





# Continental News

## Violence, Lockdown, Running Battles Paralyze Cameroon National Day in Western Regions

Cameroon's National Day on May 20 has been marked by running battles between government troops and separatists who imposed a lockdown, crippling business in English-speaking western regions. The military says at least 28 separatists who vowed to disrupt celebrations in English-speaking regions of the majority francophone nation were killed in violent battles. President Paul Biya is attending commemorations.

Cameroon's military sings at a ceremony to commemorate May 20 in the capital, Yaounde, pledging loyalty to state institutions and expressing the readiness of troops to defend the country's territorial integrity.

The government said the parade marking Cameroon's 50th National Day was attended by at least 30,000 civilians, led by President Paul Biya. The government said it reduced the time for the military parade to 45 minutes for strategic reasons.

However, opposition political parties, including the Social Democratic Front, said the ailing 89-year-old



Cameroon President Paul Biya and first lady Chantal Biya

Biya could not stand up for two hours to honor the military during its parade, as has been the tradition in Cameroon.

The government said the National Day celebration was successful in Cameroon's French-speaking regions. Separatists said they imposed a lockdown in English-speaking western regions to protest May 20 celebrations, also known as the day of National Unity between the English-speaking minority and the majority French-speaking nation. Capo Daniel is deputy defense chief of the Ambazonia Defense Forces, which Cameroon officials call a

leading separatist group. He says fighters stopped government troops from transporting French speakers to English-speaking western regions to give the impression that English speakers are happy with the central government in Yaounde. Capo says in the process many government troops were killed.

"Previously, we have seen the Cameroon government drive into our territory her own citizens to stage public celebrations of the 20th May," said Daniel. "For this year, 2022, we have targeted the

Cameroon forces, killing 24 of them. Across Ambazonia, our forces have signaled their presence to our populations by firing shots in the air to send a message that today [May 20] everyone should stay at home and observe a rejection of the Cameroon union with Ambazonia."

Ambazonia is what separatists call the state they say they are fighting to create.

The government has denied its troops were transporting French speakers to English-speaking regions. The military says it lost six troops in battles within the past week and that 28 separatists who tried to disrupt May 20 activities were killed in several northwestern towns, including Oku, Kumbo, Bamenda and Nkambe.

Colonel Samuel Tabot

Orock is a commander of government troops fighting separatists in Bamenda, the capital of Cameroon's English speaking North-West region. Orock says the military made sure everyone who came out for celebrations was protected.

"Let the world, and Cameroon in particular, understand that the military in Bamenda know that the secessionist fighters will be doing everything in their powers to disrupt a successful 20th May celebration, that is why we are taking every single measure as far as security is concerned to make sure there is a hitch-free 20th May celebration in Bamenda," Orock said.

Orock said running battles between government troops and separatists crippled activity in many northwestern towns and villages.

The government said prior to the day at least 35 people suspected of preparing to commemorate the day were abducted by separatists in several towns of the South-West region including Mutengene and Tiko. VOA

## Malawi Covid fund audit finds \$4.7m missing



This is the second audit into money set aside in Malawi to tackle coronavirus

An audit into Covid spending in Malawi has found that around \$4.7m (£3.7m) cannot be accounted for from \$21m set aside to deal with the second phase of the pandemic.

This is on top of \$881m from the first phase that a 2020 audit showed had been spent irregularly or was not accounted for.

After the first audit, President Lazarus Chakwera promised to crack down on the culprits and several officials were taken to court, though none of the cases have

or armed robbery, despite a growing debate on whether or not to abolish the measure.

Earlier this year, some advocates urged Nigerian

yet concluded.

The latest investigation - a 66-page report by the country's auditor general - lists the irregularities, which include undelivered medical supplies, allowances paid without attendance sheets and fuel acquired without official documentation.

It has been presented to the minister of finance for action.

Some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) say this second exposé shows that public systems for managing resources are broken, with no political will to hold people accountable. BBC

authorities to annul the death penalty.

Human rights lawyer Martin Obono says strict measures like the death penalty are helpful in deterring crimes. VOA

## Nigerian Court Sentences Danish National to Death by Hanging

A Nigerian high court has sentenced a Danish national, Peter Nielsen, to death by hanging. Nielsen was convicted and sentenced Friday for the murder of his Nigerian wife and their young daughter in 2018. Rights activists, who have protested the murder, praised the court's ruling.

Justice Bolanle Okikiolu-Ighile of the Lagos high court

announced the verdict and the sentence for 54-year-old Peter Nielsen Friday at a hearing that lasted more than five hours.

The justice said evidence from an autopsy revealed that Nielsen's wife, Zainab, and their three-year-old daughter died of head injuries and suffocation. He said analysis of Zainab's fingertips showed she had struggled to free herself from her killer's grip, and that traces of DNA found on her skin were consistent with Nielsen's.

Nielsen has been standing trial since June 2018 after he was arrested on charges of murdering his Nigerian wife, Zainab and their daughter in their home in Lagos. Nielsen pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The killing triggered criticism from women rights groups and they have been monitoring the progress of the trial since then.

Activist Josephine Okei-Odumakin, president of Women Arise Initiative, attended Friday's session.

"This will serve as a reference point, it's also going to protect women the more and as much as possible reduce gender-based violence which is on the rise and I'm sure that with this landmark judgement, a lot of people will have a rethink," she said.

Okei-Odumakin noted the bodies of Nielsen's wife and daughter have remained in the mortuary since their death four years ago.

Nigerian courts continue to issue death sentences in cases such as killings, kidnappings,



People are seen outside of the Federal High Court in Abuja

# EDITORIAL

## Welcoming the Dual citizenship bill

AT LONG LAST, both the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate have separately agreed to enact the Dual Citizenship bill into law that would allow Diaspora Liberians, who hold citizenships of foreign countries, to maintain their Liberian citizenship.

THE BILL IN question seeks to amend Part 3, Chapter 20, Sections 20.1, 20.31.30.51 and 20.52 and Chapter 22, Sections 20.2, 20.3 and 20.4 respectively of the Aliens and Nationality Law of Liberia to provide for dual citizenship.

WE BELIEVE THE decision by members of the 54th Liberian Legislature is a welcome news, for Liberians both at home and abroad, as it would provide diaspora Liberians an opportunity for greater engagement and involvement at home amid their ties abroad.

THIS BILL SHOULD have been passed during the December 8, 2020 Special Senatorial Election, but the debate was heavily politicized to the extent that it was defeated in the national referendum along with other key issues such as reduction of tenures for the Presidency, the Senate and the House of Representatives, among others.

LIBERIA IS AMONG very few countries, if not the only country, particularly in West Africa that had opposed dual citizenship.

ACROSS THE REGION, commentators say the benefits of dual citizenship strongly outweigh laws on the book that had placed a wedge between Liberians at home and Liberians in the diasporas that hold citizenships of foreign countries.

THIS CHANGE OF heart and thought is surely going to boost growth thru economic activities and promote rapid development never image in the country's 200 years of existence.

THIS IS WHY we commend men and women of both the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate for arriving at a common thought to pass the dual citizenship bill for the future betterment of the Motherland.

WE LIBERIANS ARE one people no matter which part of the world we may find ourselves. The same bond that proudly distinguishes us as Liberians from the rest of the world should not be allowed by man-written laws to divide us.

A GROUP OF people that embrace change from time to time are not only far-sighted, but wise and progressive. It is only progressive nations that move forward, and with this singular decision by the 54th Liberian Legislature, we can say for sure that Liberia is ready to move forward.

**New Dawn**  
DAILY INDEPENDENT

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

# COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

## Credit-Rating Agencies Could Derail Economic Recovery

**N**EW DELHI - On March 10, the credit-rating agency Moody's placed Ethiopia on review for a downgrade. The problem isn't violence and repression in Ethiopia's embattled Tigray region. Rather, Moody's has concluded that the Ethiopian government's commitment to engage with private creditors, as part of the G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, raises the risk that those creditors will incur losses. For that, the country apparently must be punished.

Whereas the DSSI aims to provide immediate relief to low-income countries during the pandemic, the Common Framework was designed to help debt-distressed sovereigns reschedule or reduce their liabilities. For many countries, it offers the best chance of making their debt burdens sustainable. But now, the threat of ratings downgrades is casting a shadow over these countries' prospects.

This points to a systemic problem in international finance: the extraordinary - and undeserved - power wielded by a few private credit-rating agencies. Just three - Moody's, S&P Global Ratings, and Fitch Ratings - control more than 94% of outstanding credit ratings. And there is significant cross-shareholding among them.

These oligopolistic firms are market movers and makers, influencing financial portfolio allocations, the pricing of debt and other financial instruments, and the cost of capital. Bolstering their authority, the US Securities and Exchange Commission has recognized them as official statistical rating organizations. And many institutional investors, required by law to hold only "investment-grade" assets in their portfolios, must abide by the rating agencies' verdicts.

