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TRULY INDEPENDENT
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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA		
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR		
DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022	L\$150.0863 /US\$1.00	L\$151.7882/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.



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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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The New Dawn
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Continental News

'Iron lady' joins race to be Kenya's deputy leader

One of the frontrunners in Kenya's presidential election has picked a veteran female politician and one-time rival as his running mate. Raila Odinga named Martha Karua to the role on Monday, making her the first woman to run on a major political party's presidential ticket.

Ms Karua is a former justice minister from the Central Region, which is seen as a key battleground in the 9 August election. She ran for president herself in 2013.

"I still have unfinished business with [the] presidency, so God-willing one day I will serve in that capacity," Ms Karua said last year. "History is calling us to close the gender gap in our country," said Mr Odinga as he announced Ms Karua's appointment as his deputy on Monday. She said she was "deeply honoured" and thanked the "faceless team of dreamers" who had supported her. Some in the press have dubbed the veteran politician the "Iron lady". She has been outspoken on corruption in the past, decrying Kenyan politics as a "rich boys' club" and backing calls for the



Martha Karua is hoping to become Kenya's first female deputy president

International Criminal Court to investigate the violence which broke out after previous elections.

Her alliance with Mr Odinga is something of an about-turn.

Back in 2007 while justice minister, she accused Mr Odinga's opposition Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) of "ethnic cleansing" after the nationwide clashes that followed that year's disputed election. Mr Odinga called the accusation "outrageous".

In an attempt to quell the violent aftermath of those polls, a power-sharing deal saw Mr Odinga become prime minister in

what some saw as a snub to Ms Karua.

Ms Karua hails from Kenya's largest community, the Kikuyu, whose support is vital in Kenya's ethnically charged elections. For the first time in Kenya's history, no prominent Kikuyu candidates are in the running for the top office, making the choice of running mate potentially decisive.

On Sunday another Kikuyu politician, Rigathi Gachagua, was announced as the running mate of Deputy President William Ruto, the other main presidential contender.

Kenyans are guaranteed a

new president in August as Uhuru Kenyatta steps down.

He has fallen out with his deputy, Mr Ruto, and backed former arch-rival Mr Odinga, who is mounting his fifth attempt to win the presidency.

Kenya has one of the lowest proportions of female parliamentarians in East Africa - at just 23%.

Ms Karua, 64, is a lawyer by training who won praise before becoming an MP for her work advising human rights activists and championing wider access to clean water. In picking Martha Karua, former Prime Minister Raila Odinga is seeking to woo two key constituencies - Central Kenya and female voters.

Several women have run for the presidency in past elections but all were from fringe parties and performed dismally at the polls - Ms

Karua's own attempt nine years ago saw her win less than 1% of the vote.

So, in the eyes of many, her latest nomination represents genuine progress.

During her stint in government, Ms Karua emerged as a loyal and staunch supporter of former President Mwai Kibaki, and in his speech on Monday, Mr Odinga alluded to these qualities as key qualities in a running mate.

Someone who "would not compete with the president", he told supporters at a rally - a comment many analysts regards as a dig at current Deputy President William Ruto, who has fallen out with President Kenyatta.

But Ms Karua is no pushover either. She has earned a reputation as a straight-talker especially on issues of human rights, democracy and corruption.

The main question now however is whether Kenyans will vote a woman into high office, a milestone which has eluded the country so far. BBC

Biden approves return of US troops to Somalia



President Joe Biden has reportedly authorised the redeployment of several hundred American troops into Somalia.

This largely reverses the decision made by Donald Trump when he was in office and withdrew nearly all 700 ground troops who had been stationed there.

US intelligence officials estimate that al-Shabab has up to 10,000 members. Even though it fights inside Somalia, officials say some members have ambitions to strike the US.

candidates were planning in the capital.

He is one of the very few leaders who stayed in

Two years ago the group carried out a deadly attack on an American air base in Kenya.

It's not known how many soldiers President Biden has authorised but they are said to be part of a special operations force that will be on the ground inside Somalia.

It's also being reported that he has approved a plan to target about a dozen suspected leaders of al-Shabab.

This revives an open ended American counter-terrorism operation and is in contrast to Mr Biden's decision to withdraw American forces from Afghanistan. BBC

Somalia throughout the 30-year civil war. The incoming president inherits a country plagued by multiple challenges. BBC

Hassan Sheikh Mohamud: Who is Somalia's new leader?

Somalia's new President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, is not new to the job. He served as Somalia's eighth President from 2012 to 2017 and lost the election in 2017 to the outgoing President Mohamed Abdullahi "Farmajo".

He made history on Sunday by becoming president in the war-torn Horn of Africa nation for the second time, in the most competitive election in the country's

history, which went into a third round of voting.

Following three decades of conflict, the country remains too dangerous for a one-person, one-vote election, so he was chosen by MPs, who were themselves chosen by clan elders from around the country.

With a background in education, the former peace activist's election campaign was focused on ensuring Somalis are united and are at peace with the rest of the world - something he

did not fail to mention immediately after he was sworn in early on Monday morning. "I promise you that we will closely work with regional states and our international partners," he said. His tone sounded reconciliatory and he promised the Somali people that he would work for everyone.

