutes les raisons de mécontentement et de frustration.

Le gouvernement devrait être prudent dans la façon dont il traite les soldats, qui sacrifient leur vie pour le pays. Ils méritent tout honneur et respect, particulièrement en ce qui concerne leur bien-être.

Nous pensons que le major/général. Johnson ne faisait son devoir que dans des circonstances désagréables. Il a utilisé le langage militaire brutal auquel il a été entraîné, et il n'y a aucune raison qu'il s'excuse.

# Français

## Exploitation des terres au Libéria

pour une entreprise agricole. J'ai voulu associé d'autres compatriotes, mais j'ai été torpillé et trahi, de sorte que mon projet est tombé à l'eau », a-t-il confié. Il a renchéri en ces termes : « des compatriotes ont même comploté pour qu'on m'expulse de la maison où j'habite, en proposant le double de mon loyer à mon bailleur ».

« C'est de la jalousie »

D'autres mésaventures ont été également rendues publiques, au grand dam du porte-parole de la communauté burkinabè au Libéria, Noufou Congo. « Il y a des Burkinabè qui sont solidaires, mais il y a d'autres qui dépensent leur argent pour faire du mal à d'autres Burkinabè », a regretté celui-ci. La plupart des auteurs des témoignages ont pointé du doigt le planteur, Simon Zongo, Burkinabè installé à Grand Gedeh, considéré comme la source de leurs malheurs. Avec la bénédiction des autorités locales, il se ferait passer pour le maître des forêts libériennes, décidant de qui peut disposer de terres ou pas, selon certains compatriotes. D'autres accusent Simon Zongo d'être mêlé à la mort de certains Burkinabè. Présent à la rencontre, l'intéressé a réagi aux « attaques » contre sa personne. « C'est de la jalousie.

Je suis arrivé au Libéria en 2017, après nombre de compatriotes. J'ai travaillé à acquérir des terrains que j'ai fait border en dépensant plus de 47 millions F CFA et sur lesquels je cultive du cacao. C'est sur cette base, que j'ai commencé à céder des terres à d'autres Burkinabè. Seulement, certains veulent squatter mes terrains, ce que

je n'admettrai jamais », a-t-il expliqué. M. Zongo, dont le nom est sur toutes les lèvres, ne s'est pas limité à là, dans sa défense. « Des compatriotes ont dit aux autorités locales, que je voulais instaurer une rébellion au Libéria, pour me créer des problèmes. D'autres m'ont accusé d'avoir tué des gens, détruit des champs, des maisons, etc. J'ai été enfermé pendant neuf mois à cause de ces accusations non fondées. J'ai dépensé plus de 9 millions F CFA pour être libéré », a poursuivi le planteur.

Il dit employer plus de 2000 personnes et disposer de plus de 100 000 hectares de terres au Libéria. « Je n'ai jamais souhaité du mal d'un Burkinabè. On m'en veut pour rien », a clamé Simon Zongo, qui semble être la risée de la communauté burkinabè au Libéria. Entouré entre autres du ministre conseiller, Roger Konombo et du consul général de Soubré, Honoré Bazié, l'ambassadeur du Burkina au Libéria a déploré les « règlements de compte » entre compatriotes. « Il y a beaucoup de désaccords entre les Burkinabè. Nous ne sommes pas là pour donner raison à qui que ce soit. Nous devons travailler à éviter les bagarres inutiles. Il faut cultiver la paix et l'entente », a réagi le diplomate. « Nous allons voir comment faire, pour que chaque Burkinabè installé au Libéria, travaille dans sa plantation dans la tranquillité », a-t-il ajouté. L'ambassadeur a été aussi interpellé sur la location des terres au Libéria, qui ne met pas les Burkinabè à l'abri de brouilles avec leurs tuteurs, les documents établis n'étant pas reconnus par les autorités locales.

De la question des terres

« Il n'y a pas une loi qui détermine la durée de l'exploitation des champs au Libéria. Les documents signés avec les tuteurs ne sont pas.

accueilli un premier convoi de 52 camion-citernes remplis de produits pétroliers. Les dizaines de camion-citernes ont été accueillis par les directeurs généraux de la Douane malienne. Il y avait également les responsables de l'office nationale des produits pétroliers (ONAP).