Concerns about ratings agencies were first widely expressed during the Enron scandal in 2001. Enron, an energy-trading company, had been using accounting tricks and complex financial instruments to mislead investors, creditors, and regulators about its value. The ratings agencies were certainly fooled: The Big Three all issued Enron investment-grade ratings just days before the company collapsed.

Credit-rating agencies have also been accused of enabling the United States' subprime-mortgage bubble, which triggered the global financial crisis when it burst in 2008, and of exacerbating the bust through rapid reversals and downgrades. And they have been known to adjust ratings in ways that seem to reflect ideological positions, such as a commitment to fiscal austerity.

And yet, as Yuefen Li, the United Nations Independent Expert on Foreign Debt and Human Rights, points out in a new report, ratings agencies face no accountability for their mistakes or damaging behavior. Their ratings are legally described as "opinions," which are protected under free-speech laws, and they do not disclose their methodology. In short, ratings agencies do not bear appropriate

responsibility for the enormous power they wield.

Moreover, as Li also notes, conflicts of interest abound. Ratings agencies are private businesses, funded largely by the institutions they rate. And they are players in the markets they purportedly assess, meaning that self-interest inevitably shapes their decision-making. Ratings agencies have, for example, been involved in the creation of financial products that they were then responsible for rating - including the mortgage-backed securities that, flush with AAA ratings, helped bring about the 2008 crisis.

And yet, even as regulators work to limit conflicts of interest among most financial-market players, they seem content to leave credit-rating agencies to police themselves. The lack of regulatory action partly reflects the lobbying power of the Big Three. And it is generating serious risks, which the coronavirus pandemic has intensified.

For example, procyclicality in rating - another issue Li highlights in her report - is making financial-market conditions inhospitable for developing countries whose economic prospects have been undermined by the COVID-19 crisis. Furthermore, the threat of a ratings downgrade is preventing many governments from pursuing sufficient fiscal expenditure. Now, with the latest move from Moody's, developing-country governments must fear entering into debt-restructuring negotiations with private creditors, even as part of multilateral programs aimed at providing debt relief.

If the G20 countries are serious about improving developing countries' debt positions during the COVID-19 crisis, they should begin by supporting the temporary suspension of credit ratings. In the medium term, regulators must take action to ensure that rating agencies are fulfilling their intended market-stabilizing role. Tackling conflicts of interest - such as by limiting agencies' dependence on payments from those they rate - is essential.

But regulating private ratings agencies may not be enough. The UN Conference on Trade and Development has long argued that the world needs an independent public ratings agency to conduct objective evaluations of the creditworthiness of sovereigns and companies. Such an agency is also necessary to assess the instruments used to finance new public investment, which will be in high demand in the coming years.

A global agency makes sense, because credit ratings, especially for sovereign debt, are international in scope. Perhaps more important, it would provide a much-needed counterbalance to unaccountable private agencies. It might even force the Big Three to embrace reforms that they have long resisted.

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

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ABS Africa  
Sustainability Advisors

## Notice of Intent

### Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)

#### BEA Mountain Mining Corporation: Weajue Underground Mine Project

The general public and all concerned or interested parties are hereby informed that BEA Mountain Mining Corporation (BMMC) is preparing an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Weajue Underground Mine Project, located in the Grand Cape Mount County in western Liberia.

Bea Mountain Mining Corporation (BMMC), a company registered in Liberia, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Avesoro Resources Inc. (Avesoro). BMMC hold a Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) with the Republic of Liberia which was acquired in 2001 and renewed in 2013. The MDA property covers an area of approximately 535 km<sup>2</sup>.

BMMC plans to develop the Weajue Resource Area by means of establishing an underground mine and associated Waste Rock Dump (WRD) and haul road situated to the north of the license area which is approximately 35 km north-east of the New Liberty Gold Mine (NLGM). The new approximately 4,8 km haul road will be established to connect the Weajue mine to the existing Ndablama haul road. All ore mined at the Weajue underground mine will be processed at NLGM, making use of the existing plant and associated infrastructure.

The Project requires environmental authorisation in terms of the Environmental Protection and Management Law (EPML) for the underground mine development and associated infrastructure. The ESIA to be undertaken will be aligned with the requirements of Liberia's environmental legislative framework, as well as the International Finance Corporation's Performance Standards, Equator Principles and other associated International Best Practice Guidelines and Standards, as per the lender's requirements.

As part of the process of identifying potential environmental and social impacts that may result from activities of this development process, BMMC and the appointed consultants will request and receive inputs from the public, including interested and affected parties at the national and local levels. All persons having views, comments or concerns regarding the proposed project are encouraged to contact the appointed consultants as follows:

Petra Resources Inc.

Monrovia, Liberia

E-mail: [info@petraliberia.com](mailto:info@petraliberia.com)

Tel: 0778 616 555/ 0881 616 555

Your participation or input in this assessment exercise will be highly appreciated in order to guide decision relevant to the proposed project.

# ECOWAS Rep. urges GoI to show responsiveness in open governance process

By Lewis S Teh

The new ECOWAS Resident Representative to Liberia Ms. Josephine Nkrumah has urged the Government to show responsiveness in the open government processes, if it wants to achieve its goals.

"For open government to be successful in Liberia, government must ensure monitoring; government must be responsive because it is when you monitor then you are listening to what the people will require of you"

Ms. Nkrumah made the comments over the weekend when she spoke at the Icampus in Central Monrovia during a program marking the official celebration of the Open Government Week, an event which has been observed globally.

In her special statement, Ms. Nkrumah noted that open government is a beautiful concept that allows everyone to own the process of their development.

She said the process must be vibrant to allow civil society take the stands and play a key role in the process by demanding accountability from the government. She said the government too should hold itself accountable to the people they served.

According to Ms. Nkrumah, once there is an open government process in any country, it allows citizens to play their roles including civil society. She went on further to add that the government in return should seize the moment to deepen the capacity of

citizens on the governance process to enable them understand and know that they (citizens) too have a role to play.

"Development here is slow, but if we believe in this concept for which we all have gathered here, no matter how slow the process might be, we can achieve our goals," she said.

Ms. Nkrumah observed that the future is not tomorrow, it's now because the action one will take today will determine the tomorrow.

Touching on ECOWAS peace and security, Ms. Nkrumah said the only thing that can keep ECOWAS member states together is peace. She indicated that peace is cardinal and that without which there can be no form of development.

She said ECOWAS promotes peace and development, including economic participation that has the ability to shift the democratic system of governance in each member's states.

Also speaking at the program, the chairman of the OGP Steering Committee, Deputy Information Minister for Administration Atty. Daniel Gayou noted that the OGP week focuses on the celebration of reformers, doers, and agents of change in OGP countries around the world.

"We, therefore, join this celebration to congratulate the reformers and positive change agents in civil society and government for maintaining our engagement on the OGP partnership platform in a non-adversarial manner," Atty Gayou said.



### Expressions of Interest for Partnership

All We Can<sup>1</sup> - Y Care International<sup>2</sup> are two UK-based charities working together in partnership to transform lives. From 1 September 2021, All We Can and Y Care International began a formal partnership – combining efforts to tackle poverty, inequality and injustice in some of the world's most vulnerable communities<sup>3</sup> by:

- Supporting and strengthening local partners – organisations, churches, emerging initiatives and inspiring individuals that share our vision and values – to implement effective and sustainable solutions with some of the world's poorest and least served communities
- Responding to humanitarian crises with emergency relief and helping communities to be better prepared for disasters
- Engaging in global education to inform, challenge and motivate people to take a stance against poverty and injustice.

All We Can - Y Care International takes partnership to mean a *justly, co-managed relationship between two or more autonomous groups for the common purpose of helping people overcome poverty in some of the world's poorest communities to become all that they can*. Our approach is one in which local partners retain control over their own programmes and organisation, with All We Can - Y Care International playing a collaborative and supportive role.

All We Can - Y Care International are seeking to form partnerships with small and medium sized Liberian NGOs that have a similar vision to improve the quality of life of extremely poor and marginalised communities.

We welcome Expressions of Interest for partnership from local, community based or national NGOs currently operational in **North Central Region (Lofa, Bong and Nimba Counties)**, that meet the following criteria:

1. Shares a similar vision to All We Can - Y Care International;
2. Are legally registered as an organisation and can provide evidence of valid documents/certificates;
3. Have an operational office in one or more of the Counties mentioned above; and
4. Can provide evidence of implementing successful, integrated interventions addressing relevant needs in the Counties of operation.

To submit an Expression of Interest, demonstrating how your organisation meets the above criteria please go to link: [allwecan.org.uk/vacancies](http://allwecan.org.uk/vacancies) or [ycareinternational.org/working-with-y-care-international/](http://ycareinternational.org/working-with-y-care-international/).

Successful candidates will then be sent a full application pack that you will need to use to submit your application for partnership. **The full application will need to be completed and submitted in full, no later than 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2022 GMT.**

Please contact [liberia@allwecan.org.uk](mailto:liberia@allwecan.org.uk) regarding any questions or clarifications on registering your organisation and/or submitting your Expression of Interest or full application.