In the end, he won a huge majority in the third-round ballot, with 214 votes against Mr Farmajo's 110, gaining revenge against the man who beat him in 2017.

Mr Mohamud spent most of the last two years in Mogadishu, campaigning for the elections to be held on time and as promised. He was among the coalition of opposition candidates who were opposed to the attempt by former President Farmajo to extend his term in office by two years. In February 2021, he came under fire after security forces raided his hotel in Mogadishu to stop protests the opposition



Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's term will last four years

EDITORIAL

A game of denial

IT APPEARS THAT no official of the Weah government is willing to take responsibility for the Liberian Diplomatic Passport given to Liberian businessman Sheik Bassirou Kante, who is being interrogated by the United States Government for alleged wire fraud, totaling more than US\$7 million. Sheik Kante is not a diplomat and he does not work for the Government of Liberia, but yet he carries Liberian Diplomatic Passport.

IT'S A KNOWN fact that Sheik Kante has very close ties with Liberia's Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, but from the Vice President to Montserrado County District#14 Representative Abraham Vamuyan Corneh and Information Minister Ledgerhood Julius Rennie, everyone is distancing himself or herself from the criminal suspect.

EVEN THE MINISTRY of Foreign Affairs that is responsible to process all Liberian passports is being tempted to deny having any knowledge how the Diplomatic Passport got in the hands of Kante, though President George Weah has ordered Foreign Minister Dee Maxwell Kemayan to probe the matter.

WHAT IS CLEAR though is that Kante directly left from Liberia for the United States where he was arrested. He did not come from the sky with the diplomatic passport.

OUR BEST GUESS is that only the Government of the United States will unearth the real truth in this matter because authorities here are locked in a game of denial, portraying innocence.

AND NOW WE have the Foreign Ministry investigating itself. Nothing much should be expected, because the government would not indict itself just as it did not want to try and convict former passport director Adrew Wonplo for selling Liberian Diplomatic Passports to non-Liberians. It took the U.S. Department of State under former Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, who barred Wonplo and his immediate family from traveling to America "due to his involvement in significant corruption" thought of re-trying him which was nothing but a child's play.

SHIEK KANTE IS said to have spent US\$100,000 in Liberia during the bicentennial celebration here, but the government says its is not aware. He brought Nigerian artists P-Square to perform at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex, but Information Minister Rennie said as National Chairperson for the bicentennial steering committee, the committee did not know about it, and Mr. Kante never communicated with them on such matter.

SPEAKING AT THE Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism's regular press briefing on Thursday, May 12, the MICAT boss further clarified that Mr. Bassirou on his own decided to hire the services of Nigerian musicians P-square because of the euphoria of the bicentennial celebration.

"WE DIDN'T KNOW about it, he never wrote us, he never communicated to us, and that brought an uproar amongst the local musicians because it was announced that he had spent US\$200,000 and people said it was the government who gave the money", says the minister.

WITH EVERY OFFICIAL washing his or her hands totally off anything that has to do with Sheik Kante in Liberia and how he obtained Liberian Diplomatic Passport, outcome of the investigation ordered by President Weah into the scandal would become nothing else but 'round peg in a square hole.'

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COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

Fiddling While India's Workers Burn

NEW 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.



By Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

To Fight Inflation, Fight Protectionism

NEW 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.

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIAOFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

Invitation for Bids for Cleaning Materials & Services

DATE: May 16, 2022
IFB NO. JUD/NCB/SBA/ 001/2022

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2022 fiscal budget for the procurement of services appertaining 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.
- 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.

LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
Lot-1a	Cleaning Materials & Services.	Assorted	US \$280.00

- 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 opened to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.
- 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, fifth floor Room # 505 respectively.
 - Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement;
 - 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.

- Qualification requirements include the following:
 - Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);
 - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Ministry of Finance);
 - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
 - 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;
 - Availability of products at all times; and,
 - Demonstrated ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.

(g) Restricted to Liberian Businesses Only.
(h) PPCC Vendor registry
(i) Business Activity Code
- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, fifth floor Room # 501 or 505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday – Friday during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:00 P. M. daily.
- 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.
 - IFB NO. JUD/NCB/SBA/001/2022 - CONFIDENTIAL BID** for the provision of Cleaning Materials & Services; to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020; and shall be addressed to:

DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501
MONROVIA, LIBERIA
- 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.
- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on May 26, 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.
- Sealed bids for Cleaning Materials & Services 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.
- Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.**

Signed:
Director of ProcurementApproved:
Court AdministratorJUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIAOFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING Invitation to Bid for CARTRIDGES

DATE: May 16, 2022
IFB NO. JUD/NCB/001/2022

- 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.
- 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**.

Packages: Assorted Cartridges

IFB NO.	LOT:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
JUD/NCB/005/2020/2021	Lot-1	Cartridges Assorted	Assorted	US \$270.00

- 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 opened to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.
- 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:
 - 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 Cartridges. Bidders are required to submit a bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee.
- Qualification requirements include the following:
 - ~~Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.~~
 - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
 - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
 - 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;
 - Availability of products at all times; and,
 - PPCC Vendor registry certificate
 - Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
 - Include Business Activity Code.
- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, fifth floor Room # 501 or 505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday – Friday from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P. M.
- 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.
 - IFB NO. JUD/NCB/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
- 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.
- 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. Seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.
- Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on **May 31, 2022 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.
- Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.**

Signed:
Director of ProcurementApproved:
Court Administrator



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

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

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **Language Proficiency:** Level IV (fluent proficiency) in English (reading, written and spoken) is required. Language competence may be tested.
5. **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.
6. **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**.