Le Président de la chambre de commerce et d'industrie du Mali était aussi présent.

Pour les autorités maliennes et guinéennes, ce convoi est juste un premier. D'autres plus importants vont suivre dans les prochains jours et prochaines semaines.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

### En Inde, les travailleurs meurent de chaud et le gouvernement ne fait rien

**N**EW DELHI - Le roman de science-fiction prémonitoire de Kim Stanley Robinson, *The Ministry for the Future* (non traduit en français), commence par la description saisissante d'une énorme vague de chaleur dans une ville du nord de l'Inde qui tue des millions de personnes. Bien que les événements du roman se déroulent quelques décennies dans le futur, ils semblent d'une actualité terrifiante dans le contexte de la vague de chaleur sans précédent qui frappe le centre et le nord de l'Inde et le Pakistan depuis la fin mars.

Au mois d'avril, période normalement marquée par un temps printanier tardif avec des températures maximales moyennes ne dépassant pas 35°C, les températures diurnes ont dépassé 46°C à New Delhi. Dans plusieurs endroits de la région, les températures ont oscillé autour de 45°C pendant deux mois, avec un pic de 49°C à Jacobabad au Pakistan le 30 avril, et de 47,2°C à Banda dans le centre de l'Inde. Il s'agit du mois d'avril le plus chaud enregistré depuis le début des relevés météo en Inde, soit depuis 122 ans.

Bien que la chaleur soit légèrement retombée depuis début mai, la saison chaude ne fait que commencer dans la région. Les météorologues indiens prédisent déjà qu'en partie à cause du déficit pluviométrique par rapport à la normale, les températures dépasseront 50°C dans une grande partie de l'Asie du Sud avec l'arrivée de la période estivale. Ces conditions climatiques peuvent s'avérer mortelles parce que la combinaison d'une chaleur extrême et d'une humidité élevée empêche l'évaporation de la sueur, réduisant ainsi la capacité du corps à se refroidir.

C'est la raison pour laquelle la température du thermomètre mouillé (Tw), ou la température humide, qui tient à la fois compte de la chaleur et de l'humidité de l'air, est importante. Lorsque cette température avoisine 32°C, les activités extérieures deviennent difficiles et éprouvantes. Si elle dépasse 35°C, passer quelques heures à l'ombre, même sans activité physique, peut entraîner la mort. Plusieurs villes indiennes ont récemment connu des températures de près de 30°C Tw. Ces températures pourraient augmenter lors des prochaines canicules et être fatales pour les êtres humains, exactement comme le décrit Robinson dans son roman.

Pourtant, les preuves factuelles indiquant que le changement climatique se produit plus rapidement que les prévisions scientifiques les plus pessimistes ne semblent pas inciter les pouvoirs publics à infléchir de toute urgence les orientations économiques, que ce soit en Inde ou ailleurs dans le monde. Comme trop d'autres gouvernements, l'administration du Premier ministre indien Narendra Modi se montre peu encline à mettre en œuvre les changements politiques et à consacrer les ressources budgétaires nécessaires pour réduire les émissions de dioxyde de carbone et diminuer la pollution, des mesures pourtant essentielles pour éviter une catastrophe climatique.

En réalité, le gouvernement ne fait même pas le strict minimum pour aider la population indienne, majoritairement pauvre, à faire face aux changements climatiques qui l'affectent déjà. Modi a demandé aux gouvernements des États indiens de prendre des mesures pour prévenir les décès dus aux vagues de chaleur et aux incendies, mais comment doivent-ils s'y prendre exactement? Le Plan national d'action contre les maladies liées

à la chaleur ne prévoit pas de protéger les personnes contre l'exposition aux chaleurs extrêmes, seulement des stratégies limitées pour atténuer leurs conséquences, et il s'adresse avant tout aux services de santé publique et aux établissements de soins privés.