<sup>1</sup> All We Can is an international development and relief organisation, working to see every person's potential fulfilled.  
<sup>2</sup> Y Care International works with local youth-focused partners, aiming to empower young people across the world.  
<sup>3</sup> See website for more information: <https://www.ycare.allwecan.org.uk/>



## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-22-00008

2. **ISSUANCE DATE:** May 18, 2022

3. **CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** May 31, 2022, 11:59 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia

4. **POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov

5. **POSITION TITLE:** Financial Analyst

6. **MARKET VALUE:** USD \$ 40,344 – 64,550 FSN- 11

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 Financial Analyst (FA) is in the Office of Financial Management (OFM) Liberia and reports to the Supervisory Financial Analyst. S/he is a full member of various Development Objectives (DO) Teams designing and implementing large and complex development assistance programs. The FA conducts, or manages the performance, of various types of host country and implementing partner assessments of public financial management and procurement systems; audits, financial reviews, pre-award assessments, and compliance reviews, provides assistance, and support services to the Mission Controller, Deputy Mission Controller, Mission Management, Contractors, Recipients, and host Country Government entities. In addition, the incumbent supports one or more assigned DO teams in the financial management aspects of all phases of the project life cycle, from project design and procurement through execution and closure.

### Major Duties and Responsibilities

#### Audits, Pre-award assessments and Compliance Reviews 35%

- Conducts the annual review of the enterprise risks and Mission's internal control systems as required by the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA). The incumbent guides and advises Mission staff on their responsibilities for maintaining effective internal control, operating systems and procedures; proposes recommended courses of action to correct management deficiencies and reported material control weaknesses and takes responsibility for tracking the Mission's progress in addressing progress made to remedy deficiencies/weaknesses. The incumbent will also help guide the process of developing a risk profile for the Mission.
- Supports USAID/Liberia's Audit Management and Resolution Officer and is responsible for all financial and performance audits and for the preparation and monitoring of the Mission's annual audit plan. S/he will be responsible for preparation and/or review of Mission responses to the Regional Inspector General's audit report recommendations, and for closing out audit recommendations with USAID/Washington's Chief Financial Officer; and will liaise with Inspector General's office, and advise the Controller and the Mission Director on the status of audits
- Establishes and implements annual plans for performing financial management reviews of the Mission's implementing partners in Liberia. Reviews the performance of implementing partners/agencies, prepares site visit reports to detail findings and recommendations; and track and follow up on implementation of recommendations.
- Provides an opinion on the reliability of host country and recipient systems, and the effectiveness of the underlying internal control. Advises mission management on weaknesses and possible recommendations. Provides input to project work plans, expenditure plans and budgets and monitors the financial and accounting performance of grantees, contractors and the host government. Provides assistance and advice to contractors, grantees and host government counterparts in the maintenance of records and US Government (USG) financial management requirements.

#### Assists in the Accounting, Budget, and Reporting Functions of USAID/Liberia 25%

- Performs reviews of financial terms and conditions on project agreements, project implementation orders, modified acquisition and assistance requests, contracts, purchase and delivery orders, and lease and grant agreements for compliance with applicable rules, regulations, and procedures relating to accounting and fund controls. S/he monitors the execution of such documents to ensure compliance with financial plans and reports on the financial status of those instruments to the Controller and other technical office directors or team leaders.
- Prepares the quarterly reports of financial data required by USAID/Washington in preparing the Agency's quarterly financial statements.
- Analyzes new and revised financial management procedures issued by USAID/Washington which impact USAID/Liberia accounting and financial reporting systems. S/he designs procedures to permit effective implementation of needed managerial and program systems.
- Provides guidance and advice to other USAID/Liberia OFM staff, administrative, and programmatic personnel engaged in carrying out fiscal and programmatic activities. S/he advises the Mission Director, technical team leaders, activity managers, and other support personnel to provide clear direction to ensure effective planning and execution of financial managerial operations. S/he provides guidance on all financial management policy matters.

#### Management Advice and Assistance 20%

- Provides financial advice to USAID/Liberia Mission management personnel on a range of issues related to the financial management aspects of proposed activities. Contributes to USAID's decision and policy making process by providing recommendations and suggestions for improving operational efficiencies, financial management practices, and accuracy of financial reporting; Provides technical guidance on USG and USAID rules and regulations to the technical teams, implementing partners, and host government officials. Prepares the financial aspects of project design and implementation documents, such as budgets and financial plans for Implementation Letters, Grant Agreements, etc. Assists activity managers in development of appropriate payment procedures.
- Participates as a key member of the technical (DO) teams in exercises such as periodic portfolio and/or project implementation reviews and procurement planning exercises. Performs the quarterly project accounting analyses and participates with the technical teams in development of accrual estimates. Identifies and recommends adjusting entries to the accounts to bring the project/program pipelines into accurate levels. Reviews project vouchers and liquidation requests. Investigates variances between projections and actual disbursements and provides analysis to Activity Managers. Liaises with officials at various levels for the USAID Mission, U.S. Embassy, host government, and implementing organizations to ascertain needs for accounting and budgetary data and ensure that those needs are being met. Advises host government officials on financial requirements of various awards and of changes (amendments) occurring throughout the life of such awards. Works with host government tax authorities as needed. Provides advice on tax changes in local law that affects USAID and implementing partner employees and operations.

#### Public Financial Management and Host country systems 20%

- Performs, or manages the performance of, various types of host county assessments, audits, financial reviews, pre-award assessments, and compliance reviews. These may include but are not limited to (a) country context appraisals of host country systems; (b) assessments on public financial management and procurement systems; (c) host country contracting and/or financial management capability assessments on identified host

country implementing agencies as a precondition to award approvals; and (d) host country and donor discussions on public financial management, procurement and other related areas of expertise. The Incumbent may also participate in various types of financial reviews, control environment and risk assessments, cost effectiveness assessments, disbursement reviews, indirect cost rate reviews, pre-closeout and closeout reviews on USAID funded activities.

- Identifies or coordinates the capacity development plan determined from assessments conducted on the host government agencies, both at the national and local levels, and aids in the implementation and monitoring of the plan.
- In conjunction with assessments conducted, participates in the conduct of relevant Financial Management training and technical assistance to the Mission/Client Missions; recipients contractors; and to the host country government-- aimed at strengthening internal controls and management systems; and at building the capacity of local organizations and of host country government implementing agencies.
- Performs continuous and specific quarterly 1311 reviews for Mission's activities to manage outstanding commitments, obligations, sub-commitments and sub-obligations as required
- Performs pre-payment verification of invoices to determine allowability of costs being claimed in accordance with relevant award terms and provisions and with applicable USAID cost principles and other regulations; conducts analysis of historical accounting data and recommends management actions as needed.

- Supervision Controls:** The incumbent reports to the Supervisory Financial Analyst, and as necessary, coordinates with the Deputy Controller or Controller

- Supervisory Relationship:** None

## 12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

## II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Education:** A university degree in Accounting, Finance or Business Administration is required.
- Prior Work Experience:** A Minimum of five years of progressively responsible experience in professional accounting, auditing, or other financial management is required.
- Post Entry Training:** On-the-job and some coursework training to be provided in USAID and USG systems.
- Language Proficiency** Level IV English ability (fluent) is required. sp/rd/wr.
- Job Knowledge:** Knowledge and understanding of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS), international auditing and accounting standards, as well as governmental and not-for-profit accounting, budgeting, and reporting are required. Knowledge of activity design, development, implementation, and evaluation processes is essential. Knowledge of public financial management systems, Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO) Internal Control Framework, international auditing standards and related areas is highly desired.
- Skills and Abilities:** Excellent skills and abilities in performing financial analysis, internal control assessments, financial reviews, compliance reviews, audits, etc. are required. Ability to perform analysis of management controls and capabilities of partner/beneficiary organizations is required. Ability to evaluate financial aspects of activities and programs, institutional capacities and capabilities is required. Ability to clearly communicate results and recommendations to a broad audience, both orally and in writing, is also required. Excellent interpersonal skills are required, as the incumbent will frequently be working with the officials and staff of the host government, contractors, grantees, and others who may be unfamiliar with USAID's systems and processes.

## 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 200 words or less, describe your prior work experience - Progressively responsible experience in professional accounting, auditing, or financially oriented business management. Prior CPA firm audit experience is highly desirable.

**FACTOR #2:** In 200 words or less, describe your job knowledge - Thorough knowledge and understanding of professional accounting, budgeting and auditing principles, theories, practices and terminology related to both public and private institutions is essential.

**FACTOR #3:** In 200 words or less, describe your skills and abilities - Ability to analyze data, narrative reports, internal control flowcharts, etc., to permit detection of strengths and weaknesses of projects & make independent judgments of institutions' financial capability for the purposes of discussions concerning program project implementation and audit recommendations.