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:

1. A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
2. 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.
3. 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

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



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

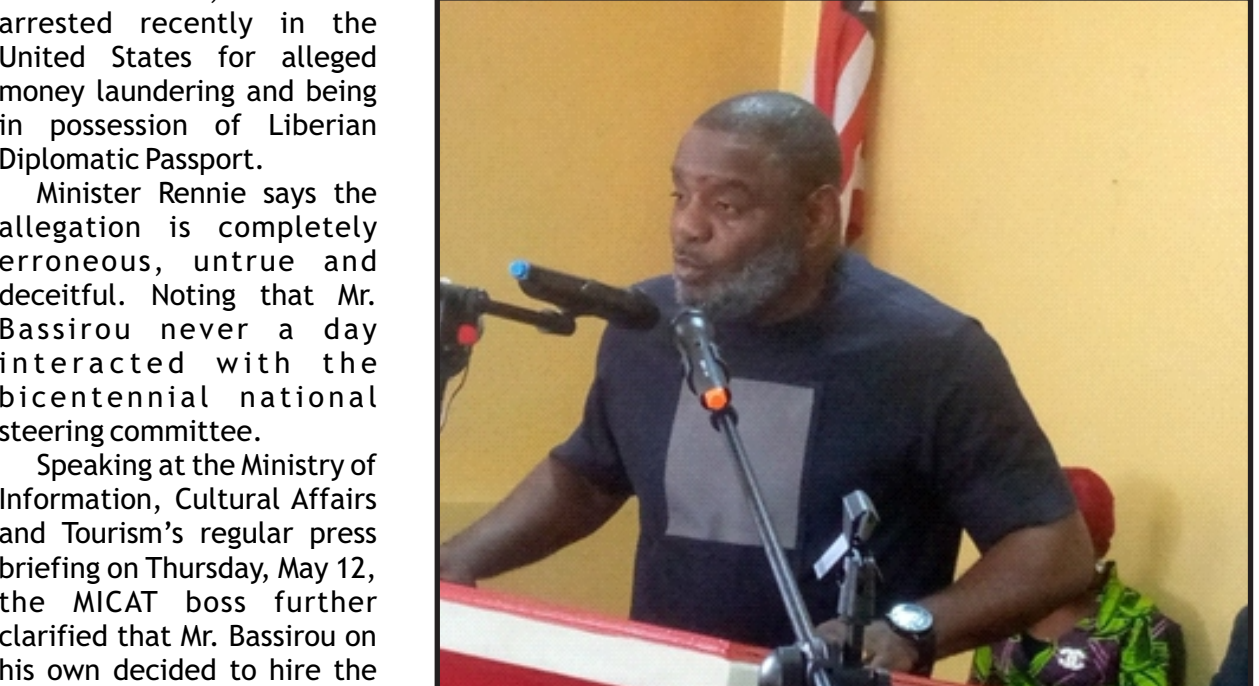
reported is false and misleading, saying such information has the propensity to undermine the work of the Pro - Poor Agenda and destroy the company's image. According to the release

Information Minister distances from Bassirou's laundered money

By : Kruah Thompson
The National Chairperson for the bicentennial steering committee, Information Minister Ledgerhood Julius Rennie publicly denies allegations that he benefited from an amount of one hundred thousand United States Dollars (US\$100,000) in Laundered Money from Liberian businessman Bassirou Kante, who was arrested recently in the United States for alleged money laundering and being in possession of Liberian Diplomatic Passport. Minister Rennie says the allegation is completely erroneous, untrue and deceitful. Noting that Mr. Bassirou never a day interacted with the bicentennial national steering committee. Speaking at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism's regular press briefing on Thursday, May 12, the MICAT boss further clarified that Mr. Bassirou on his own decided to hire 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.

services of Nigerian musicians P-square because of the euphoria of the bicentennial celebration. He continues that the committee did not know about it and he (Mr. Bassirou) never communicated with them on such matter. "We didn't know about it, he never wrote us, he never communicated to us, and that brought an uproar amongst the local musicians



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.

because it was announced that he had spent US\$200,000 and people said it was the government who gave the money", says the minister. However, he notes that the allegation published against him that (Mr. Bassirou) deposited the money in the steering committee account at Guaranteed Trust Bank (GTBank) Liberia Limited is a lie. According to him, the

Custom Officers caused recent delays at Freeport -APM Terminals cites report



Independent investigations into recent reports of delays in clearance processes at the Freeport of Monrovia are more manual than technical, a report says.

The Freeport of Monrovia being the nation's major seaport has for the past few weeks seen pockets of agitations from customers over what they term as delays in clearance processes.

These customers lament the implementation of a new clearance procedure instituted by APM Terminals and its partners as part of the Port's digitization agenda.

The agitation reached its crescendo last Thursday, 12 May 2022 when groups of agents and brokers were visibly agitated with the process.