Il n'est d'aucune utilité pour les neuf personnes sur dix en Inde qui travaillent dans l'économie informelle, sans protection juridique ou sociale. Ces travailleurs n'ont pas d'autre option qu'une activité à l'extérieur, aussi terribles que puissent être les conditions climatiques. Un rapport de l'Organisation internationale du travail (OIT) sur le stress thermique au travail définit l'agriculture et la construction - les deux principaux employeurs en Inde - comme les secteurs qui seront les plus directement concernés par la dégradation des conditions de travail et les pertes de productivité liées au réchauffement de la planète. Les emplois dans d'autres secteurs particulièrement exposés, comme le ramassage des ordures, sont aussi majoritairement occupés par des travailleurs informels très pauvres et peu rémunérés.

Ces activités en extérieur sont les plus susceptibles d'entraîner de graves problèmes de santé, voire la mort, si elles sont effectuées dans des conditions de chaleur et d'humidité extrêmes. Mais les centaines de millions d'Indiens qui occupent ces emplois n'ont généralement pas d'autre choix que de continuer à les exercer.

L'un des aspects du stress thermique au travail que même l'OIT n'aborde pas est celui du travail non rémunéré des centaines de millions de femmes et de filles en Inde qui vont chaque jour chercher de l'eau pour les besoins du foyer. Les canicules assèchent les eaux de surface et abaissent le niveau des nappes phréatiques, ce qui oblige les femmes et les filles à parcourir des distances toujours plus longues et à consacrer toujours plus de temps à la collecte et au transport de l'eau, rendant cette tâche plus pénible et potentiellement mortelle.

L'OIT souligne que les gouvernements doivent mettre en œuvre des politiques d'adaptation aux températures plus élevées pour atténuer le stress thermique au travail, notamment en assurant une protection sociale universelle et en garantissant la sécurité au travail, même pour les emplois informels. Mais les déclarations publiques et les politiques affichées du gouvernement indien ne contiennent rien de tel, alors même que des vagues de chaleur plus intenses et plus fréquentes sont sur le point de devenir plus meurtrières dans le sous-continent que la pandémie du Covid-19.

Le gouvernement indien laisse essentiellement la population se débrouiller seule face à une tragédie prévisible. Et il envisage de continuer à investir dans les combustibles fossiles pour les décennies à venir.

Comme l'a dit Sir Robert Watson, ancien président de la Plate-forme intergouvernementale scientifique et politique sur la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques (IPBES), « Mère Nature fait simplement ce que lui dicent la chimie, la biologie et la physique. Mère Nature a toujours le dernier mot et elle gagne toujours ».

Les gouvernements doivent admettre cette vérité fondamentale. Si les vagues de chaleur sans précédent ne parviennent pas à les convaincre, on voit mal ce qui le pourrait.

*Jayati Ghosh, professeure d'économie à l'université du Massachusetts à Amherst, est membre du Conseil consultatif de haut niveau sur un multilatéralisme efficace du secrétaire général des Nations unies.*

## Embargo de la CEDEAO : le Mali reçoit 52 camions citernes de produits pétroliers de la Guinée (officiel)

**F**ace à l'embargo imposé par la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) et la communauté internationale, le Mali a trouvé un appui auprès de la Guinée.

Après le déplacement il y a une semaine d'une forte délégation malienne à Conakry pour rencontrer les autorités de la transition guinéennes, la coopération entre les deux pays connaît une accélération.

Ce jeudi, le Mali a

# ARTICLE

# ARTICLE

## Elections 2023 Will Be About Weah/CDC Six Years In Power – Love For Country and Hope for Change Failed The People

By: *Racassius Jedekan Weah*

I do not know if comprehension or purposeful collective amnesia is an issue here but let me make this abundantly clear, ELECTIONS 2023 WILL BE ABOUT PRESIDENT WEAH AND CDC RECORD IN POWER and NOTHING ELSE. Though my compatriots from the CDC, celebrate and enjoy privatizing the benefits of winning an election but struggle daily to pass the buck to the excluded opposition and past governments for current public policy failures, bad personnel choices, and botched governance. Folks, take off your blinders, the opposition was not voted in 2017, it was the CDC, and it is President Weah and his CDC that govern our country. THE PEOPLE KNOW THIS VERY WELL. Sometimes the rubbishes, lies, and deceits many of our ruling party brethren spew daily in different fora in the name of politics and or strategy, are mostly condescending, obnoxious, nonsensical, irritating, nauseating, and insensitive. I do not know who pays these folks to write and speak such infantile gutter stuff in the name of propaganda and strategy. No matter how you dress the goat, a goat is a goat - it bleats!