### 3. Basis of Rating

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

Evaluation Factors 100 points

Factor #1	10 points
Factor #2	30 points
Factor #3	30 points

Interview Performance 30 points

Interview questions will provide the candidate the ability to:

- Respond in a clear and concise manner to a series of questions about your experience, skills, goals, and other areas.
- Respond to different scenarios, clearly stating your proposed solution.

Total Possible Points 100 points

## IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line **VA-669-22-00008- Financial Analyst LiberiaHR@usaid.gov**

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

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

- A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
- A minimum of three (3) professional references with telephone and email contacts, who are not family members or relatives, with working telephone and email contacts. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities. At least one reference provided should be a current or former supervisor.
- A supplemental document with a written response to the Evaluation Factors.

Candidates who are applying for this position must fully meet the education requirement (graduated and degree and/or diploma already received) as specified. Candidates must also meet the full work experience requirement and demonstrate in their application that they are an eligible offeror as required in I.9 above. There is no exception to these requirements.

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

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

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

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

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**Include voluntary teachers on payroll**

**-Education Minister warned**

By Lincoln G. Peters

Bong County Senator and Chair on the Senate Committee on Education Prince Moye has ordered the Minister of Education Prof. D. Ansu Sonii and his team to place voluntary teachers on payroll, warning that the minister would be summoned to face the Senate if he fails to do so.

Speaking in an interview with journalists recently at the Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, Senator Moye urged the Ministry of Education to properly manage a US\$3 million allocated for it and have voluntary teachers placed on payroll or risk being summoned and rejected by the Senate.

"Minister Sonii and your team, I do not want to see you guys coming [to] the Capitol Building again because we want you people to properly use the money that was given to make sure that teachers who are volunteering are included on the payroll," said Senator Moye.

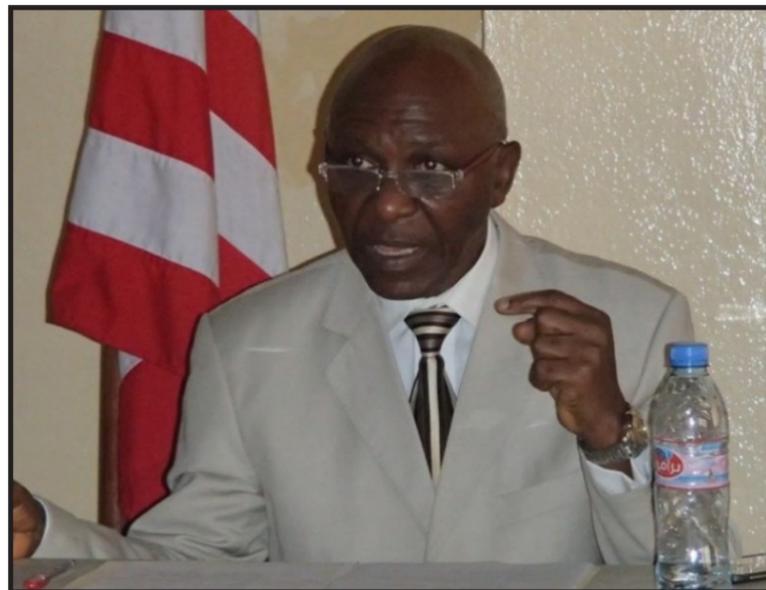
"The President Pro-Tempore made reference to that during the opening of our session and I hope you take cue," Senator Moye noted.

Moye's caution to Minister Sonii came when the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the World Bank's

Improving Results In Secondary Education (IRISE) Project, certified 200 special female career guardians and psychosocial counselors at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town.

million given to it and have all the voluntary teachers placed on payroll so that there can be enough teachers in various public schools across the country.

"Some of the institutions come to committees crying for additional budgetary



The counselors will be placed in various public schools nationwide.

According to him, sometimes when lawmakers allot money to an institution that is in need, they come to realize that at the close of the budget period that particular fund is left.

Moye explained that this is the reason lawmakers do not allot to some agencies and ministries.

The Bong Senator further urged the Ministry of Education to be fast and utilize the additional US\$3

allotment based on the programs they have initiated. However, they do not use those monies as requested, and when called to account for it, they can't defend anything," Senator Moye complained.

"Education being one of those that are very important to our country, we made a case and took a decision," Moye said, detailing that the Liberian Senate and the Legislature in general, decided to give the Ministry of Education additional US\$3 million to close a certain gap.

**'Liberia continues to suffer diplomatic setback'**

**-Kouyateh says**

By Lincoln G. Peters

Two-time defeated Montserrado County senatorial candidate Sheikh Al-Moustapha Kouyateh says it is very saddened and unthinkable that Liberia's diplomatic image continues

to suffer a setback because of alleged irresponsible leadership by the George Manneh Weah - led government.

The former member of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) alleges that an unease in the country as the citizenry

allegedly witness the rigging of the future of their children by the Weah - led government, evidenced by misapplications of funds and mishandling of power.

Addressing a press conference over the weekend at his office, Kouyateh called on President Weah to responsibly act in the interest of the country's sovereignty to retrieve all diplomatic passports in circulation for the purpose of ensuring these passports do not continue to land in the hands of unscrupulous individuals and on some occasion's criminals.

According to Kouyateh, it is clear that since the inception of the CDC - led government, the issue of the holders of the country's diplomatic passports continues to undermine the good image of the country.

"It started with former Director of Passports, Mr. Andrew Wonploe, and what was shameful was that Mr. Wonploe was prosecuted and

**Representative hopeful calls for unity in diversity**



Montserrado County's District # 8 Representative hopeful Isaac Krah has urged members of the G. W. Gibson School Alumni Association to foster unity in diversity to strengthening the association.

Mr. Krah stressed that diversity brings together best of people from different backgrounds in the society.

He spoke recently at the homecoming of the G. W. Gibson School Alumni Association held in Monrovia.

According to him, people from different backgrounds can meet for the first time and trust and understanding can be developed which is crucial for social coherent.

He noted that lack of unity is undermining the growth and development of several associations across the country.

Mr. Krah emphasized that co-existence in a peaceful manner will go a long way in building institutions and group of individuals in every endeavor of

life, be it social or political sojourn.

"During the Liberian Civil War from the 90s to 2000, I settled in Ghana and later moved to Nigeria for schooling, and I was able to be integrated to living conditions in the two countries as well as the both Liberian camps." He reflected.

Krah urged members of the Alumni Association to work together to empower the association so that it can contribute meaningfully to the school and society in general.

He re-iterated that diversity is the differences in racial and ethnic, socio-economic, geographic and academic or professional background, such that people with different opinions on issues should be tolerated in any society.

He further stressed that Liberians should continue to maintain the peace and create a harmonious society in order to transform the socio-economic development of the country.

acquitted by the justice system of President Weah - led government on grounds that there was no sufficient evidence to convict him," Mr. Kouyateh alleged.

Kouyateh also mentioned the arrest of Sheik Bassirou Kante in the United States for alleged money laundering, adding that there are many more with Liberia's diplomatic passports that are clandestinely involved with illegal businesses and money laundering.

He urged the US government and other friendly countries to scrutinize every official and diplomatic passport holder at every entry point, something he said will ensure full protection for the diplomatic image of Liberia.

Mr. Kouyateh explained that it is so sad that the once valuable Liberian diplomatic passport has become a questionable dossier due to fraudulent attributes of the

Weah - led government.

He further indicated that the future of the country remains bleak as officials of the Weah - led government's desire for wealth has allegedly invented misapplication, fraud, and unceasing corruption as a system of governance to the detriment of the citizenry.

"However, I am calling on President Weah to rethink his decision for the country as he promised prior to the 2017 Presidential elections," Kouyateh pleaded.

"The recent report of the GAC (General Auditing Commission) is a clear manifestation that the Government of Liberia headed by President Weah lacks the ability to lead the Liberian people for the next 6 years," Kouyateh claimed.

He called on the international community to sanction President Weah and his officials of Government that are allegedly involved in corruption.



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Diaspora Liberians' Eminent Chairman Lauds Senate for Passage of Dual Citizenship Act

The Eminent Chairman of the All-Liberian Conference on Dual Citizenship (ALCOD), Eminent Emmanuel S. Wettee, has lauded the Senate, under the leadership of Pro-temp Albert Chie, for concurring with the House of Representatives on the passage of the Dual Citizenship Act with their own version of the bill.

The Senate on Friday, May 19th, voted to concur with the House to amend provisions of Liberian Aliens and Nationality Law, which caused automatic loss of Liberian citizenship. The Senate's amendment essentially confirms a famous saying of Eminent Chairman Wettee that, "Once a Liberian, always a Liberian."

The bill that the Senate had concurred with, with the House, had been championed by Montserrado County's District #8 Representative, Mr. Moses Acarous Gray, who is a staunch member of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC). He was backed by at least 30 of his colleague lawmakers in the House, including Deputy House Speaker J. Fonati Koffa.