An independent investigation into this recent menace at the Port however shows that the delays are more manual than technical. As part of the digitization process, Customs Officers are to update the destination of containers in their Asycuda system and on the basis for which the container handling operator, APM Terminals, can go ahead to release the containers. Close sources to the Port say some Custom Officers have been refusing to do this update, thereby creating delays in the release process.

This refusal to update the system from their end means that other agencies in the value chain are unable to go ahead to facilitate their processes since it is a digital system with an input at one end feeding into another.

In last Thursday's incident,

for example, it took efforts from APM Terminals and some agents to have customs correct the errors created by their officers' negligence to update the destination in Asycuda. This occasioned additional delays causing the agents to agitate at the port.

An agent who spoke to this reporter on the basis of anonymity further confirmed this: "we have been here waiting several hours only to find out that the delays have been caused by some people's refusal to do their work."

"Some of these Custom Officers must be spoken to. Why should it take me more time to clear when we have moved from analogue to digital? We cannot say we are driving towards port digitization when we refuse to do the simple things that will make the system work."

It is further believed by some stakeholders that the process is being sabotaged by some Custom Officers because an efficient digital system will eliminate human manipulations which these officers have benefited from all these years. "We know why some people in these agencies are resisting the changes- it is because it does not serve their corrupt interest," our source added.

Early this year, port operator APM Terminals Liberia together with its partners announced measures on clearance processes in line with its new digitization agenda.

While the process has not come without initial implementation difficulties, Port stakeholders continue to engage to fine-tune it. The digitized release process, it has been

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

bicentennial does not have an account at GTBank, and that the only account it has is with United Bank of Africa (UBA), instead.

Besides, Minister Rennie recounted how President George Weah has asked the Minister of

Foreign Affairs Dee Maxwell Kemayan to immediately halt issuance of Liberian Diplomatic Passports until full investigation is launched into Mr. Bassirou Kante's passport saga. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

'RITCO is a blessing to Johnsonville Township'

-Johnsonville Commissioner says

The commissioner of Johnsonville Township has praised RITCO Distillery beverage company for being a blessing to the people of Johnsonville in relation to community development since the company started operations in the area.

RITCO operates in Mount Barclay, Johnsonville Township, outside Monrovia.

Commissioner C. Oliver Vannie said his office together with the beverage company, RITCO, are working tirelessly to improve the life of residents in Johnsonville regarding infrastructure and other related projects which he sees as a blessing for the township.

He told reporters at his Johnsonville office that the company has always answered their call whenever it comes to the issue of development within the township.

Commissioner Vannie said the relationship between his office and RITCO is like a family, looking at the facts that they always engaged in community development together. He told reporters that the company just dished out seven thousand United States dollars for community bridge construction, linking the main road to the car wash in Mount Barclay.

The Johnsonville commissioner disclosed that in addition to contributing to the construction of the bridge, the company has taken part in several other works within the various communities in the township of Johnsonville.

Commissioner Vannie, through his office, promised to use the money well, saying it is the only way the community will develop. He

called on stakeholders living in the township to work together for the good of all, saying that the central government cannot do everything.

Vannie, however, extended thanks and gratitude to the government for providing a good road network within his township. He also thanked RITCO for its contribution, calling on the company to always feel free to engage the community whenever it

area since it started operation in the township.

He told journalists that contributing to the construction of the bridge is a faith of reality, looking at the fact that they have been looking forward to it.

He said further that his office is always open to the township through the commissioner's office to work as one people in developing the community.

He called on the citizens of Johnsonville, especially the Car Wash Community, to work together with the



comes to working together for the good of all.

On his part, Mr. Steven Collins, General manager of RITCO, said his company is happy to see such development going on in the township, saying it is part of the company's corporate social responsibility.

Mr. Collins disclosed that his company has always been engaged with the community whenever it comes to issues of development, adding that the company has spent thousands of dollars toward rendering assistance in the

commissioner's office in relation to their duties and responsibilities in creating the change.

Collins disclosed that his company over the years has employed a good number of sons and daughters of the community, looking at the fact that they come first when it comes to employment and other benefits from the company. He extended his gratitude to the government and the peace-loving people of Liberia for the good working relationship enjoyed over the years.

UNHCHR plans to build national human rights protection system here



Internal Affairs Min. Sirleaf with visiting UNHCHR chief

The visiting Chief of Africa Branch of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, Madam Maarit Kohonen Sheriff has disclosed plans by the Commission to build a National Human Rights Protection System in the country.

The system is because assessments have established that Liberia is a country of human prospects.

Madam Sheriff, who is resident in Geneva, Switzerland, asserted that through the System Liberia would obtain an international status as the country has

Local journalists benefit from IFM training, established network for forest reporting



In the wake of helping to protect Liberian forest, about 16 Local Journalists from rural community radio stations in five counties in Liberia have received training in independent forest monitoring and established a network on forest reporting called "Community Forest Reporting Network of Liberia".

The network was established on Saturday, May 14, 2022, National Unification Day following a two day Independent Forest Monitoring Training held at the Teepro Lodge conference hall in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County. The training started on Friday, May 13 and ended on May 14, 2022. It focused on general IFM concepts, protocol, monitoring guide, high tech monitoring technology 'Forest Link real time monitoring (RTM), institutional framework, etc.