So let me endeavor to enlighten my willfully blind friends on the CDC/government side since they assume that all of us who disagree with government policy choices hate the President. WE LOVE THE PRESIDENT BUT SIMPLY DISAGREE WITH MANY OF HIS POLICIES! You all can imagine that if Weah was not the president, many of us would have little or no reason to disagree with him so strongly on policy grounds because he would not have life-changing decisions to make concerning millions of his compatriots. I am sure that the waste they feed our presidents daily to mask their dismal performances in their respective roles can sometimes be overwhelming and or overbearing. But what they are not reminding the president of is that when they were in opposition and disagreed with the UP and made careers out of insulting President Sirleaf daily (that's how the Kojjees, Morlus, Grays, and others cut their teeth in CDC), they didn't HATE the president (or at least nobody considered their very disrespectful and provocative dissent, hate), they were doing the opposition business. Now it should be different. Twisted logic from feeble minds!!! CDC will account for its stewardship for the 6 years and no amount of attempt at shifting blame will help. These are some of the issues the people are already settled on:

When people die mysteriously and there are no conclusive investigative reports or the perpetrators are not brought to book, while the police make repeated rash statements incident after incident, it is fair to imagine that our government is clueless, careless, and even complicit because our collective security is the responsibility of the government and not any imaginary opposition that wields no coercive state power and has no access to the national coffers. It is beyond imprudent to think that the opposition can be blamed for the government's inaction or incompetence on the matter of unsolved crimes.

Further, no one beyond the cool-aid drinkers and their patrons will hold any opposition responsible for alleged unsolved murders, rapes, armed robbers, carjacking, and broad day thievery in the public sector or against private peaceful citizens. Government must provide a sense of security and redress for victims. The people cannot all be expected to sit supinely when nothing is done about their sorrows. Frustration may boil over, and when it does, the government's solution, as it is now, should not be to flog the people or arrest them. Government should provide answers. So, this rubbish you all spew daily when you blame everyone else but you for your failures in the name of politics is unhelpful to your cause and

counterproductive to your benefactors. You all stop fooling each other and try to solve the problems or at least make an honest attempt. No one expects you to wave a magic wand at the problem, but at the very least, we expect that you will be sincere and give your best efforts. Be honest and accept failures the same way you maximize marginal progress. You are not writing politics or doing politics here when you take responsibility for nothing as governors of the country. And if people are paying you for the incessant junk you write daily, then we should book an appointment for those people with the Psychiatrist ... necessary!

When the dim Chinese street lights you celebrated like you had established an endowment fund to secure the future of coming generations can hardly come on because you refuse to appreciate that power supply was a binding constraint and therefore solar-powered lights were the viable option, the people will not blame the opposition for spending stupid millions simply because, as you claimed, UP only setup the HFO plant on Bushrod Island, and rehabilitated the Mt. Coffee instead of rebuilding a new hydro. The people know the reason your Chinese Christmas lights can barely come or come on so intermittently, is you and the quality of your decision over the five years, or lack thereof. In five years, you have failed to show a better way on many fronts so the question will be WHAT HAVE YOU DONE DIFFERENTLY CDC, besides whining and passing the blame for your lack of innovation and investing the meager resources in critical sectors.



Instead of accepting that you have been incompetent in ways, accepting the error of your policies, and recalibrating, you have remained stubborn and naïvely arrogant in your failure to your detriment. You delude yourselves into thinking the opposition that you have sidelined can be held responsible for your glaring governance failures simply because you say so. Yes, the "sycamorian" who feed off your every delusion, and cling to your every fakery, will believe you - I mean, continue to believe you – but the size of your ardent believers and or "worshipers" is dwindling because they are enduring the most pain from your glaring failures ... can't you see?

Don't you think that the people know when they have been disproportionately harmonized to the extent that their irregular salaries can hardly take "papa home," to quote Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Do you think they will hold the opposition responsible for this when they know that recurring expenditure, including the public sector wage bill, increased under your watch while their disposable income decreased? The people are feeling the effect of your ill-advised policy in their pockets.