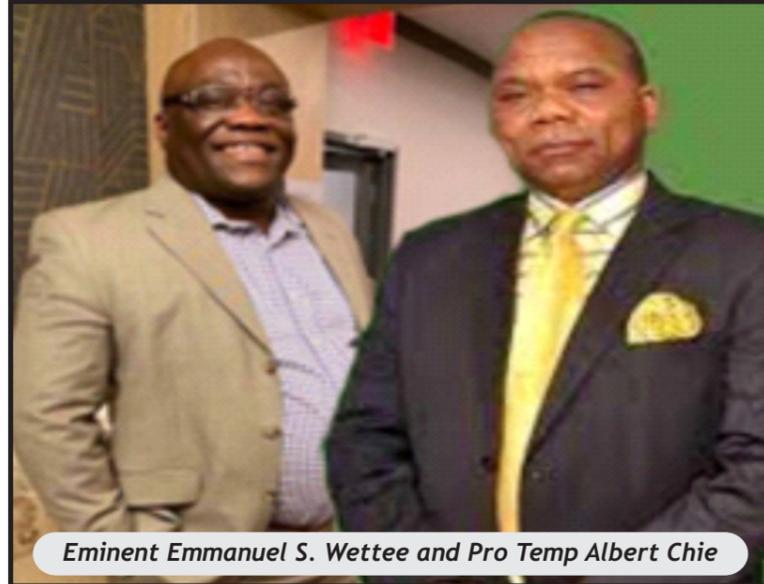
Specially, the bill sought to repeal Part III, Chapter 20, Section 20.1; Chapter 21, Sections 21.30, 21.31, 21.51 & 21.52 and Chapter 22, Sections 22.1, 22.1 & 22.4 of the Aliens and Nationality Law of the Liberian Code of Law Revised, Vol. II."

The Montserrado County lawmaker submitted the Bill on Friday, October 29, and it was read on the House's floor on Tuesday, November 2nd, and forwarded to the

Committee on Judiciary to report back to Plenary within one week.

The HOR passed the bill into law on Thursday, Nov. 11, and it was sent to the Senate for concurrence. Gray had reportedly scripted

diaspora Liberians had become fed up with "lack of action and will" from Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon and had urged the Senator to withdraw similar bill that he had submitted with his



Eminent Emmanuel S. Wettee and Pro Temp Albert Chie

on his bill: "Once a Liberian, always a Liberian."

Gray's bill was done under the auspices of ALCOD, which includes the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA), European Federation of Liberian Associations (EFLA), Liberian Advocacy for Change (L AFC), Federation of Liberia Communities in Australia (FLCA), United Liberian Association of Ghana (ULAG), Liberian Association of Canada (LAC), and Conference of Liberian Organizations in Southwestern United States of America (CLOSUSA). ALCOD represents more than 500,000 Liberians living in the diaspora.

Rep. Gray had submitted his bill few days after it was published in the media, in late October 2021, that some

colleagues, in the Senate, for legislative enactment.

The speed with which Rep. Gray's bill picked up, far outweighed that of Sen. Dillon, who had submitted his version in March of 2021, and it was sent into committee room for perusal and advice to plenary but nothing tangible was done about it but "only gathering dusts on the shelf," some dissatisfied diaspora Liberians stated.

However, Sen. Dillon was among the first group of senators to break the good news about their concurrence with the House.

He posted on his Facebook page, "No Liberian should lose his/her citizenship upon taking citizenship of another country, unless said person/s decide so of their own accord."

# ACEDHARS trains over 162 health practitioners

By Naneka Hoffman

The African Center of Excellence for Drug Research, Herbal Medicine Development and Regulatory Science

(ACEDHARS) at Lagos University in Nigeria in collaboration with the Traditional Complementary Medicine Unite at the Ministry of Health and the

School of Pharmacy here has ended five days of training on Toxicological Evaluation of Herbal Product for over 162 professional health workers and traditional healers in Liberia.

Speaking at the close of the training on May 20, at the college of health sciences, University of Liberia, the Executive Director of the African Center of Excellence for Drug Research, Madam Omobolanel Ade-Ademilua thanked the administrators for the five-day training.

Madam Ade-Ademilua said the strategic plan of the University of Lagos is to actually assist in developing a future for West Africa, with support of the World Bank.

# Kemayan appoints investigative panel

## -to probe Diplomatic Passport scandal



By: Kruah Thompson

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Dee Maxwell Kemayan has set up a five-member committee to probe how Liberian Diplomatic Passport got into hand Liberia businessman Bassirou Kante, currently arrested and detained in the United State for alleged fraud and money-laundering.

President George Weah recently suspended the issuance of Liberian Diplomatic

Passport and mandated Minister Kemayan to launch an investigation into the passport saga that saw a non-diplomat Bassirou Kante, carrying Liberian Diplomatic Passport.

Accord to report, the decision to set up an investigate panel was made in a senior management meeting convened over the weekend at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia.

During the meeting, deputy

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

She said they have embarked on an eight-part project in Lagos to take Liberia as one of those countries to collaborate with in drugs production, regulation as well as herbal medicine production and regulation, respectively.

She stressed the need to develop regionally-grown medicines, noting that traditionally, "We have those medicines but [they]don't meet international standards and this is the reason for these programs."

She urged participants to implement the knowledge acquired during the five days training in order to make significant impact in society.

At the same time, Madam Ade-Ademilua disclosed that ACEDHARS has awarded fully-funded scholarships to 27 Liberians to pursue Master's and PhD studies in medicines, using plants from Liberia.

She said the scholarship beneficiaries will go to Nigeria for research, but they would need busy laboratory facility hence, she appeals to the Government of Liberia for assistance to develop a laboratory in the School of Pharmacy.

"We don't want them to use Nigerian plants, we want them to use Liberian plants, Liberian medicines because they can produce their own products that they can make in Liberia, so these businesses can make for attractions, concentration of extra before they can come to Nigeria."

Moreover, she appealed to the Government of Liberia to assist by providing scholarships, because they can only do, but it is insufficient to serve all of the students, disclosing that the program covers studies for five Master's degrees and five PhDs.

According to Madam Ade-Ademilua, the project is sponsored by the World Bank with US\$6 million to the University of Lagos to develop West and Central African countries, including jebothi, adding So, we are developing big countries to help develop drugs, herbal medicines and regulation of drugs and herbal medicines.

Also speaking at the program, the director of complementary division at the Ministry of Health (MOH) Mohammed Kamara thanked the ACEHRS for the partnership that has landed Liberia thus far, particularly efforts that made the plan a fruition.

"My appreciation to everyone that took up their time to attend this all-important training (herbal medicine toxicological evaluation and result interpretation). This shows our support for the development of herbal medicine in Liberia", Mr. Kamara said.

He noted that Liberia remains the highest potential in forest resources on the west coast of Africa (NFI Reports 2018/2019). Its average forest cover, given the NFI driven forest definition that did not include plantations as a single nation surpasses all other nations in the Upper Guinean forests. This mean that Liberia



# Français

## L'Irlande et le Libéria veulent tisser des liens militaires

L'ambassadrice d'Irlande accréditée au Libéria, mais résidant en République de Sierra Leone, a fait part de la volonté de son pays d'établir des liens militaires solides avec les Forces armées du Libéria, en particulier dans le domaine du maintien de la paix.

L'ambassadrice Clarie Buckley a donné l'information au major général Daniel D. Ziankan, ministre libérien de la

Défense nationale lors d'un entretien.

La République d'Irlande, selon elle, considère les forces armées du Libéria comme un partenaire stratégique. Elle s'est dite convaincue que quand le partenariat militaire sera tissé, les capacités professionnelles des forces armées du Libéria dans ses opérations de maintien de la paix se renforceront davantage.

Elle a rappelé les contributions que son pays faites pour la paix au Libéria avec le

déploiement des troupes irlandaises dans le cadre de la mission de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies au Libéria au plus fort de la guerre civile.

S'exprimant sur le processus de recrutement des Forces armées du Libéria en cours, la diplomate irlandaise a encouragé le ministère de la Défense nationale à recruter plus de femmes pour atteindre le quota de 15% fixé par les Nations Unies. Elle a

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Éditorial

### Affaire passeport diplomatique : c'est le déni total

Il semble qu'aucun responsable du gouvernement Weah ne soit disposé à assumer la responsabilité du passeport diplomatique libérien délivré à l'homme d'affaires libérien Sheik Bassirou Kante, qui est interrogé par le gouvernement américain pour blanchiment d'argent d'une valeur de plus de 7 millions de dollars.

Sheik Kante n'est pas un diplomate et il ne travaille pas pour le gouvernement du Libéria, mais il a un passeport diplomatique libérien.

Tout le monde prend ses distances avec le suspect cheikh Kante, y compris le représentant du district n° 14 du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Vamuyan Corneh, et le ministre de l'Information, Ledgerhood Julius Rennie, ou encore la vice-présidente du Libéria, Jewel Howard Taylor, avec qui il a pourtant des liens très étroits.

Même le ministère des Affaires étrangères chargé de traiter tous les passeports libériens est tenté de nier avoir eu connaissance de la manière dont le passeport diplomatique est tombé dans les mains de Kante. En tout cas le président George Weah a ordonné des enquêtes pour faire la lumière sur cette affaire.

Ce qui est clair cependant, c'est que Kante est directement parti du Libéria pour les États-Unis où il a été arrêté. Il n'est pas venu du ciel avec le passeport diplomatique.

Nous pensons que seul le gouvernement américain nous permettra de savoir la vraie vérité sur cette affaire, car les autorités ici se livrent actuellement à un jeu de déni, dépeignant l'innocence.

En réalité à quoi faut-il d'attendre quand l'enquête est confiée au ministère des Affaires étrangères alors qu'il est lui-même suspecté. Il ne faut pas s'attendre à grand-chose, car le gouvernement ne s'inculpera pas. Il ne voulait pas essayer de condamner l'ancien directeur des passeports Adrew Wonplo pour avoir vendu des passeports diplomatiques libériens à des non-Libériens. Il a fallu que le département d'État américain interdise à Wonplo et à sa famille immédiate de voyager en Amérique "en raison de son implication dans une corruption importante", pour qu'on le juge. C'est tout simplement un jeu d'enfant.

Shiek Kante aurait dépensé 100 000 dollars au Libéria lors de la célébration du bicentenaire ici, mais le gouvernement dit qu'il n'est pas au courant. Il a fait venir des artistes nigériens dont P-Square pour se produire au complexe sportif Samuel Kanyon Doe, mais le ministre de l'Information Rennie a déclaré qu'en tant que président national du comité directeur du bicentenaire, le comité n'était pas au courant et M. Kante n'a jamais communiqué avec eux à ce sujet.

S'exprimant lors du point de presse régulier du ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme, jeudi 12 mai, le patron du MICAT a en outre précisé que M. Bassirou avait décidé de son propre chef de se charger des services des musiciens nigériens en raison de l'euphorie du bicentenaire.

"Nous ne le savions pas, il ne nous a jamais écrit, nous n'avons jamais communiqué, et cela a provoqué un tollé parmi les musiciens locaux car il a été annoncé qu'il avait dépensé 200 000 dollars américains et les gens ont dit que c'était le gouvernement qui avait donné l'argent", a précisé le ministre.

Chaque fonctionnaire se lave totalement les mains de tout ce qui a à voir avec le cheikh Kante et comment il a obtenu un passeport diplomatique libérien. Le résultat de l'enquête ordonnée par le président Weah sur le scandale ne deviendrait rien d'autre qu'une « cheville ronde dans un carré ».



## L'Union européenne alloue un soutien pour stopper l'épidémie de rougeole en cours au Libéria

En guise de contribution aux efforts déployés pour arrêter l'épidémie de rougeole qui touche 14 des 15 comtés du Libéria, l'UE contribue à hauteur d'environ 24 millions de dollars libériens pour fournir un soutien de santé publique et communautaire dans les huit comtés les plus touchés.

Ce financement de l'UE permettra à la Croix-Rouge libérienne de soutenir une campagne de vaccination de masse par le biais d'activités de mobilisation sociale, de sensibilisation et d'engagement communautaire, en coordination avec le ministère de la Santé et d'autres partenaires, tout en améliorant le suivi communautaire et la notification des cas de rougeole.

L'aide humanitaire bénéficiera directement à l'ensemble de la population des huit comtés ciblés. Environ 305 000 personnes seront touchées et la priorité sera accordée aux groupes les

plus à risque de développer des maladies graves, tels que les enfants non vaccinés de moins de cinq ans, les femmes enceintes et allaitantes, les personnes âgées et les personnes ayant des besoins spéciaux. La détection rapide et l'encouragement des visites précoces dans les établissements de santé, associés à l'éducation sur les pratiques de protection, seront les principaux domaines

d'intérêt pour prévenir une nouvelle propagation de la rougeole dans le pays.

Le financement fait partie de la contribution globale de l'UE au Fonds d'urgence pour les secours en cas de catastrophe (DREF) de la Fédération internationale des sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge (FICR).

Le jeudi 21 avril 2022, le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



# Français

## L'Irlande et le Libéria veulent

félicité le ministre Ziankahn pour son engagement récent à tenir les Forces armées du Libéria à l'écart de la politique. "J'ai été ravie d'apprendre que l'armée libérienne restera apolitique", a déclaré l'ambassadeur Buckley.

Dans le même temps, l'ambassadeur d'Irlande a informé la ministre Ziankahn de la préparation militaire de son pays à participer aux célébrations de la Journée des forces armées du Libéria l'année prochaine.

En réponse, le ministre de

la Défense nationale a exprimé sa gratitude à l'ambassadrice irlandaise et a salué la relation de longue date qui existe entre les deux pays, tout en mettant un accent sur les contributions de la République d'Irlande au renforcement de la paix au Libéria.

Le ministre Ziankahn a salué le geste de la République d'Irlande.

Il a informé la diplomate irlandaise de son engagement à maintenir la force armée du Libéria à l'écart de la politique, afin de préserver la neutralité de la force.

## L'Union européenne alloue un soutien

ministère libérien de la Santé a déclaré une épidémie de rougeole touchant 14 des 15 comtés du pays. Selon le gouvernement libérien, l'épidémie est le résultat de faibles taux de vaccination, en raison de l'interruption des activités de vaccination pendant la pandémie de COVID-19 et des idées fausses générales sur la vaccination. Le comté de Montserrado présentait à lui seul 135 cas. Par ailleurs, deux équipes de santé départementales, Nimba et Grand Bassa, ont signalé le 22 avril respectivement 230 et 91 cas. Le nombre total de cas de ces comtés représentait 456, dont 189 cas probables et 236 cas suspects.

La rougeole est endémique au Libéria. Cependant, l'augmentation rapide du nombre de cas et l'étendue géographique de l'épidémie mettent en évidence un pic de cas, d'où la nécessité d'augmenter et d'améliorer la vaccination des enfants de moins de cinq ans.

Arrière-plan

L'Union européenne et ses États membres sont le premier donateur d'aide humanitaire au monde. L'aide humanitaire est une expression de la solidarité européenne avec les personnes dans le besoin partout dans le monde. Il vise à sauver des vies, à prévenir et à atténuer les souffrances humaines et à sauvegarder l'intégrité et la dignité humaine des populations touchées par des catastrophes naturelles et des crises d'origine humaine.

Par l'intermédiaire du service de la protection civile et des opérations d'aide humanitaire de la Commission européenne, l'Union européenne aide chaque année des millions de victimes de conflits et de catastrophes. Avec son siège à Bruxelles et un réseau mondial de bureaux extérieurs, l'Union européenne fournit une assistance aux personnes les plus vulnérables sur la base des besoins humanitaires.

L'Union européenne est signataire d'un accord de délégation humanitaire de 3 millions d'euros avec la Fédération internationale des sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge (FICR) pour soutenir le Fonds d'urgence pour les secours en cas de catastrophe (DREF) de la Fédération. Les fonds de la DREF sont principalement alloués aux catastrophes « à petite échelle », celles qui ne donnent pas lieu à un appel international formel.

Le Fonds d'urgence pour les secours en cas de catastrophe a été créé en 1985 et est financé par des contributions de donateurs. Chaque fois qu'une Société nationale de la Croix-Rouge ou du Croissant-Rouge a besoin d'un soutien financier immédiat pour répondre à une catastrophe, elle peut demander des fonds à la DREF. Pour les catastrophes à petite échelle, la FICR alloue des subventions du Fonds, qui peuvent ensuite être reconstituées par les donateurs. L'accord de délégation entre la FICR et ECHO permet à cette dernière d'alimenter la DREF pour des opérations convenues (conformément à son mandat humanitaire) jusqu'à un total de 3 millions d'euros.

## COMMENTAIRE

par Jayati Ghosh

## Les agences de notation contre le redressement économique

**N**EW DELHI - Le 10 mars, l'agence de notation Moody's a placé l'Éthiopie sous surveillance en vue d'un déclassement. Ce n'est pas à cause de la violence et de la répression qui sévissent dans la région du Tigré, mais à cause des négociations que le gouvernement éthiopien a engagé avec ses créanciers privés pour restructurer sa dette (d'abord dans le cadre de l'Initiative de suspension du service de la dette (ISSD) et maintenant en faisant aussi appel au Cadre commun de traitement de la dette du G20). Moody's estime que la perspective d'une restructuration augmente le risque de perte pour les créanciers. C'est apparemment pour cela que le pays doit être puni.

Alors que l'ISSD vise à apporter une aide immédiate aux pays à faible revenu pendant la pandémie, le Cadre commun est destiné à aider les pays endettés à rééchelonner le remboursement de leur dette ou à la réduire. Pour nombre de pays, ce Cadre constitue le meilleur outil pour rendre supportable le fardeau de la dette, mais la menace d'une dégradation de la notation assombrit leur avenir.

Cela met en évidence un problème systémique de la finance internationale : le pouvoir extraordinaire - et immérité - de quelques agences privées de notation financière. A elles seules, trois d'entre elles, les Trois Grandes (Moody's, S&P Global Ratings et Fitch Ratings) ont la main sur plus de 94 % de la notation financière. Et il existe une importante participation croisée entre elles.

Les Trois Grandes constituent un oligopole qui tient un rôle important sur les marchés, car il influe sur la répartition des portefeuilles financiers, le coût du crédit et d'autres instruments financiers, ainsi que sur le coût du capital. Le gendarme américain de la Bourse, la SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission), a encore renforcé l'autorité de ces agences en leur attribuant le label d'organisme officiel de notation. Or de nombreux investisseurs institutionnels, tenus par la loi de ne détenir dans leurs portefeuilles que des actifs de qualité "investment-grade", doivent se conformer au verdict des agences de notation.

Les problèmes que posent les agences de notation sont apparus pour la première fois au grand jour en 2001, lors du scandale d'Enron. Cette société spécialisée dans le trading de l'énergie avait utilisé des astuces comptables et des instruments financiers complexes pour tromper sur sa valeur les investisseurs, les créanciers et les régulateurs. Les agences de notation n'y ont vu que du feu, au point que les Trois Grandes ont attribué la qualité "investment-grade" aux obligations d'Enron quelques jours seulement avant l'effondrement de la société.

Les agences de notation ont également été accusées d'avoir favorisé aux USA la formation de la bulle des crédits immobiliers à risque qui a déclenché la crise financière mondiale de 2008, et d'avoir exacerbé cette crise par des revirements et des dégradations rapides. Elles sont aussi connues pour ajuster semble-t-il leur notation en fonction de positions idéologiques - par exemple un engagement en faveur de l'austérité budgétaire.

Pourtant, comme le souligne dans un nouveau rapport Yuefen Li, l'expert indépendant des Nations unies sur la dette extérieure et les droits humains, les agences de notation n'ont pas à rendre des comptes pour leurs erreurs ou lorsque leur comportement est préjudiciable. Du point de vue juridique, leur notation relève d'une opinion, à

ce titre elle bénéficie de la législation sur la liberté d'expression, et elles ne sont pas tenues de divulguer pas leur méthodologie. Elles disposent donc d'un énorme pouvoir pour lequel elles n'ont pas de comptes à rendre.

Li souligne aussi les nombreux conflits d'intérêts. Les agences de notation sont des entreprises privées, financées en grande partie par les institutions qu'elles notent. Ce sont également des acteurs des marchés qu'elles sont censées évaluer. Autrement dit, leur intérêt personnel pèse sur leurs décisions. Elles ont ainsi participé à la création de produits financiers qu'elles étaient ensuite chargées de noter - notamment les titres adossés à des prêts immobiliers qu'elles ont notés AAA, contribuant de ce fait à la crise de 2008.

Quant aux régulateurs qui ont la responsabilité de limiter les conflits d'intérêts parmi les acteurs des marchés financiers, ils se contentent apparemment de laisser les agences de notation se surveiller elles-mêmes. L'absence d'action réglementaire reflète en partie le pouvoir de lobbying des Trois Grandes et génère des risques importants, encore intensifiés par la pandémie.

Autre problème pointé par Li : la notation étant procyclique, il est difficile aux pays en développement d'accéder aux marchés financiers, car leurs perspectives économiques sont minées par la crise du COVID-19. En outre, la menace d'une dégradation de leur notation fait que beaucoup de pays s'interdisent des dépenses publiques pourtant nécessaires. Maintenant, avec la dernière décision de Moody's, les pays en développement vont craindre d'entamer des négociations de restructuration de la dette avec leurs créanciers privés, même dans le cadre de programmes multilatéraux d'allègement de la dette.

Si les pays du G20 veulent réellement aider les pays en développement durant la crise du COVID-19, ils doivent prendre position en faveur d'une suspension temporaire de la notation financière. A moyen terme, les régulateurs doivent veiller à ce que les agences de notation remplissent correctement leur rôle de stabilisateur des marchés. Il est primordial de s'attaquer aux conflits d'intérêt - par exemple en limitant la dépendance financière des agences de notation à l'égard des entreprises qu'elles notent.

Mais la réglementation des agences de notation privées pourrait ne pas suffire. Depuis longtemps la Conférence des Nations unies sur le commerce et le développement est favorable à la création d'une agence de notation publique indépendante pour effectuer des évaluations objectives de la solvabilité des États et des entreprises. Une telle agence pourrait aussi évaluer les instruments destinés à financer les nouveaux investissements publics. Ils seront très demandés dans les années à venir.

Une agence internationale serait utile, car la notation financière (en particulier en ce qui concerne les dettes souveraines) a une portée internationale. Et surtout, elle constituerait un contrepoids bienvenu aux agences privées qui n'ont pas de comptes à rendre. Elle pourrait même obliger les Trois Grandes à entreprendre les réformes auxquelles elles se refusent depuis longtemps.

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

Jayati Ghosh est secrétaire exécutive du réseau d'économistes IDEAS (International Development Economics Associates), professeur d'économie à l'université du Massachusetts à Amherst et membre de la Commission indépendante pour la réforme de la fiscalité internationale des entreprises.

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**(REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – SELECTION OF AN INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL CONSULTANT)**

**NAME OF PROJECT:** Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project, II

Assignment Title: Consultancy Facilitator for Editing, Structure and Layout of Macroeconomic and Fiscal Information Dissemination Newsletter, for the Department of Economic Management at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

Financing Agreement reference: **2100155034068**

Project ID No.: **P-LR-K00-014**

Reference No. **IPFMRP II/C/IC/1.4.1.2-AfDB**

Issue Date: **May 23, 2022**

End Date: **June 7, 2022**

## I. BACKGROUND

The Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) is a five-year national development plan of the Government of Liberia aimed towards an accelerated, inclusive and sustainable development. The PAPD implementation period is July 2018 – June 2023 and targets, amongst others, development outcomes that will increase social and economic activities and connectivity through critical infrastructure improvements. Interventions to address the weak human and institutional capacity in Government are also critical to the development outcomes targeted over the aforesaid period.

The government has over the years done a lot of investments in different sectors of the economy and those investments have not been communicated to the public as it should be, so the Liberia Economic Newsletter (LEN) which is a form of civic education program that will be used to communicate economic policy actions and results to the general population in relatively less technical tone or in simple English. This will help inform the citizenry about critical happenings of the economy. Promoting fiscal transparency and accountability are key government fiscal goals. As such, the LEN seeks to eliminate the reality that development taking place in the economy are not properly and timely communicated to the public thereby leaving misinformation often on social media, in the intellectual centers, on the radio stations, in newspapers, etc. The Liberia Economic Newsletter to be prepared and managed by the Department of Economic Management at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning is posited to address this misconception of GoL developmental activities including its donor partners. It will be written in a language void of tactical understanding-unlike the Annual Economic Review, the Budget Framework Paper and the Quarterly Outturn, for the consumption of the citizenry both in hard copy but mostly in soft copy that will be shared on the MFDP website and many other social media platforms, including Facebook.

## II. OBJECTIVE

The general objective of this assignment is to hire a qualified consultant to support the Department Economic Management of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to develop and produce the quarterly newsletter:

1. Work with the Department Economic Management and build their capacity in the area of gathering economic investment information and progress into news content
2. To support the DEM to develop, design and produce a well-structured newsletter to cover major economic activities
3. To ensure that the newsletter contents are as simple and at the level of the ordinary Liberians.

## III. SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The core services to be rendered under this assignment includes but not limited to the following:

1. Work with the Economic Management Department to provide content gathering skills for staff selected for the newsletter
2. Facilitate the Collect contents for the newsletter with the help of MFDP staff and structure those contents in the simplest forms for easy reading
3. Edit all news contents written by trained staff of the Economic Management Department
4. Develop content gathering guide for staff of the Department of Economic Management-Division of Economic Policy.
5. Facilitate a training workshop to help develop/strengthen staffs' skills in

content gathering and script writing.

6. Layout newsletter contents for printing three publications on a quarterly basis.
7. Create social media platforms for publication, including Facebook and tweeter

## IV. DELIVERABLES

Deliverables	Payment terms in % of total contract price
Submission and acceptance of an Inception Report	10%
Combined Training and Progress Report	40%
Draft News Letter	30%
Final Report on the Printed and Published Newsletters	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## V. EXPECTED DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The assignment shall be completed within three (3) months after signing of the contract.

## 9. QUALIFICATIONS, TECHNICAL COMPETENCE AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Interested individuals must meet the following Minimum Qualifications Requirements:

- i. Minimum of Bachelor degree in the Social Sciences, Liberal Arts (Economics, Accounting, Business Administration, Journalism or an equivalent university degree;
- ii. At least five (5) years' experience in journalism, news management, editing and content gathering and analysis.
- iii. At least two (2) years of experience in newspaper / newsletter management
- iv. Must show evidence of being capable of conducting training involving economic management news gathering, analysis and layout.
- v. Experience in economic management related reporting is an added advantage

## VI. SELECTION METHOD

The consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant Selection (ICS) as contained in the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers of July 2016 Revised November 2017 and August 2018.

Further information and the detailed TOR can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. from 0900 to 1700 hours (GMT), Mondays through Fridays.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP) now invites eligible individual consultants to express interest in providing the services by submitting a list of similar assignments performed with references and submitting Curriculum Vitae (CVs) and copies of academic credentials, demonstrating experience in performing similar assignments with references and showing responsiveness to the qualification requirements outlined in this REOI.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form or by email to the address below on or before **7th June, 2022 @ 1700 hours (GMT)** and indicate in the Email subject line or on the outer envelope "An Individual Consultant Facilitator for Editing, Structure and Layout of Macroeconomic and Fiscal Information Dissemination Newsletter, for the Department of Economic Management at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning"

The Address referred above is:

**The Project Manager**

**Project Management Unit (PMU), Ground Floor Annex**

**Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)**

**P.O Box 109013 – Intersection of Broad and Mechlin Streets**

**1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia**

**Phone: +231881 154 561**

**E-Mail: [vfofana@mfdp.gov.lr](mailto:vfofana@mfdp.gov.lr), and copied to [rfully@mfdp.gov.lr](mailto:rfully@mfdp.gov.lr)**

# Diaspora Liberians relieved

By Ethel A Tweh

The Liberia Senate Friday May 20, voted overwhelmingly to pass the much-touted and controversial dual citizenship bill.

The bill seeks to amend Part 3, Chapter 20, Sections 20.1, 20.31.30.51 and 20.52 and Chapter 22, Sections 20.2, 20.3 and 20.4 of the Alien and Nationality Law of Liberia to provide for dual citizenship.

Recommendation for the passage of the bill was made by Senate Judiciary committee headed by Grand Cape Mount County Senator Varney G. Sherman in consultations with other senators that the act be passed into law.

and invest same here.

They also added that no law should alienate or divest a Liberian citizen by birth either because of one of the parents being a Liberian citizen by birth.

The Senate Judiciary Committee further recommended that if it is observed that dual citizens are abusing or misusing the citizenship, laws can be enacted to punish those who are abusing or misusing same.

The amended law states that a Liberian with two Liberian parents will not lose his or her citizenship for being a citizen of another country.

The Senate said, such matter is not addressed in the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, therefore, the amendment in the Alien and Nationality Law by the Legislature is the surest means to do so.

The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and forwarded to the Liberian Senate for concurrence sometime

Starts from back page

Development (PAPD)," Hon. Flomo stressed.

According to him, aid coordination and implementation will enhance the possibility of interfacing these platforms with other systems such as Liberia Project Dashboard, and other government systems.

Additionally, the workshop focused on the importance of budget support, macroeconomic framework model intended for analysis, forecasting, and research for policy recommendations.

Moreover, it was also about ensuring the efficient management of development assistance to the Government of Liberia and its people, and highlighted the mechanism through which data is shared across sector Ministries, Agencies and Commissions (MACs), DPs and other stakeholders that are involved with

# MFDP Climaxed Aid Coordination

collating, analyzing and validating data.

For his part, United Nations Economic Specialist/Officer in Charge-Strategy & Policy Unit, Mr. Stanley Kamara notes that such gathering is a capacity building enhancement for relevant actors.

"See this not just as a retreat but see it as a means to understand and market your product, and after this workshop I see lots of this happening, because you have to come together and make this as a standing culture because this is called performance management", Kamara explained.

The five days training was attended by Development Partners, Ministers, NGOs, Sector Ministries, Agencies, Civil Society Actors and Senior and Junior staff of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

Starts from page 7

foreign minister for administration Thelma E. Duncan-Sawyer was appointed to chair the special investigative committee, which is being co-chaired by Ambassador JaJa Kamara, who chairs the policy advisory council at the ministry of foreign affairs.

Briefing reporters over the weekend, Minister Kemayan explained that in the space of their uncompromising transparency and accountability at the ministry, they designated and appointed the president of the ministry of foreign affairs workers association to be a member of the committee.

He said the foreign ministry also listed the National Security Agency (NSA) to provide technical support to the committee, as well as the Ministry of Justice, adding the active work has begun.

# Kemayan appoints

"I can assure you that none of our core values of transparency, equal opportunity for all, accountability, responsiveness, demand-driven, and hard work would be left unturned in ensuring that this report covers no less than the standard befitting it." Kemayan assured.

He said as part of the investigation, the House of Representatives is extremely supportive. It has been speculated that a member of the House, Representative A. Vamuyan Corneh, gave the Diplomatic Passport to businessman Kante, but the lawmaker has denied.

Minister Kemayan continued that on 18 May the committee met with Rep. Corneh in the presence of Speaker Bhofal Chambers.



last year.

During its deliberations, the Senate made some amendments, thereby subjecting the proposed law to a Conference Committee.

Meanwhile, the Senate has constituted a Conference Committee to liaise with the Conference Committee of the House of Representatives to reconcile the two versions of the amended Act.

Those appointed are: Sen. Varney G. Sherman as Chairman, while Senators Abraham Darius Dillon, Numene T.H. Bartekwa, J. Milton Teahjay and Prince K. Moye are members to the Committee.

The concurrence with the lower House means Liberia will be joining other countries on which have since embraced dual citizenship.

The Committee notes that there are economic benefits that come with dual citizenship, adding that the passage of the bill will now allow Liberians in the diaspora who have taken up other nationalities due to circumstances as result of the decade long war could return with their resources

# House decides new date for Lofa By-election

The Plenary of the House of Representatives has mandated its committees on Elections and Inauguration, and Ways, Means and Finance to review circumstances surrounding the postponement of the by-election in Lofa County by the National Elections Commission (NEC) and to announce a new date for the poll.

Plenary reached the decision Thursday, 19 May during the 23rd day sitting of the House following a communication from the NEC.

In its communication, NEC Chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne-Lansanah gave reasons behind the postponement of the 10 May Senatorial By-Election in Lofa County.

She outlined the current court case, Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) versus the All



Liberian Political Party (ALP) and the Unity Party (UP), and need for additional funding to conduct the election as reasons for the postponement.

Following the reading and floor debate on

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### Re-Survey Notice

This is to inform the general public that **Madam Ruth H. Fully & Mr. Victor B. Trokon Jr.** have duly authorized **Contours, Limited** to conduct a Detail & Perimeter Re-Survey of **One Point Two (1.2) Acres** of land on the Robert Field High Way, Margibi County in Favor of **Mr. Kwimity Kpor.**

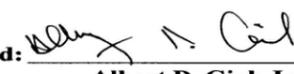
The parcel of land to be Re-Survey is lying and situated along the beach, **Gbengay Town, Robert Field High Way, Margibi County.**

This Re-survey will commence on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 beginning at 10:00AM.

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

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

1. Mr. Joseph N. Boakia
2. Mr. Padmore
3. All other having properties in said area

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

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the instrument, Plenary mandated the relevant committees to review the communication and advise the august body within two weeks.

The by-election in Lofa is to fill a vacancy created by the criminal trial and conviction of Senator-elect Brownie

J. Samukai and others, for misapplying soldiers' benefits totaling over half a million United States Dollars under the administration of Ex-president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

## MFPD Climaxed Aid Coordination, Macroeconomic Framework Workshop



Participants and trainers in Group photo

theme: “Strengthening Coordination and Ensuring Efficient Management of Development Assistance” and was funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB)

Making remarks at the opening, the Deputy Minister for Economic Management, Hon. Augustus J. Flomo, said: “the training is meant to expose all middle and senior level managers at various institutions who are dealing with development data and currently managing development projects.”

Mr. Flomo expressed optimism that the training will equip relevant actors with the tools needed to effectively enhance maximum results by reflecting the actual outcome of development resources being implemented across the country through the data, numbers, and programs.

“We want to see a one government approach for aid coordination and implementation across the country that are aligned with the National Development Plan called the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

In order to strengthen national development and aid coordination across Government, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning through the Department of Economic Management, over the weekend climaxed a five-day training in Aid Coordination and Macroeconomic Framework for NGOs, Sector Ministries and Agencies, including Development Partners and

Civil Society Actors in the Port City of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

The objective of the training was geared towards partners and those within the development sector having deeper insight on the Liberia Project Dashboard, NGOs Online Registration, Accreditation Platform and Commonwealth Meridian for data sharing, input, and report purposes.

It was held under the

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