For effective coordination and to begin sharing reports from various counties on the forest sector, the local journalists created a WhatsApp platform.

The Journalists, who were trained on how to report on the forest sector in the country,

came from Nimba, Rivercess, Grand Cape mount, Lofa, and Grand Bassa counties.

The training was conducted by the Civil Society Independent Forest Monitoring (CS-IFM) that has been providing training around the IFM and producing IFM reports since 2012.

Speaking at the two-day capacity building training, the Technical Person at the Civil Society Independent Forest Monitors (CS-IFM), Mr. Abraham Billy said the training was triggered by the observed limitation in knowledge of Journalists in forest reporting.

"The aim of the training was to enhance the capacity of local journalists on the forest monitoring and draw their attention to independent forest monitoring and reporting", Mr. Billy said.

Furthermore, he mentioned that the training was intended to ensure that local journalists are aware and interested in awareness raising and reporting forest related stories in their respective counties.

The IFM Technical Person stated that the Knowledge acquired by the Local Journalists

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

already established a functional Independent National Commission on Human Rights, INHCR. According to a Press Release issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, UN Human Rights Official spoke Thursday, May 12, 2022, when she paid a courtesy visit on Internal Affairs Minister Honorable Varney A. Sirleaf as his Capitol Hill Office in Monrovia.

She said like many countries, there are human rights issues taking place in Liberia, but the Liberian Government's willingness to have them discussed portrays good human rights signals.

"One of the signals is that government can discuss human rights issues as well as take actions and allow people to discuss them without reprisals, among others" The UN Human Rights Official emphasized.

At the same time, Internal Affairs Minister Sirleaf says the Government of Liberia is taking the necessary steps to address issues bordering on around human rights in Liberia.

Minister Sirleaf said some of the measures include abolishment of Trials-by-Ordeals (Sasay Wood) and the ban on forceful initiation of individuals into the Poro and Sande Societies.

The release quotes Minister Sirleaf as saying the measures are in fulfillment of Government's constitutional mandate in ensuring the protection of the human and fundamental rights of all.

The Internal Affairs Minister said currently there are discussions between traditional leaders and various state actors on some harmful traditional practices including female genital mutilation.

Français

Boakai : « Weah devrait prendre des mesures décisives en faveur de l'unification nationale »

Prendre des mesures audacieuses et décisives et mettre en œuvre des actions politiques qui visent à unifier les Libériens, voilà ce à quoi le président Weah devrait consacrer les derniers mois de son mandat, selon Joseph Boakai, ancien vice-président de la république du Libéria.

Pour M. Boakai et les leaders politiques du Parti de l'unité (ancien parti au pouvoir), le président Weah, qui fut ambassadeur de la

paix sous le régime d'Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a maintenant la possibilité de traduire dans les faits l'idée et l'intention réelles de l'ancien président William V.S.Tubman de mettre de côté le 14 May en 1960 pour en faire une Journée de l'unification nationale.

Dans son message à la nation du Jour de l'Unification, le leader politique de l'UP, a dit que la Journée de l'unification nationale est une journée réservée par une loi adoptée en 1960 pour reconnaître les

avantages que la politique d'unification et d'intégration de Tubman a apportés au Libéria.

Boakai: « Alors que nous célébrons l'aspiration de la politique d'unification et d'intégration nationales, rendons hommage au défunt président William V.S. Tubman, dont la vision a attiré l'attention nationale sur les problèmes de disparité, de division et d'exclusion dans la gouvernance de notre pays. L'ampleur de la dépravation des droits fondamentaux de l'homme par les acteurs étatiques a conduit à la promulgation de la politique nationale d'unification et d'intégration.

« Cependant », a-t-il dit : « La célébration d'aujourd'hui intervient à un moment où l'ancien ambassadeur de la paix sous l'administration dirigée par le Parti de l'unité est maintenant président du Libéria. Étant pleinement en charge dans sa cinquième année au pouvoir, nous ne pouvons qu'espérer que le président utilisera les mois restants pour prendre des mesures audacieuses et

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Ruée vers les terres au Libéria : des Burkinabè de Méagui dans la danse

Une délégation de l'ambassade du Burkina Faso en Côte d'Ivoire, conduite par le ministre conseiller, Roger Konombo, s'est entretenue, le mardi 3 mai 2022, avec les Burkinabè vivant à Méagui, dans le département de Soubré.

En quête de terres cultivables disponibles, des Burkinabè vivant en Côte d'Ivoire s'installent de plus en plus au Libéria, où ils trouvent satisfaction. A Méagui, localité relevant du département de Soubré où il y a une forte concentration de compatriotes, l'eldorado libérien ne laisse pas indifférent. A la tête d'une délégation de l'ambassade du Burkina Faso en Côte d'Ivoire, le ministre conseiller, Roger Konombo, l'a constaté, le mardi 3 mai 2022, au cours d'une rencontre avec les Burkinabè. Si certains compatriotes ont déjà tâté le terrain libérien, d'autres aspirent à le faire et veulent avoir des ficelles pour réussir leur immigration dans ce pays anglophone d'Afrique de l'Ouest. « Peut-on aller

travailler au Libéria dans la tranquillité et à quelles conditions ? », a voulu savoir l'un des candidats à l'aventure. M. Konombo a réagi en ces termes : « vous pouvez aller travailler librement au Libéria. C'est un pays de la CEDEAO. Il faut néanmoins avoir des documents d'identité burkinabè et respecter les lois de cet Etat. Vous devez vous faire délivrer un permis de séjour. Les

autorités libériennes entendent exiger le passeport CEDEAO à l'avenir, mais cela n'est pas encore acté ». Il a indiqué avoir noté, lors de son récent séjour au Libéria avec l'ambassadeur, que des Burkinabè installés sur place n'ont pas de documents d'identité. « Ce n'est pas normal. Vous devez avoir des documents d'identité que ce soit en Côte d'Ivoire ou au Libéria, pour éviter les ennuis



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

Boakai : « Weah devrait prendre des mesures

décisives et des actions politiques visant à unifier les Libériens, car c'était l'intention et l'essence de l'acte posé par l'ancien président William VStubman.

Aujourd'hui, réfléchissons superbement et rappelons-nous qu'il convient de célébrer nos droits individuels, de penser différemment et d'être différents sans subir de préjugés, de marginalisation

ou d'exclusion. Célébrons notre différence ethnique, de sexe, de religion et d'association politique, car ce sont des droits inaliénables que personne ne peut refuser à qui que ce soit.

Indépendamment de nos différences perçues, nous sommes un peuple avec des valeurs partagées d'une citoyenneté commune. Nous sommes tous pareil. Personne n'est différent. Le Libéria nous appartient tous.

Ruée vers les terres au Libéria : des

», a lancé M. Konombo à ses interlocuteurs. Il a relevé que leur séjour au Libéria devait les conduire dans le comté de Grand Gedeh où se trouve un nombre important de Burkinabè, mais cela n'a pas été possible. « Les autorités libériennes ont souhaité être de la mission, si bien que nous l'avons reportée pour ce mois de mai. En attendant, nous allons rencontrer les leaders de la communauté burkinabè de Grand Gedeh à Soubré », a précisé le ministre conseiller.

Un langage de vérité
M. Konombo a été, par ailleurs, interpellé sur la « cherté » du coût du permis de séjour au Libéria (150 dollars américains) et la validité de la carte consulaire biométrique délivrée en Côte d'Ivoire. Sur la première préoccupation, il dit avoir pris bonne note, tout en promettant que l'ambassade fera remonter l'information auprès du gouvernement pour suite à donner. Pour ce qui est de la carte consulaire biométrique établie en Côte d'Ivoire au profit des Burkinabè, le ministre conseiller a tenu un langage de vérité aux compatriotes de Méagui. « La carte consulaire est un document qui indique que vous êtes des Burkinabè vivant en Côte d'Ivoire, où vous pouvez l'utiliser pour des opérations en banque et autres. Si vous quittez ce pays pour le Burkina, vous ne pouvez plus vous en servir pour les mêmes raisons, ni pour voter. Il vous faut avoir des documents d'identité burkinabè, la CNIB ou le passeport, pour demander des services dans les établissements bancaires ou dans l'administration au pays», leur a dit M. Konombo. Il a profité répondre à un autre compatriote, qui voulait savoir s'il était possible de délivrer sur place les cartes consulaires biométriques aux Burkinabè de Méagui. L'auteur de la question souhaite qu'on les épargne des déplacements au Consulat général à Soubré, sis à une cinquantaine de

kilomètres. « Si on délivre les cartes consulaires à Méagui, il faut le faire partout en Côte d'Ivoire où il y a des Burkinabè.

Ce qui va être difficile. Il faut des moyens financiers et humains conséquents, mais la question mérite réflexion », a avancé le ministre conseiller, accompagné à l'occasion par la conseillère économique, Salimata Barro. M. Konombo est revenu sur la ruée vers les terres au Libéria qui a meublé en grande partie les échanges. Il a éclairé les lanternes d'un compatriote qui voulait avoir une idée sur les conditions d'accès aux forêts au Libéria. « Ce sont les autochtones libériens qui donnent les terres aux Burkinabè. En contrepartie, ils exigent de l'argent, une partie de la production ou la réalisation d'une infrastructure sociale, telle une école. Ils ne sont pas vraiment prompts à vendre les terres », a confié le missionnaire de l'ambassade du Burkina en Côte d'Ivoire. Il a déploré, au passage, le « mauvais » comportement de certains compatriotes dans l'exploitation des terres au Libéria. « Quand on leur octroie des terres, ils les revendent à d'autres compatriotes sans être des propriétaires terriens. Ce qui crée des soucis avec les Libériens », a-t-il regretté, faisant observer que les Burkinabè de Côte d'Ivoire ont transposé cette pratique peu recommandable au Libéria.

« Les Libériens louent les terres »
Sur la question de l'exploitation des champs dans ce pays anglophone, un compatriote qui en a déjà fait l'expérience, Seydou Ouédraogo, a appuyé les explications du ministre conseiller. « Les tuteurs libériens louent les terres. Ils ne les vendent pas, car l'Etat du Libéria interdit cela. Ils peuvent céder les champs pour une longue période. Moi j'ai loué une superficie de 100 hectares à 5 millions F CFA, pour 90 ans, pour produire du cacao. Je dois m'acquitter de cette somme sur 7 ans », a-t-il rapporté. Pour le reste, M. Konombo a invité les Burkinabè de Méagui à éviter les querelles de leadership inutiles et à rester soudés. « Donnez-vous la main.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

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

NEW 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 dictent 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.

LIBERIANS

DEBATE

By Naneka Hoffman

The handing of Liberian Diplomatic Passports to criminals and foreigners is ruining the country’s image and raising serious integrity concerns. The latest case involves the recent arrest of a well-known Liberian businessman in America for alleged wire fraud, totaling more than US\$7 million. Suspect Sheik Bassirou Kante is said to have close ties with Liberia’s Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor. VP Taylor denies having any knowledge about Suspect Kante being possession of Liberian Diplomatic Passport when he is not a diplomat.

President George Manneh Weah has suspended issuance of Liberian Diplomatic Passports and ordered the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dee Maxwell Kemayan to launch an investigation.

The New Dawn asked some Monrovia residents what they think about the government’s handling of Liberian Diplomatic Passports that are repeatedly found with criminals and foreigners, embarrassing the State.



Victor Dweh Weah

“Well, as a Liberian, it’s very sad information to have our Diplomatic Passports not only Diplomatic Passports, but to have our passports in the hands of criminal especially, people, who are not Liberians. It gives the country a bad image and that has been a longtime situation. What I would love to see happening is this

government to take issue of giving passports to wrong people very seriously. They should carry on a thorough investigation within the entire Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there should be no stone left untouched, anyone who is connected from the top to the bottom should go through the full weight of the law, because allowing such thing to happen is damaging the image of Liberians; that means Liberians outside of Liberia would be considered as people of criminal activities. That means people, who are engaged in criminal activities, that’s how they will consider us in the outside world. And we have to preserve the image of our country to present our country like it used to be before among African nations. We need to get back to that post that we used to hold in Africa.”

“Well, as a peaceful citizen, since I heard this news, I am not feeling fine. If the government wants to do justice, let them take the highest legal step against it, because we get other people coming from nowhere, who are not citizens of this country just in possession of our amenity and penetrating our system, doing things that are not good. Let the government take legal step against it to the highest level and all those people [responsible] should be persecuted. That is the only way the criminal act will stop and then Liberia will find justice and peace.”



Prince Sospon



Jeremiah Nimely

“I want the government to take legal action against those Ministers, who are giving passports to foreigners and criminals; it is wrong, because I feel we the Liberians need the passport more than any other person.”



Fatumata R. Kamara

“The government should put stop to our diplomatic passports being in the hands of foreigners and criminals; the reason is that if you put the passports in the hands of foreigners, they can use it any how because the government that is in power doesn’t know the job well. How would you turn it over to foreigners;

they will use it and misuse it and at the end of the day, the blame is shifting on us Liberians. So, all that thing is a trap; maybe they collaborated with them, because this regime is leading by criminals and it is a very corrupt government, what they are doing is to steal the Liberian people resources.”

“I can remember few [years] ago the former passport director [Andrew Wonplo] who was on the run, had a lot of passport problems; our passport landed in foreigners and criminals’ hands, but I don’t see what the government is really doing to see how best they can solve this problem, because most of the sectors in the government have problems. For instance, at the airport, there is no current, now it is our diplomatic passport; it is very wrong. So, I don’t know what this government is doing to see how best they can solve this problem. Every day, we’re hearing different bad things about Liberia. We’re getting bad news about this country which is wrong; the government should take serious action. I don’t know if



Abu Sow

they are in favor of the things that are happening because for instance, what I heard that District#14 Representative Abraham V. Corneh is the one, who gave the criminal the Diplomatic Passport. So, it’s very sad for our society. The government should take serious action against Representative Abraham V. Corneh.”

“Document represents original signatures”

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former vice president Joseph N. Boakai has testified to the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) framework document saying the signature page represents the original signatures.

“However, the signature page I am also



looking at here in this document represents the original signature,” the former vice president said as he took the stand Monday May 16, 2022 as government star witness.

He admitted in his testimony, that the original CPP framework document was signed by

the four parties and their chairpersons, adding that he signed for the UP while his then acting chairman signed for the party.

Boakai further explained that Mr. Cummings and Senator Daniel Naatehn signed for the ANC; Mr. Urey and Theodore Momo signed for ALP, while Senator Nyonblee Karngar-Lawrence and Senator Steve Zargo signed for LP.

they all signed on that same day.

He further went on to discredit the paper presented to him, saying he didn’t sign a photocopy of disputed framework document, rejecting the version that was presented for him to testify to.

“The document before me is not the document that I signed May 19, 2020. The document I signed was in its original form and not a photocopy with all the parties’ names in alphabetical order,” Mr. Boakai testified.

He contended further that though the signature page of the document presented to him was in its original state, but the cover pages were photocopy versions, something he insisted, he did not sign to.

According to him, the original signature page was intended to be attached to the original document that they signed, not a photocopy.

He recounted that they signed five copies of the CPP framework document, saying one was intended to be filed with the National Elections Commission (NEC) and one for each of four CPP constituent parties.

Meanwhile, Boakai was quick to also point out that after they (CPP) leaders signed the document, they invited lawyers to review the framework document and to advice the opposition bloc about the

controversy surrounding job allocation enshrined in it for partisans and also to address the CPP’s exist clause.

He stated that when the lawyers reviewed the document, they came out with ten counts amendment recommendations.

However, Boakai said by the CPP’s policy, those amended recommendations had to go through a validation committee. But he said since that time, they never saw the document.

Boakai is a high profile state witness in a criminal case brought against his one - time political ally and leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC), Mr. Alexander B. Cummings.

Boakai and Cummings were the uncompromising rivals seeking to head the CPP presidential ticket ahead of the 2023

presidential and legislative elections when an allegation of CPP framework document tampering led to the UP and All Liberian Party (ALP) separately pulling out from the once formidable opposition bloc.

Cummings is currently facing criminal trial after being accused by ALP political leader Benoni Urey of allegedly tampering with the CPP framework document and illegally attaching his (Urey’s) signature to a photocopy version. Cummings has always denied any wrongdoing.

Originally made up of four opposition parties - UP, ANC, ALP and Liberty Party (LP) - the CPP later broke apart, leaving only ANC and a faction of LP as allies following bitter internal conflicts.

But Boakai said since the signing ceremony, he did not receive a copy of the document. The case continues Tuesday, 17 May 2022.

Starts from back page

the Year, 2021-2022, Ms. Ofori expressed gratitude to the Church for her selection and vowed to uphold and exhibit those good qualities

Use your god gifted skills

of a true mother.

The Mother’s day program was climaxed with a special fundraising.



Starts from page 6

shown, has reduced transaction time at the port substantially.

Further reduction in transaction time will be realized if all stakeholders play their part and in this instance, if Custom

Custom Officers caused

Officers diligently update Asycuda, which is the system for updating container destinations.

It is important for the National Port Authority and its partners to pay keen attention to these issues as they go to the core of the efficiency of the Port and the Liberian economy in general.

Starts from page 7

Local journalists benefit from IFM training,

will increase their understandings about the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) which is a binding agreement on fully implementation of the laws that govern the forest sector.

According to him, the Journalists also acquired additional Knowledge on forest link technology which is a tool for evidence based reporting. He anticipates that the local

Journalists who have received training in IFM will begin to work more closely together as a network to share knowledge gained to unearth sensitive stories related to the forest sector and its impact affected forest communities.

Mr. Billy, who is also providing Programmatic Support to the CS-IFM, stated that the training was supported by the Multi-stakeholders Forestry Governance and Accountability Project (MFGAP).

Some of the thematic areas that

Gas price hits LRD 1,800 in Ganta

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

Report from Nimba County says the pump price for a gallon of gasoline in Ganta City is now being sold between LRD1,500 and LDR 1,800 LD from previously LRD830.

As a result of the sudden increase, commercial drivers, including motorcyclists have correspondently increased transport fares in the commercial city.

The fare from Ganta to Monrovia previously LRD1,200 is now LRD2,000, while from Ganta to Tappita, Zekepa and Sanniquellie, Karnplay and Luoguatoborder is now between LRD 2,000 and 5,000, respectively.

However, amid the increase in pump price of gasoline in the county, major commodities such as rice, gas and cement continue to cross into neighboring Guinea from Ganta on the Liberian side.

Liberian Joint Security assigned at the border are seen daily receiving bribe from Guinean truck drivers to allow these items to leave Liberia.

Meanwhile, motorcyclists in Ganta, Nimba County are threatening to protest against the abrupt increase in the price of gasoline.

Some aggrieved motorcyclists lament that most of them rely on the motorcycles to feed their homes and send their children to

school, while others say they are in daily susu and monthly clubs and have to pay monthly due and daily susu card, but hike in gasoline price is affecting the business.

Here in Monrovia, the pump price for a gallon of gasoline is reportedly LRD850 from 750, while the pump price for a gallon of diesel or fuel previously sold for LRD900 is now LRD1,000.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Use your god gifted skills, talents to better Liberia

-Mrs. Cummings Urges Women



Mrs. Teresa Cummings

Day program in honor of Ms. Grace Ofori at the Freedom Worship Center in Paynesville, on Sunday, May 15. Ms. Grace Ofori, 49, is founding member of the Freedom Worship Center established by Rev. Josiah Kennedy, nearly seven years ago on December 31, 2015.

Mrs. Cummings recalled accounts of powerful women in biblical history who she said used their special gifts from God to improve existing conditions in the Church and communities. She made reference to powerful women of God including Mary, Martha, Sarah and Priscilla, who she said used and applied their God given creative skills and talents exceptionally well to bring about relief and addressed major challenges during their times in biblical history.

She urged women to identify and recognize those special gifts, skills and talents, imbued in them by God to improve existing conditions in their families, communities and the country.

In brief remarks, the Mother of


▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Mother Teresa Cummings has urged women in Liberia to use their God-gifted creative skills and talents for the betterment of their families and Liberia.

Mrs. Cummings said every woman was purposely made beautiful by God and imbued with special gifts, talents and

skills to achieve certain goals in life. She urged women to use those gifts to help improve conditions in Liberia.

Mother Teresa, wife of the Political Leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC), Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, spoke at a special Mother's



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