Don't you know that the people understand that the dim Chinese lights you installed in county capitals and the latter-day scholarships you are offering after 4 years in power to students of some counties are all but a charade and electioneering ploy that addresses

no bread-and-butter issues? Can't you tell that unless you dig your head out of the sand and change course on both the policy and personnel front, and it might already be too late to do this, the going will get tougher and your words will no longer be soothing, but will become an irritant as they may have already?

Don't you know that when the people voted on the fabled abstract notion of LOVE FOR COUNTRY, they gambled and expected that their lot would change and not just the lot of the small inner circle? Beyond overcrowding the public sector with mostly incompetent and ill-prepared party hacks, how many private-sector jobs have you created. How have you helped the informal employment sector when the business climate has not been enhanced to attract FDI so that the benefits of the employment derivative activities generated by such FDI will trickle down to the small businessman?. In five years, which major international investor that was not already here or on the verge of beginning operations here in Liberia, have you attracted to this country you LOVE?

Don't you know that the people will not hold the opposition responsible for news about scandal after scandal and public swindles but your government, which has struggled to explain these allegations or address them to satisfactory ends, whether true or not. Do you not know that the people have not gotten the proper explanation for the \$25M mob up or suck-up, if you will, and the Covid-19 US\$25 Million relief which hardly 10% of the population received? Do you not know that if nothing is done about Bali Island, the coastal highway, and the many promises, the people will see them as broken promises and hold the CDC government responsible and not the opposition? Don't you know that your PAPD will be used as a baseline to query your performance in terms of percentage delivered? Watch!!!

Don't you know that the people will be annoyed when the hospitals are without necessary drugs and supplies, but your government, through the Minister of State, can afford to donate \$100,000 to ULAA and promise an additional \$300,000 in annual budgetary support to a people who sustained this economy via their remittances in the difficult years? Don't you think it will be perfectly rational and appropriate that the people consider your government priorities to be upside down and not the opposition? What informs the kind of thinking that led to this donation and the commitment of future resources by a sitting minister of a government that is struggling to meet revenue targets? I should like to read some budget performance reports if there are any.

Don't you know when the community roads are constructed irregularly to signal favoritism, the people understand that the government is not altruistic, authentic, organized, and methodical in its approach. Check the number of roads that were skipped from SKD Stadium going to wherever the community road work stopped on the RIA highway, and you will understand that neighborhoods are frustrated that the so-called bad road medicine has not cured their bad roads.

Don't you know that the people understand that the Somalia drive road (Japan Highway), ELWA to Redlight, the proposed overpass to the Ministerial Complex, the Ganta to Yekepa roads were all negotiated and funds committed before you took over; and if possible the ELWA to RIA road, which is under construction or just starting, everything else you have dedicated and celebrated is reaping where you have not sowed without giving deserved credits?

# Boakai: Weah should take decisive steps

Former vice President Joseph N. Boakai has urged President George Weah to take bold and decisive steps and policy actions aimed at unifying Liberians within the remaining months of his administration.

Mr. Boakai, the political leaders of the former

National Unification Day is realized.

In his Unification Day message to the nation, Mr. Boakai, who doubles as the standard bearer of the UP notes that National Unification Day, was a day set aside by an act passed in 1960 to recognize benefits that the unification and integration policy of Tubman brought to Liberia.

Boakai continues: "As we

the National Unification and Integration Policy."

However, he noted: "Today's celebration comes at a time when the former Peace Ambassador under the Unity Party-led administration is now President of Liberia. Being fully in charge in his fifth year in office, we can only still hope that the President will use the remaining months to take bold and decisive steps and policy actions aimed at unifying Liberians; for this was the intent and essence of the foundation laid by former President William V.S. Tubman.

Today, let us soberly reflect and remind ourselves that it is befitting to celebrate our individual rights to think different and be different without enduring prejudice, marginalization or exclusion. Let us celebrate our



ruling Unity Party said Weah, a former Peace Ambassador under the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf regime now has the opportunity to ensure that the intent and essence of the foundation laid by former President William V.S. Tubman, when setting aside May 14 in 1960, as a

celebrate the aspiration of the policy of national unification and integration, let us pay tribute to the late President William V.S. Tubman, whose vision brought national attention to issues of disparity, division and exclusion in the governance of our country. The magnitude of depravation of basic human rights by State actors led to the promulgation of

difference in tribe, in gender, in religion and in party association, for these are inalienable rights that NO ONE can deny anyone of.

Regardless of our perceived differences, we are one people with shared values of a common citizenship. We are all the same; nobody is different; Liberia belongs to all of us."

# Worrisome images

Images of an apparent active recruitment and training of militias as militant brigade by the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC in Lofa County appearing on traditional or social media is worrisome, says the Liberian Renaissance Office Incorporated (LIROI).

"The Liberian people have seen these governing parties with the means and opportunities for violence use "militant brigades" to wreak electoral violence and intimidation," LIROI said in a statement on Sunday May 15.

"In recent legislative elections we saw opposition candidates come under violent attacks in highly-contested districts, including in Districts 13 and 15, in Montserrado County," LIROI added.

The group notes that they are already witnessing the weaponizing of the justice system and politicization

of the Judiciary, which are unhealthy for Liberia's young democracy.

It said adding militias can only lead to the invitation of others to seek their own means to defend and protect themselves which will lead to a breakdown of order in the society and violence in our election processes.

LIROI also stated that it is deeply concerned that the intensification of the CDC's formation of militias seems to be timed against the backdrop of on-going bilateral negotiations

between the Government of Liberia and Turkey, resulting in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that includes the provision of military support to the Armed Forces of Liberia and the National Police.

"While we welcome such goodwill on the part of the Government of Turkey, we demand monitoring mechanisms be put in place to ensure that the provisions of lethal instruments to the military and para-military do not lead to supplying irregular militias or formation of private



# EJS Center announces

Starts from back page

the grant, and we are delighted that it will enable the Center to support local organizations doing grassroots work. We hope this will create long-term local partnerships and ensure the EJS Center has a positive presence here in Liberia."

Amini Kajunju, the EJS Center's Chief Operating Officer, stated: "I am very proud of the EJS Center's work across the continent to lift women. But today, I am particularly excited for this new chapter in which the Center can engage directly with, and support, local organizations doing vital work in health, education, and governance."

The Liberia Support Program will be selecting three grantees to receive a total of \$30,000 each. Details on applying can be found on the EJS Center website, and all applicants must be received by 27 May 2022.

About the Ellen Johnson

Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development:

The EJS Center was founded in 2018 to be a catalyst for change across Africa by helping unleash its most abundant untapped power—its women. It officially launched on International Women's Day, 8 March 2020.

Through a unique blend of programming, advocacy, research, and exhibitions, the Center advances women's public leadership and social development. As the first democratically elected woman president in Africa, Nobel Peace Prize winner Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is passionate about supporting the next generation of women in public leadership.

About AWDF:

The African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) is a grant-making foundation that supports local, national, and regional women's organizations working towards the empowerment of African women and the promotion and realization of their rights.

JUDICIAL BRANCH SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MONROVIA, LIBERIA

Invitation for Bids for Cleaning Materials & Services

DATE: May 16, 2022  
#FB NO. JUDNCS/001/2022

1. The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2022 fiscal budget for the procurement of services pertaining to Cleaning Materials & Services. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers in the provision of Cleaning Materials & Services. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this service which appeared in two dailies.

2. The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the services described below. The item will be contained in one bid submission begins on May 16, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily. The final date of submission is May 31, 2022 @ 12:00 Noon.

Package: Cleaning Materials & Services.

LOT#	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
Lot-1a	Cleaning Materials & Services.	Assorted	US \$200.00

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPCC ACT) published and approved: September 16, 2010. Bidding is open to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.

4. A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Cleaning Materials & Services may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice, 5th floor Room # 505 respectively.

(a) Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement; (b) Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$ 50.00 for a set of bid documents for the aforementioned lot consisting of Cleaning Materials & Services.

Bidders are required to submit the bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee along with the Bid Documents.

5. Qualification requirements include the following:

- (a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberian Business Registry);
- (b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Ministry of Finance);
- (c) Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
- (d) Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
- (e) Availability of products at all times; and,
- (f) Demonstrated ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.

(g) Restricted to Liberian Businesses Only.

(h) PPCC Vendor registry certificate.

(i) Business Activity Code

6. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, 5th floor Room # 505 for 505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday - Friday during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:00 P.M. daily.

7. All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates to be sealed in one envelope including other requested information.

(1) #FB NO. JUDNCS/001/2022 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Cleaning Materials & Services; to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2021 - 2020; and shall be addressed to:

DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING  
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

8. All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on or before May 1, 2022 @ 12:00 NOON. However, No Electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

9. A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on May 20, 2022 @ 1:00 P.M. in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.

10. Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on May 31, 2022 @ 12:00pm. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.

11. Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Procurement Court Administrator

JUDICIAL BRANCH SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MONROVIA, LIBERIA

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING Invitation to Bid for CARTRIDGES

DATE: May 16, 2022  
#FB NO. JUDNCS/001/2022

1. The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2022 fiscal budget for the procurement of Cartridges. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers of Cartridges. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.

2. The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the goods described below. Bid submission begins on May 16, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily; and the final date of submission is May 31, 2022 @ 1:00.

Package: Assorted Cartridges

#FB NO.	LOT	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
JUDNCS/005/2020/2021	Lot-1	Cartridges Assorted	Assorted	US \$270.00

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPCC ACT) published and approved: September 16, 2010. Bidding is open to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.

4. A complete set of bidding documents for the specified cartridges supplies may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice:

(a) Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement; (b) Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$50.00 for a set of bid documents for Cartridge. Bidders are required to submit a bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee.

5. Qualification requirements include the following:

- (a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberian Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.
- (b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
- (c) Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
- (d) Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
- (e) Availability of products at all times; and,
- (f) PPCC Vendor registry certificate.
- (g) Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
- (h) Business Activity Code.

6. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, 5th floor Room # 505 for 505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday - Friday from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P.M.

7. All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates to be sealed in one envelope, including other requested information.

(1) #FB NO. JUDNCS/001/2022 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Cartridges, to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2022

DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING  
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

8. All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on or before May 31, 2022 @ 1:00 P.M. However, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

9. A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on Wednesday May 25, 2022 @ 12:30 PM in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process as follows: @ 1:00 Pm. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.

10. Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on May 31, 2022 @ 12:30 PM. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.

11. Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Procurement Court Administrator

armies.

Liberians have seen this before, and call on the international community to beware of the attending risks to our fragile peace and young democracy.

We call on the Government of President George M. Weah to immediately put a halt to the CDC's action and commit his administration and party to the democratic process which has, as one of its basic tenants, the free competition of ideas." The statement concluded.

## EJS Center announces US100,000 grants for Liberian based NGOs

### -Calls for applications



Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

been decided that the money will be re-granted locally to support three Liberian grassroots organizations. The Center is specifically looking to support women-led organizations working in health, education, and governance.

To apply, organizations must be registered in Liberia and have a proven history of being women-led. Projects can include the following activities, amongst others: seminars, workshops, and training; capacity building activities; institutional strengthening activities; and advocacy. Interested organizations must have a proven capacity to develop and implement targeted interventions in Liberia at the community and grassroots level.

Upon the announcement of the Liberia Support Program, Executive Director of the EJS Center, Dr. Ophelia I. Weeks, noted: "We are hugely grateful for

The Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development (EJS Center) has announced the opening of applications for their Liberia Support Program and invited Liberian-based NGOs to apply by 27 May 2022.

Johnson Sirleaf receiving her Nobel Peace Prize in 2011, the African Women Development Fund (AWDF) announced it would award a 100,000 USD grant to any African women-led organization of her choice on the continent. Madam Sirleaf generously designated the EJS Center as the recipient of this gift.

As the Center proudly calls Monrovia home, it has

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Want a special Golden number that is easy to remember?

Contact us on WhatsApp  
**0888500000**  
or visit our service center for more info

# The New Dawn

TRULY INDEPENDENT

## PRESS

WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:

- \* Newspapers \* Magazines \* Flyers \* Posters
- \* Calendars \* Brochures \* Letterhead
- \* Receipts \* Invoices \* Souvenirs etc...

### DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing

0886484201 | Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com | P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street  
0777007529 | Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com | Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia