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# Continental News

## Uganda 'Overwhelmed' with New DRC Refugee Influx

**A** Ugandan official says a new influx of refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo is stretching the country's resources to the breaking point.

On May 22, 2022, a joint operation by Congolese government soldiers and the U.N. peacekeeping mission MONUSCO against M23 rebels prompted hundreds of people to flee into Uganda. Hillary Onek, Uganda's Minister for Refugees, said the fresh influx is taxing resources.

The refugees flocked toward the Bunagana border crossing with little or no belongings. The country already is home to close to 1.5 million refugees from across the region.

"It is actually affecting even our population who are at the border," Onek said. "Because, when people shoot, sometimes they shoot across the border. Frankly speaking, it's overwhelming and we cannot satisfy the needs of those large influx of people and we are enabling what is feasible with respect to our meager resources."

The latest fighting took place around Rutshuru in North Kivu province. After



People attempt to cross the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ugandan border with their belongings to seek refuge after clashes between the Congolese army and the M23

clashes in the province last November, fresh fighting broke out late in March. It is estimated that about 17,000 Congolese refugees have since crossed into Uganda. Manishimwe Bernard, a Red Cross official in charge of aiding refugees in Uganda's western Kisoro district, said most people arrive in desperate circumstances.

"When war broke out, people started running without anything," Bernard said. "You find a person has nothing, has no clothes, children are nearly hungry. So, emotionally, people run in stress. And of course, the panic and fear is still at large.

Because fighting for now, from their stories, hasn't stopped."

On Sunday, the special representative of the U.N. Secretary-General in the DRC, Bintou Keita, issued a statement condemning attacks by the M23 movement against the peacekeepers in Rutshuru.

In the statement, Keita accused the rebels of deliberately attacking peacekeepers in eastern Congo, where fighting had resumed between the rebels and the Congolese army.

Bintou stated that in

response to the attack, the army and peacekeepers mounted a joint operation to clear the area of M23 fighters. He said the attack was in accordance with MONUSCO's mandate.

Speaking to VOA by phone, M23 spokesperson Willy Ngoma denied the rebel group attacked the U.N. base. He said it was MONUSCO who attacked first, and those who were caught up in the fighting with the army got confused and started running. After just 12 minutes, he said, MONUSCO sent two Cobra attack

helicopters in the area of Runyoni, which targeted the M23 bases.

The U.N. statement called on both the M23 rebels and the Congolese army to immediately cease all hostilities, in accordance with the commitments made in the Nairobi process.

The Nairobi process is an effort to negotiate peace between the Democratic Republic of Congo government and about 30 rebels based across the mineral-rich African country.

The M23 said that while they respect the Nairobi process, they are being attacked from various forces. VOA

## Pregnant woman and children killed in Nigeria attack



**P**olice in Nigeria say they are tracking down gunmen who killed at least 12 people, including a pregnant woman and her four children, in the south-eastern state of Anambra.

The police have blamed the increasing violence in the region on Biafra separatists.

A community leader told the BBC that the pregnant woman and her children were returning home on a motorcycle taxi when gunmen ambushed them in the Orumba area.

Several other people were also shot dead in separate incidents on Sunday evening. Police say they are investigating.

The killings have sparked outrage on social media.

They happened a day after mutilated bodies of a local politician and his aide were discovered a week after they

were abducted.

The worsening violence in south-eastern Nigeria is being blamed on a banned separatist group - the Indigenous People of Biafra (Ipub) - which is campaigning for a breakaway state in the region.

The group has denied involvement in some of the attacks.

Security forces are also grappling with various armed groups carrying out killings and kidnappings in other parts of Nigeria.

In the north-east of the country, more than 30 people were reported either killed or kidnapped in an attack in Borno state last Sunday.

Militants from Boko Haram and an IS-linked group are active in that region.

The widespread insecurity is a major concern ahead of elections due to take place in February next year. BBC

## Malawi Rolls Out Cholera Vaccine to Contain Outbreak

**M**alawi has rolled out a vaccination campaign to help stop an outbreak of cholera. Authorities report more than 350 cases and 17 deaths from cholera across eight districts of southern Malawi.

Malawi's Ministry of Health declared the cholera outbreak in early March after the first case was confirmed in the Machinga district in southern Malawi.

The disease has so far

spread to eight districts including Nsanje, Chikwawa and Blantyre.

In its latest report on Monday, the ministry said the country had recorded 367 cholera cases in all with 17 deaths and 19 hospital admissions.

Dr. Gertrude Chapotera represented the World Health Organization at the launch of the vaccination campaign Monday in Blantyre.

She said the campaign is running with support from various global partners, including the Gavi Vaccine Alliance and the Global Task for Cholera Control. "We are supporting the Ministry of Health with up to 3.9 million doses that will be administered in two rounds," she said. "So this actually is the beginning of the first round with the campaign starting from today the 23rd of May running up Friday this week the 27th of May."

Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection caused by ingesting food or water contaminated with bacteria. The disease affects both children and adults and, if untreated, can kill within hours.

Dr. Gift Kawalazila is director of Health and Social Services in Blantyre. He says the district has so far seen nearly 100 cases of cholera, with five deaths but only three hospital admissions as of Monday. "This means that cholera is a disease that can easily be reversed and we have treatment options with us," said Kawalazila. "So, the general message to the general population is that they should quickly present themselves to our health workers

in our different health facilities whenever they notice the signs and symptoms of cholera which is profuse diarrhea and vomiting in some cases." Health authorities say many people are turning up for vaccination, with some districts running short of the doses.

Alinafe Longwe is among those who received the cholera vaccine in Blantyre. Longwe says she did not get the COVID-19 vaccine, citing fears of blood clotting and other health issues.

"But with this one, I haven't heard any issues, so I am okay with it and I have received it and I am fine," said Longwe. VOA



WHO representative Dr. Gertrude Chapotera speaking during the launch of cholera vaccination campaign in Zingwangwa township in Blantyre

# 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.

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DAILY INDEPENDENT

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# COMMENTARY

By Werner Hoyer

## Climate Consensus in the Middle East

LUXEMBOURG - This week, I met a teenager in Ramallah named Miriam, who shared how much she has benefited from one of the 450 solar-powered schools that the European Investment Bank has financed in the West Bank. Speaking in perfect English, Miriam was fully aware of the challenges her region faces because of climate change. But she was also full of optimism and extraordinarily articulate in explaining why the Middle East needs to do more to harvest sunshine, one of the few clean-energy resources that it enjoys in abundance.

The following day, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett reminded me that the EIB helped finance four of Israel's six desalination plants, including one that will be the world's largest when it becomes operational in 2023. He joked that almost two-thirds of the water in our glasses came from those EIB-backed projects. In a region with a growing population, Israelis know that water scarcity can easily lead to new conflicts. They want to develop greater desalination capacity so that they can potentially trade water for clean energy.

Changing rainfall patterns, water scarcity, and increasingly frequent and intense extreme weather events - including heatwaves and wildfires - affect Israelis and Palestinians equally, and the need to address the problem appears to be one of the few issues on which both parties agree. This was confirmed to me in talks with Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh. In a context of conflict, where most policies are viewed as zero-sum, climate projects are an exception.

In a speech this past February, Israeli President Isaac Herzog pointed to the intensification of extreme weather events as a wake-up call for the region. "For anyone who does not understand what this means, let me explain: this spells a genuine catastrophe," he warned. "The climate crisis is a crisis for the whole world, and we in the Middle East must understand it chiefly at the regional level, because its implications will be dramatic."

Herzog then called for a regional partnership to create a "renewable Middle East." His vision would include the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Israel's "Palestinian neighbors." Yet while the Palestinian Authority has advanced some climate policies, it will take massive investment for these ideas to translate into large-scale yields of clean water

from the Gaza Central Desalination Plant and solar energy in the West Bank.

These landmark mitigation and adaptation projects will be needed to manage the humanitarian, environmental, and economic issues caused by climate change. Having returned to Luxembourg from my visit to the region, it is clearer to me than ever that we need to bank on the current "climate consensus" to build momentum behind the kind of transformational climate projects envisaged in the European Green Deal. While making Europe carbon neutral by 2050, such investments can also help to foster stability and improve economic conditions in the Middle East.

My belief in the transformational power of smart climate investments has grown only stronger with time. Over the past few years, the EIB has become the world's largest multilateral financier of climate projects, with commitments to support at least €1 trillion (\$1.05 trillion) of investment this decade. However, in a region as complex as the Middle East, it will take more than just finance to make many of these projects happen. We will need much more cooperation among countries and key external stakeholders such as the United States and the European Union.

The EIB's new Jerusalem-based Representation for the West Bank and Gaza, which opened this month, can help foster such cooperation. It will develop partnerships and stronger cooperation in the West Bank and Gaza while also supporting transformational cross-border climate projects across the region. As such, it will be instrumental for the EU's climate diplomacy in the Middle East.

We aim to complement and scale up, from a European perspective, what US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry has started with his diplomatic push for Middle Eastern countries to phase in renewable energy. That means financing the development of large-scale renewable energy and water cooperation in the region and building an even stronger climate consensus.

I am convinced that if climate diplomacy is backed by high-quality, innovative projects of regional significance, it can open up promising new avenues to pursue stability, growth, and peace in the Middle East. It's time to give climate finance a chance.

Werner Hoyer is President of the European Investment Bank.

O-PED

By Antara Haldar

# Losing Rights in America

**C**AMBRIDGE - It used to be that who you were at birth defined who you were for the rest of your life: slave or owner, emperor or subject, aristocrat or serf, man or woman, black or white. But, over time, moral revolutions have chipped away at the idea that we simply inherit our identities.

Today, most people in the Western world recognize that choice lies at the core of selfhood. We can be born in poverty and still become presidents. We can be childless career women. Our moral progress is enshrined in rights that enable us to strive to be whoever we want to be - or to live openly as who we truly are, with the same protections as everyone else. However, the leaked US Supreme Court draft majority opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* now threatens to take us back to the dark ages of biological determinism.

Written by Justice Samuel Alito, and confirmed to be authentic by Chief Justice John Roberts, the draft opinion would strike down *Roe v. Wade*, the half-century-old ruling that recognized a constitutional right to abortion. Four Republican-appointed justices - Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett - are understood to be voting with Alito. The three Democrat-appointed justices - Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan - are said to be at work on dissenting opinions. Roberts's current position is unknown. Adding insult to injury, on May 11, the Women's Health Protection Act - an attempt to codify the right to abortion through legislation - was defeated in the Senate after all Republicans and one Democrat voted unanimously against it.

Reversing *Roe* would allow the states to decide how to regulate abortion. At least 13 states are expected to ban the procedure immediately, with Louisiana discussing a bill that would even classify abortion as homicide. As such, the opinion would likely result in an explosion of unsafe and potentially life-threatening abortions. The moral implications are as bad as the legal and health consequences.

At a purely technical level, Alito's draft decision is an affront not just to women's rights but to the rule of law. In describing *Roe* as "egregiously wrong from the start," he contravenes the established legal principle of *stare decisis*, according to which courts are bound by precedent. Alito's self-proclaimed conservatism ought to have precluded such a radical break from legal tradition. In economic and other contexts, legal conservatives emphasize the importance of law as a source of consistency and predictability.

Alito's central argument appears to be that abortion is not mentioned in the US Constitution. But, of course, neither are contraception, interracial marriage, or LGBTQ rights. His opinion thus threatens to sweep away a broad array of hard-won rights. By describing *Roe* as not "objectively, deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition," he aims to erase the contributions of generations of American feminists who campaigned for women's reproductive rights. Millions of women who have based their life plans on 50 years of established jurisprudence now stand on a precipice of uncertainty.

Alito's arguments seem forced, both in terms of a highly restrictive "originalist" interpretation of the Constitution and in terms of cultural norms. Gallup's polling shows that around half believe it should be legal under all circumstances.

What is Alito really driving at? This is not about the so-called "right to life," a principle that legal conservatives defend only selectively - abandoning it, for example, in the case of vaccine mandates or capital punishment. Rather, eliminating constitutional protections for abortion is about reinforcing the Napoleonic notion that women are "mere machines to make children," and that their physiology should be exploited to maintain a particular social order. When women lose control of their bodies, they lose control of their lives. This is the ultimate motive driving conservatives to buck both legal form and public opinion.

Since sex has disproportionately different implications for women than it does for men, the effect of reversing *Roe* would be to place an unconscionable burden - physically, financially, psychologically, and socially - on only one of the two parties in a shared act. That constitutes discrimination even in the case of consensual sex, and it opens the door to grotesque miscarriages of justice in the absence of exceptions for rape and incest.

The twentieth-century sexual revolution wasn't about "free love"; it was about freedom. Women enjoy full agency for the first time in history (as illustrated by the unprecedented number of firsts for women in recent years), owing largely to the separation of sex from procreation resulting from access to effective contraception and safe abortion. Despite persistent inequalities (in wages, for example), women in the United States and around the world have made staggering social progress in recent generations. *Dobbs* now threatens to set American women back generations, not to mention adding to the \$100 billion tab that current abortion restrictions already cost the US economy.

Accepting that women are more than just fertility machines not only stripped away old stigmas and stereotypes; it also served as a segue to a broader social revolution. Many groups have since pushed beyond the bounds of biological determinism. In the wake of women's emancipation came LGBTQ rights, disability rights, legal recognition of alternative family structures, and calls to recognize rights for "nonhuman persons."

This progress, too, is now in jeopardy. As Alito's draft opinion in *Dobbs* makes clear, if you are female - and possibly if you are gay or nonbinary - the current Supreme Court may have more respect for your rights before you are born than after, when you are viewed as too much of a threat.

Legal conservatives offer an important lesson for their progressive counterparts: emotional appeals and constant vigilance can bring about radical change. To paraphrase Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, if we were lulled to sleep by a formal legal safeguard of our rights, now we must wake up and defend our moral victories.

*Antara Haldar is Associate Professor of Empirical Legal Studies at the University of Cambridge.*

OPINION

By Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

# Tackling the Global Learning Crisis

**N**EW HAVEN - Education has emerged as one of the most consequential casualties of the pandemic. According to estimates from UNESCO, around 1.6 billion students across more than 190 countries were forced out of school at the peak of the crisis.

In higher-income countries, school closures have disproportionately harmed students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, raising concerns about the long-run implications for learning and earnings inequality. There is a visible and widening gap between students with educated parents and access to computers and the internet, and those lacking such resources.

But the picture is even bleaker in low-income settings. In 2019, the World Bank estimated that 53% of children finishing primary school in low- and middle-income countries (and as many as 80% in some low-income countries) still could not read and understand a simple text. In light of these findings, the bank introduced a new concept: "learning poverty."

Along the same lines, the 2018 World Development Report found that in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, three-quarters of third-grade students could not read a basic sentence such as "The name of the dog is Puppy." In rural India, three-quarters of third-grade students could not solve a two-digit subtraction problem such as 46 - 17.

Worse, these learning deficits seem to persist despite impressive growth in average years of schooling in the past two decades, and despite higher enrollments in primary and secondary education in most countries. Simply put, more schooling has not translated into more learning. And this divergence has become so large in some settings as to invite warnings of a global "learning crisis."

As my co-authors and I show in a recent study, this alarming pattern is not confined to a handful of poor countries; it is typical of many middle- and low-income countries. Similarly, a recent study by the Center for Global Development documents learning differences between high- and low-income countries that are much larger than differences in years of schooling would predict.

The middle of a pandemic may seem like an inopportune time to tackle a learning crisis, especially in countries lacking fiscal resources, but the long-term costs of the current education gap are too large to ignore. So, what can be done?

A strategy for tackling the learning crisis must include two components. First, policymakers in countries with low learning levels must be persuaded to place a high priority on education. This may seem obvious, but education's crucial role in enabling economic growth and development is not always so apparent to those who control the resources. Governments often prioritize investments in physical infrastructure over investments in people. Whereas roads and bridges yield fast, tangible returns, and often can help politicians get re-elected, the returns on education tend to materialize only over the long run - and usually after the government that spearheaded them is gone.

To address this problem of incentives, the World Bank's Human Capital Project now computes a Human Capital Index for every country, taking account of learning levels, health, and other important factors. The HCI lays bare the economic cost of inaction. A score of 0.40, for example, indicates that a child born today will enter adulthood (age 18) only 40% as productive as a peer who receives a complete education and proper health care. By making this information public, the World Bank aims to encourage policymakers to take education (and health) seriously.

The HCI also serves as an important measurement and research function. Because tracking learning progress across countries requires a set of common metrics, the World Bank has built a database of Harmonized Learning Outcomes, comprising data from 164 countries between 2000 and 2017. These measures will be updated every two to three years as new learning metrics become available. Again, in addition to guiding efforts to improve learning, the aim is to spur governments to do more.

But even if governments in developing countries are committed to improving learning, how can they with the meager resources available to them, especially amid the pandemic? This question is addressed by the second component of the strategy: a laser-like focus on cost-effectiveness. Efficient public spending has always been important in low-income, resource-starved settings, but now that the COVID-19 crisis has depleted fiscal reserves and dragged many people back into poverty, it is more critical than ever.

To help developing countries identify strategies that deliver the most for the least, the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel, a new initiative spearheaded by the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and the World Bank, provides an invaluable service. Drawing on an extensive review of empirical evidence from multiple countries, the GEEAP classifies educational interventions into three groups: "Great and good buys"; "Promising but low evidence"; and "Bad buys."

The panel's first report shows that the most cost-effective way to improve learning is to provide information to parents and children on the benefits, costs, and quality of education. Just as it is important for top-level policymakers to take education into their own hands, parents and students must believe in the importance of learning. At the other extreme ("Bad buys"), outlays on new facilities, computers, laptops, tablets, and other equipment yield disappointing results relative to their cost.

This is good news, because it means that progress is feasible without exorbitant expenditures. According to a recent World Bank paper, the most cost-effective interventions deliver the equivalent of three additional years of high-quality schooling (comparable to the highest-performing education systems) for just \$100 per child.

The developing world was in the midst of a learning crisis before COVID-19. Now that the pandemic's end is coming into view, it is imperative that all countries and international institutions maintain their commitment to developing our most important resource: people.

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.



## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-22-000010
- ISSUANCE DATE:** May 23, 2022
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** June 7, 2022, 11:59 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at [LiberiaHR@usaid.gov](mailto:LiberiaHR@usaid.gov)
- POSITION TITLE:** Project Management Assistant (Budget)
- MARKET VALUE:** USD \$27,502 – \$44,008 FSN- 9  
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.
- 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.
- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia.
- 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.
- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility access.

## II. STATEMENT OF DUTIES

### Basic Function of Position

The Economic Growth Program-Budget Management Specialist will provide operational support to ensure that the Economic Growth Office (EGO) is responsive to all Agency programming and budgeting requirements by maintaining oversight of programming cycles, initiating and coordinating data gathering, analysis, and preparation of EGO program and financial reports in a timely manner. The Program-Budget Management Specialist will coordinate all EGO program procurement actions, working closely with the USAID/Liberia Office of Acquisition and Assistance (OAA) Office, the Program and Project Development (PPD) Office, and the Office of Financial Management (OFM). The Program-Budget Specialist will also provide advisory support by staying abreast of Agency and Mission programming and budgeting protocols, procedures and tools, and alerting and supporting the EGO management and Agreement Office's Representatives or Contracting Officers Representatives (AORs/CORs) of the operational budget planning process. Global Acquisition and Assistance System (GLAAS) actions, and preparation of all budgetary reporting. In an advisory capacity, the Program-Budget Management Specialist will additionally take the lead in periodically monitoring the EGO compliance with the fiscal terms and conditions of Implementation Letters, contracts and assistance agreements, and assist the EGO in mitigating any risks and implementing corrective actions that need to be addressed. The Program-Budget Management Specialist will also perform programmatic and administrative support functions for the Economic Growth Office including leading on team compliance with accruals, program monitoring, and evaluation requirements, document tracking and organization, staffing and program budgeting, and basic financial analysis for technical sectors (i.e., natural resource management, agriculture and food security, infrastructure and energy, and economic policy).

### Major Duties and Responsibilities

USAID/Liberia's economic growth activities provide the framework for the incumbent's specific duties and responsibilities. The incumbent is expected to fulfill the following duties and responsibilities:

#### A. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, PROCUREMENT AND BUDGETING (40%)

- As the Economic Growth Office's Program-Budget Specialist, s/he, in close coordination with the PPD, OFM and OAA, helps assure effective budget management operations. S/he coordinates and maintains EGO annual budgets, prepares and maintains accurate and up-to-date EGO procurement and financial spend plans and prepares various EGO budget reports. S/he is responsible for tracking the EGO program, budget, and procurement actions, as well as financial plans (current obligations, sub-obligations, pipeline accruals, and future planned funding and program actions). S/he serves as a focal point for all procurement requests and GLAAS actions for the technical office. S/he works with EGO team members to address any adverse pipeline issues.
- Works closely with AORs, CORs, and other requesters to ensure that GLAAS actions are correctly executed; the approval memos are properly developed and cleared with all supporting and required documentation completed, including approval memos, program descriptions and scopes of work, selection of instrument memos, forward funding analysis worksheets, pre-obligation checklists, environmental compliance documents, independent government cost estimates (IGCEs), and other required documents.
- Maintains financial spreadsheets on EGO activities for each grant/contract, including obligations, earmarks, commitments, disbursements, pipelines, etc., and produces reports (including Phoenix reports) on the financial status of activities as required by the EGO Director and/or Mission management.
- Assists AORs/CORs in monitoring the financial performance of contractors/grantees and maintains a financial report tracking system for accruals, obligations, commitments, and mortgages on all EGO activities. Recommends administrative approvals or brings to the notice of the AOR/CORs any discrepancy which does not appear appropriate. Prepares reports on funding availability and recommends funding utilization by budget code.
- Coordinates budget, reporting, and other needed implementation documentation tasks with the PPD, and OAA and provides financial quality control for the EGO.
- Assists EGO AOR/CORs in the review of GLAAS actions, purchase orders, budget, accruals, and other tasks related to budget monitoring and procurement.
- Participates in the review of project proposals, work plans, new activity designs, and semi-annual portfolio reviews.
- Serves as the primary point of contact for EGO with OFM and PPD.

#### B. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT (35%)

- Leads on the coordination of the EGO's contributions to the Mission Operational Plan (OP), Mission Performance Plan and Report (PPR), and by tracking the completion and clearance of specific narratives and technical team contributions and coordinating with PPD on the completion of these documents. S/he coordinates the flow of work and distribution of assignments for completion of key elements of these documents.
- Manages EGO's unsolicited proposal process, including tracking incoming proposals, engaging appropriate EGO staff to review the proposal, coordinating office comments, and collaborating with the Program Office to respond to the applicant.
- Coordinates office-wide training, meetings, retreats, portfolio performance, and financial reviews, and special events.
- Plays a coordination role on the management of interagency briefers and clearance documents.
- Manages and maintains the EGO Activity List and Spend Plan.
- Provides oversight of field coordination workshops/events to strengthen collaboration between USG and other donor-funded activities in assigned programs.
- Establishes and maintains working files on EGO programs including maintenance of administrative files and programmatic records in ASIST.

#### C. OFFICE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION (25%)

- Maintains the EGO's official records (including but not limited to working files, official documentation, correspondence, electronic public folders, and general subject files) according to USAID policies and procedures.
- Logs and circulates all incoming mail, reports, and memoranda.
- Prepares for meetings with host government counterparts, and other development partners. This task would include, but not be limited to: arranging logistics such as transportation requests, agenda preparation, arranging security clearance for visitors to the USAID Mission, and escorting visitors.
- Assists with the drafting and editing of correspondence and reports (e.g. activity briefing documents, talking points, etc.).
- Serves as the primary administrative point of contact between the EGO and the Executive Office. As such, duties would include but not be limited to: making logistical arrangements (e.g. country clearance, travel authorization requests, visa applications) for Temporary Duty (TDY) officers and Economic Growth Office staff.
- Manages the orientation of new arrivals to the Economic Growth team, including arranging orientation schedules, collecting and updating briefing book materials, setting up meetings and conference calls, and leading the cultural orientation sessions for all incoming USDHs.
- In consultation with the various support and technical offices, manages TDYer logistics support, which includes concurrence cables, clearance transfers, lodging, and transportation, etc. as appropriate.
- Makes appointments and travel arrangements for EGO staff, prepares country clearance cables and secures clearances and signatures on documents and cables.
- Serves as a WebTA timekeeper for the EGO staff and provides updates and training to team members on the WebTA time and attendance system. Also, provides expert technical assistance to the EG Team on USAID administrative systems, including E2, OpenNet, and Google Suite. S/he will also serve as the subject matter expert (SME) for the Global Acquisition and Assistance System (GLAAS), providing guidance and technical support to the EG office as needed.
- Edits and formats reports and correspondence originating from the Economic Growth Office and manages the clearance process for approval.
- Serves as the Economic Growth Office's point of contact for searching, retrieving, and distributing copies of official office files.
- Performs other EGO-related duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Economic Growth Office Director or designee.
- Organizes, maintains, and updates routine official hard copy files of EGO Assistance Agreements, Agreements, Contracts, Correspondence, Program Design Documents, Administrative Documents.
- Maintains, organizes, and manages EGO shared drive and Google drives and serves as the primary point of contact on EGO content and contributions to the Mission intranet and knowledge management design and implementation team.

- Drafts replies to routine correspondence, and prepares and types office documentation, such as letters and memoranda as required
- Screens and distributes incoming mail and faxes for EGO staff. Reviews outgoing correspondence for proper address, routing, attachments and conformance with Agency formatting procedures and special instructions, etc., prior to dispatch.
- Develops and updates PowerPoint presentations and briefing materials on EGO programs.
- Answers telephone calls and provides answers to queries from the general public and/or NGOs about EGO programs in Liberia, referring technical queries to technical specialists or office management for detailed information.
- Requests maintenance of EGO equipment and furnishings via the automated work order systems.
- Requests office equipment, supplies, and services for the Economic Growth Office
- Maintains an office stock of supplies and tracks their usage to ensure adequate supplies are used properly and readily available.

**Supervision Controls:** Supervision not anticipated for this position

**Supervisory Relationship:** The EG Program-Budget Management Specialist is directly supervised by the US Direct Hire Economic Growth Office Director. The incumbent must be able to work independently to accomplish assigned tasks with minimal input or involvement of the supervisor

## 12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

## III. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Education:** Minimum of college/University studies in business or program management, finance, accounting, human resources, international development is required.
- Prior Work Experience:** A minimum of 5 years in progressively responsible administration, program management, budget management or administration finance, accounting, human resources, international development is required.
- Post Entry Training:** Limited post-entry training to update technical and programmatic skills will be provided on a periodic basis. Training will include COR/AOR certification and USAID-specific program and financial management training. Extensive on-the-job orientation will focus on USAID-specific policies and procedures
- Language Proficiency:** Level IV, fluent written and oral proficiency in English is required.
- Job Knowledge:** A thorough knowledge and understanding of professional accounting principles, theories, practices and terminology as well as the principles and accepted practices of governmental and business financial accounting budgeting and reporting are required. S/he must have a good understanding and knowledge of monitoring and evaluation principles and integration into project implementation. Good knowledge of the concepts, principles, and practices employed in the management of development projects is desired, as well as a general understanding of Liberia's economic, political, social, and cultural environment and the role international assistance plays in addressing development objectives. The incumbent must be a self-starter with little or no supervision required in the areas specified above.
- Skills and Abilities:** The incumbent must have strong interpersonal skills and be able to establish and maintain productive and collaborative work relations with Mission colleagues, other development partners, and the general public. S/he must possess practical and analytical skills necessary to translate data or information into concrete actions for sustained development impact and results, excellent command of computer skills including knowledge on major office software and internet applications

## 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: Describe your experience working with USAID or donor-funded programs.

In 500 words or less, describe your experience and role in managing or implementing USAID or donor-funded development programs, particularly your experience with Economic Growth related sectors including private sector initiatives, infrastructure and construction, agriculture, or natural resource management initiatives. Your description should highlight your experience or involvement in planning, procuring and managing awards.

#### FACTOR #2: Budget Management Experience:

In 500 words or less, describe your experience in budget planning and management processes or procedures, describe your role and any specialized training or experience.

#### FACTOR #3: Monitoring and Evaluation Experience:

In 500 words or less, describe your role and experience in managing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on donor funded activities and programs. Please describe your knowledge and experience with activity monitoring and evaluation plans, program management plans, and any experience in developing development strategies or project designs.

#### FACTOR #4: Teamwork and Office Experience:

In 500 words or less, please describe your experience working on a team of diverse technical specialists and staff from different cultural backgrounds. Please describe your strengths in working on a team and supporting a well functioning office.

## 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 40 points

Factor #1	10 points
Factor #2	10 points
Factor #3	10 points
Factor #4	10 points

Interview Performance 60 points

Interview questions will provide the candidate the ability to:

- Describe their experience and qualifications related to budget and project performance management and monitoring.
- Communicate Effectively.

Total Possible Points 100 points

## IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line **VA-669-22-000010– Project Management Assistant (Budget)** [LiberiaHR@usaid.gov](mailto:LiberiaHR@usaid.gov).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# UP man rejects purported CPP document

## -As Cummings' trial heats up

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Secretary General of the former ruling Unity Party (UP), Mr. Mo Ali has rejected a purported document presented to him for his recognition as the framework document of the disintegrated Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) in the ongoing trial of Alternative National Congress (ANC) political leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings.

Appearing as State witness against Mr. Cummings Tuesday, 24 May 2022, Mr. Ali testified that the five copies of the CPP framework document that he took around for signing were all in color, signed and submitted to the then chief secretariat of the CPP and ANC Secretary General, Cllr. Aloysius Toe.

But Mr. Ali said what he was looking at in the courtroom was in black and white and it did not represent the document he took around for signing.

has always denied any wrongdoing. He and his co-defendants have rejected that the claim that there existed any original framework document of the Collaborating Political Parties that was signed on 19 May 2020, thereby challenging their accusers to produce the CPP original framework document.

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.

However, Mr. Ali on the witness stand Tuesday narrated that a committee was setup to draft the framework document that will bound the CPP together after ALP political leader Mr. Urey was selected to serve as organizing chairman for the formation of the CPP.

Following the committee's work, Ali said the document

collected the five copies of the document and took them to the four political leaders and chairpersons of the CPP for the physical signing.

He told the court that the five copies that he took around for signing were all in color and they were signed and submitted to Cllr. Toe, the ANC Secretary General who was then the chief secretariat of the CPP.

According to Mr. Ali, the five copies were to be notarized, one for each of the four political parties and that the fifth copy should be filed with the National Elections Commission (NEC) for the registration of the CPP.

But Ali said this was not done due to the public outcry of a particular clause within the document which spoke of jobs distribution to CPP members and qualified Liberians.

"Taking that into consideration, the CPP leadership met and asked a team of lawyers to review the document, particularly the job distributions clause and make recommendations to the CPP," said Mr. Ali.

The team of lawyers, he said, reviewed the document and came up with ten counts which they described as issues arising from the review.

Ali noted that to the best of his knowledge, the team of lawyers made the submission on 17 June 2020 to the CPP leadership and after that, the political leaders did not receive the recommendations to review and ratify them.

He disclosed that in August 2021, the All Liberian Party through its political leader Mr. Urey filed a complaint with the chair of the CPP and Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, alleging alteration of the framework document that was signed by leaders and chairpersons of the CPP.

Ali recalled that Mr. Urey requested that each political party be given the original copy of the document and after that filing of the complaint, the political leaders met at a local hotel called D' Calabash in September 2021 and agreed to setup a committee to investigate the allegation.

Ali explained that each political party was asked to submit names to work on the committee for which he was also selected to serve as the resource person for the committee.

He said that committee investigated, and submitted its findings to the National Advisory Council of the CPP on 6 October 2021, adding that the report was received and accepted by the National

# Public Works Validates 5-year strategic plan



The Ministry of Public Works has concluded a two-day working session in Monrovia to validate a Five-Year Infrastructure Strategic Plan for the country.

Public Works Minister-Designate, Ruth Coker-Collins and a host of other Authorities at the Ministry, including Deputy Ministers for Administration and Rural Development Joseph P. Todd and Benjamin Bantoe were in attendance.

The two-day interactive session also brought together Resident Engineers, as well as Directors and Assistant Directors of the ministry, representatives from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, and staff from the African Development Bank-funded Project Implementation Unit (PIU), amongst others.

The Strategic Plan which covers the period 2022 - 2027, provides a framework to guide the ministry towards achieving its vision and mission.

The development of the plan has benefited from an extensive cross-collaboration dialogue and engagement with many stakeholders involved with public infrastructure provision in Liberia.

Advisory Council and the committee was discharged.

"When the report and findings of the committee were presented to the National Advisory Council, they sent it to the CPP team of lawyers again for advice," said Ali.

"However, the team of lawyers responded to the chair of the CPP then, Senator Karnga-Lawrence, basically stating that same is submission of the review in June 2020."

Since that time, Ali said, the CPP has had no further interaction with the framework document.

Key targets include construction of roads to connect all county capitals, development of various policies to support the mandate of the ministry, maintenance of primary, secondary, and feeder roads across the country, and provision of requiring supporting infrastructure to aid rural development covering water points, rural housing, and community services, respectively.

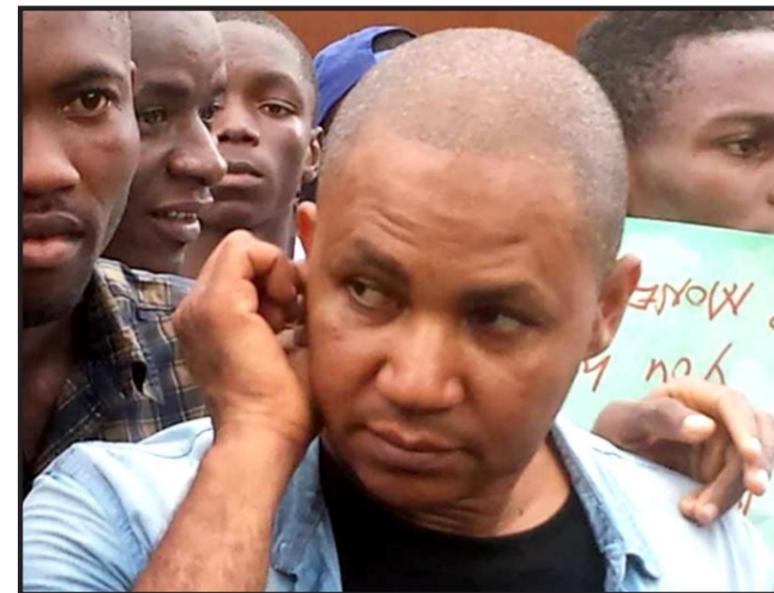
Other programs earmarked under the timeframe are: strengthen governance and compliance by undertaking technical audits for infrastructure, design of bridges and hydraulic structures on specific network bottlenecks, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of all projects under MPW's portfolio, strengthening road maintenance, planning and monitoring as well as promoting environmental conservation and management.

Lastly, the plan looks at strengthening institutional capacity, training, and urban development, and soliciting additional funding from partners to support the project development for inclusiveness and enhancing social and economic mobility. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

"Cllr. Toe has the five copies of the CPP framework document because it was given to him as head of the secretariat of the CPP," Mr. Ali testified.

Prosecution rested with Mr. Ali after his testimony rejecting the purported CPP framework document filed with the National Elections Commission through the ANC and recently submitted by the NEC to the court.

Following the day's hearing, Monrovia City Court Magistrate Jomah Jallah suspended trial to continue Wednesday, 25 May 2022 at 11:00AM.



"The document in my hands here I am looking at does not represent the document of the CPP that I took around to the four political leaders and their chairpersons to sign [on] May 19, 2020," Mr. Ali said after being presented the purported CPP framework document in court.

"The document I took around was printed in color and the one in my hands that I am looking at is in black and white, and it does not represent the document I took around for signing," he continued.

Cummings is currently facing criminal trial at the Monrovia City Court after being accused by All Liberian Party (ALP) political leader Benoni Urey of allegedly tampering with the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) framework document and illegally attaching his (Urey's) signature to a photocopy version. Cummings

was given to the four political parties within the CPP for their review and to make inputs.

He said that process was followed by the setting up of a validation committee to review the document, and the validation committee was chaired by Atty. Lafayette Gould of the ANC with equal representation from the four parties. "The Committee on April 25, 2020 completed its work and submitted the validation to the parties. Following that, the program was organized for the official signing of the framework document and executed May 19, 2020," explained Mr. Ali. "I organized and served as master of ceremony of the official signing ceremony of the framework document. The signing was done via Zoom due to the outbreak of the COVID-9," Ali testified further.

The Unity Party Secretary General added that he

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Harper City Solicitor jailed for alleged sexual assault

By Patrick N. Mensah,  
Maryland County

The Magisterial Court in Harper City, Maryland County, southeast Liberia has jailed the county's City Solicitor Thomas Togba Kun, for sexual alleged assault against a 21-year-old woman in the county.

According to report, the alleged act occurred on Friday, May 6, 2022, but attracted public concern between 10th & 13th May.

Narrating her ordeal, the 21-year-old victim said City Solicitor Kun sexually assaulted her after she asked him to plead a case on her behalf.

According to her, the Solicitor requested her to pay US\$40 to clear the desk of the court, but she said she couldn't afford the money at that movement.

"He was asked to represent me in a case when I credited my friend and later my friend and myself came up to an agreement to pay, so he said I should give him 40 U.S. Dollars to clear the table and I said Ok, but he later told me that I should forget it and come to his house so I agreed and went to his house that following today.

But when I got at his house that evening, I met him alone at the house. So why sitting,

he came and sat by me and started telling me how he loves me and he wants to have sex with me so I refused, and told him it wasn't the reason while I thought he invited me to his house. But while speaking, he pushed me on the bed and started forcing me. But as God could have it, I jumped from the bed and shouted for help", she explained.

me to report the case to the police and I did."

She said the act committed by the City Solicitor was shocking and worrisome, as she wasn't expecting such behavior from him.

"I had serious regards for him but what I foresaw, I think it's not good for our Justice System because he should be the one telling people what the law says, rather than



City Solicitor Thomas Togba Kun heads for prison

The victim continued, "So, why shouting, people within the community came around and it was how I got rescued. But when I left, I complained him to my fiancé, who onward asked

doing those things the laws say people shouldn't do", she concluded.

Though the suspect is yet to comment on the allegation, he spent several nights behind bar before the Liberia

National Police Children and Social Protection division in the county forwarded him to the Harper Magisterial Court.

The Magisterial court then forwarded him to the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court to avoid interference in his trial, as the Harper Magisterial Court is where he serves as City Solicitor.

When this paper asked City Solicitor Kun, he said the law is the law, adding that he reserves further comment, but would speak in due course in court.

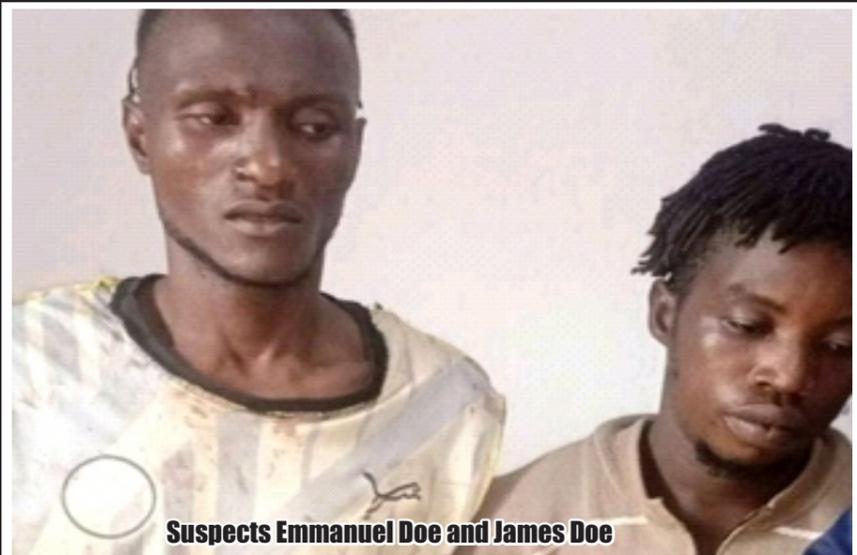
Solicitor Kun, has been

charged with "Sexual Assault", which is a 3rd degree misdemeanor under Section 14.77 of the new panel Law of Liberia.

The suspect has been transferred to River Gee Central Prison, awaiting trial.

Meanwhile, several residents of Harper City have lauded the Harper Magisterial Court for upholding the law in ensuring that justice is prevailed. They urged Magistrates at the court to handle the matter without fear or favor. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# Police send 2 suspects to court for robbery



Suspects Emmanuel Doe and James Doe

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

The Liberia National Police in Pleebo, Maryland County Electoral district#2 have charged and sent to court two suspects for robbery.

Suspects Emmanuel Doe, age 30 and James Doe, age 30 are accused of robbery, assault, high-jacking and theft, amongst others. Police charge sheet details that on Monday, May 23, 2022, Emmanuel and James, who are both residents of New Pleebo Community, were arrested and charged while in possession of lethal weapons used to harass, rob, highjack and assault citizens of said community in Pleebo City.

Police quote community dwellers as saying that the alleged notorious criminals were in the constant habit of committing these acts thereby, leaving the whole community in constant panic days and nights.

A community dweller, Morris Weah, age 37, said he had earlier reported to the Police on 24 April, 2022 at 0800hrs that the suspects went to his home during morning hours, held him hostage, stole US\$775 and stabbed him on his left hand, inflicting serious bodily injury on him.

The Police said based on these allegations, they launched a massive search until Monday, May 23, 2022 when the suspects were arrested, but their ringleader SAMMY TOE, is still on the run.

They have been charged with multiple crimes, ranging from robbery, criminal conspiracy, criminal attempt to commit murder, and aggravated assault, respectively.

Police noted that the crimes are in breach of sub-chapter C, Section 14.1, 15.32, 10.1, and 14. and 15. 30 of the new Penal Code of the Republic of Liberia. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# House, Senate to jointly discuss pending bills

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives has set up a conference committee to meet the Liberian Senate on several Legislative instruments, including the Dual Citizenship bill.

The House of Representatives took the decision Tuesday, May 24, 2022, following a communication from the

Liberian Senate, noting that its committee during deliberation took note of changes made by the House.

According to the Senate, the fact that each chamber has its own version of bills that need to be synchronized, there should be a joint conference meeting.

Bills sent to the House of Representatives by the Liberian Senate are as follows; an act amending and

restating an act to establish the Liberia anti-corruption commission, and an act to protect whistleblowers to be known as whistleblower act of 2001.

Others include an act to protect witnesses to be known as witness protection act of 2001; an act to amend the Alien and Nationality law; the money laundering, terroristic financing, preventive measures and proceeds of crimes act of 2001, and an act to establish the financial intelligence agency.

During the deliberation, Montserrado County district # 8 Representative and Chair on Executive, Acarus Moses Gray clarified that the document coming from the Senate provides that they have not concurred.

Rep. Gray explained that the bills originated from the House of Representatives and were sent to the Senate for concurrence, so the document is a non-concurrence document.

The Liberian Senate on Friday, May 20, 2022, voted to



# Français

## Bility demande un non-lieu dans la plainte de M. Taylor

M. Hassan Bility, avocat libérien pour la justice contre les crimes de guerre, a rejeté les accusations portées contre lui et le Global Justice and Research Project (GIRP) par le Dr Agnes Reeves - Taylor, l'ex-épouse de l'ancien président libérien emprisonné Charles Ghankay Taylor, tout en affirmant qu'il n'a commis aucun crime.

Dans une réponse qu'il a déposée à la suite de la plainte du Dr Reeves - Taylor,

M. Bility a demandé au tribunal de droit civil de Monrovia de prononcer un non-lieu car il n'a commis aucun tort.

M. Bility a fait valoir que le GIRP est une organisation non gouvernementale dûment constituée et agréée en vertu des lois de la République du Libéria pour entreprendre des recherches et mener des enquêtes sur les actes qui tendent à violer les droits de l'homme.

Il soutient en outre dans sa réponse que son groupe est

également autorisé à enquêter sur les actes de violence et de torture contre les personnes et les crimes contre les droits de l'homme.

Récemment, le Dr Reeves - Taylor a intenté une action en justice contre le GIRP, La Joy and Civitas Maxima (CM), M. Hassan Bility et Alain Werner.

Elle a déposé une plainte devant le tribunal de droit civil de Monrovia en dommages-intérêts pour poursuites malveillantes / torts, accusant les institutions, ainsi que Bility et Werner, de lui avoir infligé des souffrances et des douleurs indicibles.

Dr Reeves - Taylor cherche à utiliser le processus judiciaire pour tenir Bility, Werner et leurs institutions responsables de leurs faux comptes présumés qui ont conduit le système de justice pénale du Royaume-Uni à la poursuivre pour des accusations de torture présumées avant de rejeter les charges par la suite.

Mais M. Bility a fait valoir qu'il ne peut être tenu personnellement responsable, expliquant qu'il

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## La GAC met l'accent sur le contrôle et la conformité au NRF

La direction du Fonds routier national (FRN) est responsable du maintien des mesures de contrôle et du respect des lois et règlements, selon la Commission générale d'audit (GAC), qui qualifie les états financiers d'équitables à tous égards.

A en croire la GAC, la direction du FRN est aussi responsable de la préparation des états financiers conformément aux normes comptables internationales du secteur public (IPSAS), base de trésorerie, et du contrôle interne que la direction juge nécessaire pour permettre la préparation d'états financiers qui sont exempts d'anomalies significatives, que celles-ci résultent de fraudes ou d'erreurs.

La Commission Générale d'Audit a procédé à un audit du Fonds Routier National pour la Période du 1er juillet 2019 au 30 juin 2020.

"Lors de la préparation des états financiers, la direction est responsable de

l'évaluation de sa capacité à poursuivre son exploitation, de la divulgation, le cas échéant, des questions liées à la continuité d'exploitation et de l'utilisation du principe comptable de continuité d'exploitation, sauf si la direction a l'intention de cesser ses activités ou n'a pas d'alternative réaliste. La direction du NRF est chargée de superviser le processus

d'établissement des rapports financiers du projet », écrit le vérificateur général du Libéria, P. Garswa Jackson, dans son rapport qui date du 11 mars 2022 et soumis au directeur du Fonds routier national, M. Boniface D. Satu.

D'autre part, M. Jackson fait valoir que les objectifs de la Commission générale

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Nous saluons l'adoption du projet de loi sur la double nationalité

Enfin, la Chambre des représentants et le Sénat libérien ont adopté le projet de loi sur la double nationalité qui permettra aux Libériens de l'étranger, qui détiennent la citoyenneté de leur pays d'accueil, de conserver leur citoyenneté libérienne.

Le projet de loi en question vise à modifier la partie 3, chapitre 20, sections 20.1, 20.31.30.51 et 20.52 et le chapitre 22, sections 20.2, 20.3 et 20.4 de la loi sur les étrangers et la nationalité du Libéria pour prévoir la double nationalité.

Nous pensons que la décision des membres du parlement libérien est une bonne nouvelle pour les Libériens, aussi bien pour ceux qui sont au pays que pour ceux qui vivent à l'étranger, car cette loi donnera aux Libériens de l'étranger l'occasion de s'engager et de s'impliquer davantage aux activités de développement de leur pays d'origine.

Ce projet de loi aurait dû être adopté lors de l'élection sénatoriale spéciale du 8 décembre 2020, mais le débat a été si fortement politisé qu'il a été rejeté avec d'autres propositions clés telle que la réduction de la durée des mandats présidentiel, le Sénatorial et législatif, entre autres.

Le Libéria est l'un des rares pays de Afrique de l'Ouest à s'octroyer à la double nationalité.

Dans toute la région, les commentateurs affirment que les avantages de la double nationalité l'emportent largement sur les lois en vigueur qui avaient placé un fossé entre les Libériens du pays et les Libériens de la diaspora qui détiennent la citoyenneté de pays étrangers.

Ce changement de cœur et de pensée va sûrement stimuler la croissance par le biais des activités économiques et promouvoir un développement rapide jamais vu depuis les 200 ans d'existence du pays.

C'est pourquoi nous félicitons les hommes et les femmes de la Chambre des représentants et du Sénat libérien d'être parvenus à une pensée commune pour adopter le projet de loi sur la double nationalité pour l'amélioration future de la patrie.

Nous, Libériens, sommes un seul peuple, quelle que soit la partie du monde dans laquelle nous nous trouvons. Le même lien qui nous distingue fièrement en tant que Libériens du reste du monde ne devrait pas être détruit par des lois écrites par l'homme dont le motif est de nous diviser.

Des individus qui adoptent le changement de temps en temps sont non seulement clairvoyants, mais sages et progressistes. Seules les nations progressistes avancent, et avec cette décision unique du parlement libérien, nous pouvons dire avec certitude que le Libéria est prêt à aller de l'avant.

# Français

## Bility demande un non-lieu

est le fondateur du GIRP qui a mené la recherche et l'enquête à partir desquelles des preuves présumées ont été recueillies sur la conduite de Dr Reeves - Taylor.

« Les co-accusés soutiennent ici qu'il n'y a aucun fondement, ni aucune probité juridique pour imaginer une réclamation pour poursuites malveillantes contre eux, car la loi en vigueur dans cette juridiction et ancienne avec l'âge est si claire, emphatique, facilement compréhensible, sans ambiguïté et instructif sur les éléments des poursuites malveillantes », a déclaré M. Bility.

Bility a insisté sur le fait qu'il existe une cause probable absolue et complète pour raisonner et conclure que les conclusions du GIRP dans les différentes

parties du Libéria et au-delà « étaient vraies », au mieux des enquêtes menées scientifiquement, qui auraient été exemptes de toute incitation à l'un des témoins pour tailler de fausses histoires contre le Dr Reeves - Taylor.

Plusieurs groupes de défense des droits de l'homme, certains basés au Libéria et d'autres opérant depuis l'étranger, recherchent des causes probables qui pourraient conduire à la poursuite d'individus qui ont commis des crimes odieux et des crimes contre l'humanité pendant les 14 ans de guerre civile libérienne.

Dr Reeves - Taylor était l'épouse de l'ancien président Taylor lorsqu'il a lancé l'invasion rebelle du Libéria le 25 décembre 1989, qui a ensuite renversé le régime du président Samuel Kanyon Doe en septembre 1990.

## La GAC met l'accent sur le

d'audit lors d'un audit sont d'obtenir une assurance raisonnable quant à savoir si les états financiers pris dans leur ensemble sont exempts d'anomalies significatives, que celles-ci résultent de fraudes ou d'erreurs, et de délivrer un rapport d'audit qui comprend son avis.

« L'assurance raisonnable est un niveau d'assurance élevé, mais ne garantit pas qu'un audit réalisé conformément aux ISSAI détectera toujours une anomalie significative lorsqu'elle existe », prévient-il.

Selon le Vérificateur général, les anomalies peuvent provenir de fraudes ou d'erreurs et sont considérées comme significatives si, individuellement ou dans leur ensemble, on peut raisonnablement s'attendre à ce qu'elles influencent les décisions économiques des utilisateurs prises sur la base de ces états financiers.

Cependant, l'audit de GAC attire particulièrement l'attention sur le tableau n° 3 des états financiers du NRF dans lequel la direction a déclaré un total de 22 212 538,00 USD en tant que créances dues par les importateurs de pétrole pour les redevances sur les carburants, mais observe un écart net de (6 164 455,01 USD) entre les créances indiquées dans les états financiers et le montant confirmé par les

importateurs de pétrole.

« En raison de l'incapacité des importateurs à confirmer pleinement les créances dans le tableau 3 des états financiers, nous n'avons pas été en mesure de nous assurer de l'existence, de l'exhaustivité et de la recouvrabilité des créances », révèle la Commission.

Il note également que pour la période sous audit, la direction du NRF n'a pas divulgué dans les états financiers, des engagements envers des entrepreneurs d'un montant total de 6 100 508,38 USD, et que ledit engagement est une obligation par rapport au solde de trésorerie total de 12 936 639,00 USD reporté au 30 Juin 2020.

« Il y a une restriction de 6 100 508,38 USD reportée sur le solde de trésorerie de clôture indiqué dans les états financiers. Notre opinion n'est pas assortie de réserves sur les points ci-dessus.

Mais en réponse, le directeur de la NRF, Boniface D. Satu dit accepter la responsabilité de l'intégrité des états financiers, des informations financières qu'ils contiennent et de leur conformité aux dispositions de la loi sur la gestion des finances publiques (PFM) de 2009.

Dans sa réponse officielle à l'audit, datée du 31 août 2020, il explique que lors de la préparation de ces états financiers, les politiques comptables les plus appropriées ont été appliquées de manière cohérente et étayées par un jugement et des estimations raisonnables et prudents.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Werner Hoyer

## Consensus climatique au Moyen-Orient

LUXEMBOURG - À Ramallah, la semaine dernière, j'ai parlé avec une adolescente nommée Miriam, qui souhaitait faire savoir combien lui a été utile l'une des 450 écoles alimentées en électricité par l'énergie solaire que la Banque européenne d'investissement a financées en Cisjordanie. S'exprimant dans un anglais parfait, Miriam était tout à fait consciente des défis posés par le changement climatique à la région. Mais elle était aussi pleine d'optimisme, et extraordinairement éloquente lorsqu'elle expliquait pourquoi le Moyen-Orient a besoin d'en faire plus pour capter les rayons du soleil, l'une des rares sources d'énergie propre dont il dispose en abondance.

Le lendemain, le Premier ministre israélien, Naftali Bennett, me rappelait que la BEI avait contribué à financer quatre des six usines de désalinisation d'Israël, dont celle qui, lorsqu'elle deviendra opérationnelle, en 2023, sera la plus importante au monde. Ce qu'il illustra d'une métaphore plaisante : presque les deux tiers de nos verres d'eau provenaient de projets soutenus par la BEI. Dans une région où la population croît, les Israéliens savent que des pénuries d'eau pourraient facilement déboucher sur de nouveaux conflits. Ils souhaitent développer des capacités de désalinisation plus importantes, afin d'être en mesure d'échanger de l'eau contre de l'énergie propre.

Les régimes de précipitation perturbés, les pénuries d'eau, et les événements météorologiques extrêmes de plus en plus fréquents - notamment les vagues de chaleur et les incendies - touchent aussi bien les Israéliens que les Palestiniens, et la nécessité de s'attaquer au problème semble l'une des rares questions sur lesquelles les deux parties sont d'accord. C'est ce que m'ont confirmé mes conversations avec le Premier ministre de l'Autorité palestinienne, Mohammad Shtayeh. Dans un contexte de conflit, alors que presque toutes les mesures sont considérées comme profitant aux uns dans la mesure où elles nuisent aux autres, les projets liés au climat sont une exception.

Lors d'un discours au mois de février, le président israélien, Isaac Herzog, faisait observer que l'intensification des épisodes d'extrême chaleur constituait pour la région un avertissement. « S'il en est qui ne comprennent pas ce que cela signifie, laissez-moi leur expliquer : cela s'appelle une catastrophe, une authentique catastrophe », a-t-il lancé. « La crise climatique touche le monde entier, et nous autres, au Moyen-Orient, devons d'abord la comprendre au niveau régional, car ses conséquences seront terribles. »

Herzog s'est alors fait l'avocat d'un partenariat régional pour la création d'un « Moyen-Orient renouvelable ». Le projet

comprendrait les Émirats arabes unis, l'Égypte, la Jordanie, Bahreïn, le Maroc, l'Arabie saoudite et les « voisins palestiniens » d'Israël. Néanmoins, si l'Autorité palestinienne a donné une impulsion à des mesures en faveur du climat, il faudra des investissements considérables pour que ces idées se traduisent par des collectes à grande échelle d'eau potable provenant de l'usine centrale de désalinisation de Gaza et d'énergie solaire provenant de Cisjordanie.

Ces grands projets d'atténuation du changement climatique et d'adaptation à ses conséquences seront nécessaires pour gérer les problèmes humanitaires, environnementaux et économiques qu'il va poser. De retour au Luxembourg après ma visite dans la région, il m'apparaît plus clairement que jamais qu'il nous faut miser sur le « consensus climatique » pour profiter de la dynamique qui a lancé les projets de transformation en faveur du climat conçus au titre du Pacte vert pour l'Europe. Ces investissements, qui permettront à l'Europe d'atteindre la neutralité carbone d'ici 2050, peuvent aussi contribuer à renforcer la stabilité au Moyen-Orient et à y améliorer la situation économique.

Ma foi dans le pouvoir de transformation que peuvent avoir des investissements climatiques adaptés n'a fait que s'affermir avec le temps. Au cours de ces dernières années, la BEI est devenue le premier financeur multilatéral de la planète pour les projets en faveur du climat, et s'est engagée pour au moins 1 000 milliards d'euros (1 050 milliards de dollars) d'investissements sur cette décennie. Néanmoins, dans une région aussi complexe que le Moyen-Orient, il faudra plus que des financements pour faire aboutir ces projets. Nous aurons besoin d'une coopération renforcée entre les pays concernés et avec des parties prenantes extérieures comme les États-Unis et l'Union européenne.

La nouvelle représentation de la BEI pour la Cisjordanie et Gaza, installée à Jérusalem, qui a ouvert ses portes de mois-ci, peut contribuer à dynamiser ces efforts communs. Elle développera des partenariats et une coopération plus solide en Cisjordanie et à Gaza, tout en soutenant des projets transfrontaliers dans la région, qui ont vocation à transformer les choses. Ainsi sera-t-elle un élément clé de la diplomatie climatique de l'Union au Moyen-Orient.

Notre objectif est de contribuer à amplifier, dans une perspective européenne, ce que John Kerry, l'envoyé spécial du président des États-Unis pour le climat, a entrepris avec sa campagne diplomatique en faveur de la mise en place progressive d'une capacité de production d'énergie renouvelable. Cela signifie le financement du développement à grande échelle des renouvelables, la coopération hydrique dans la région et la construction d'un consensus climatique encore plus solide.

Je suis convaincu que si la diplomatie climatique



PETRA RESOURCES  
-INCORPORATED-



## 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.

JUDICIAL BRANCH  
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

#### Invitation for Bids for Cleaning Materials & Services

DATE: May 16, 2022  
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.
  - Restricted to Liberian Businesses Only.**
  - PPCC Vendor registry**
  - 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 Procurement

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Court Administrator



Y CARE  
INTERNATIONAL

### 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:

- Shares a similar vision to All We Can - Y Care International;
- Are legally registered as an organisation and can provide evidence of valid documents/certificates;
- Have an operational office in one or more of the Counties mentioned above; and
- 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/>

# Cummings' trial a wild goose chase

By Lewis S. Teh

Omnia and Alaco Limited, two leading business intelligence and investigative firms hired by opposition leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings to probe the merits of his ongoing criminal trial by the Government of Liberia have jointly released findings here, noting that evidence into allegations of forgery lodged against Mr. Cummings "simply does not stack up."

These allegations stem

party conspired and tampered with the agreement that constituted the CPP, known as the "Framework Document", prior to it being filed with the National Elections Commission (NEC) in Liberia.

The ALP's allegations formed the basis of a prosecution before Liberia's criminal courts, which is ongoing. Mr. Cummings and his co-defendants vehemently deny the allegations of forgery and criminal conspiracy.

"We therefore believe that this allegation filed against Mr. Cummings and his team are completely Baseless and this is what the investigation has revealed", Mr. Rainey adds.

According to him, the special joint independent forensic investigation established that the CPP investigation failed to take into account key evidence, showing the comprehensive review and approval of the framework documents by all parties to the agreement.

For her part, Mrs. Cherie Blair, wife of Britain's ex-Prime Minister Tony Blair, says the joint investigative findings wasn't reviewing the processes that are in court at the moment, clarifying "What we look at is the Investigation Committee Report and the decision of the prosecution to send the case to court."

She argues that the investigative report does not provide a proper basis for any prosecution, and prosecutors are

not behaving in a way that a real trial should proceed.

"Our Investigation has shown that the original complaints against Mr. Cummings and the CPP's so-called investigation are hopeless. The evidence simply does not stack up", Mrs. Blair says.

She describes the entire affair at best as a wild goose chase and at worst a witch hunt, adding "I have no doubt the Liberian courts will see that justice is done."



from an internal dispute within the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), an opposition alliance formed by four political parties in Liberia, including Mr. Cummings' Alternative National Congress; the All Liberian Party (ALP), the Liberty Party (LP) and the Unity Party (UP).

The ALP that took the ANC leader to court after it left the collaboration, alleges that Mr. Cummings and two other senior figures in his

Releasing the joint investigative findings via virtual presentation on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 from the United Kingdom, the team through Mr. Gordon Rainey, head of Alaco Limited notes that following a comprehensive review of the evidence to establish the facts, Alaco and Omnia have concluded that those allegations levied against Mr. Cummings and two of his officials are entirely baseless without merit.

## Mansion or Palaver hut

Minister of State Nathaniel McGill shook his head and motioned with his hands as he tried to clarify the latest allegation surrounding his display or acquisition of wealth.

His actions bagged a lot-not just explanations to provide clarity but why it always has to be him.

The subject, is a beautiful little palaver hut carpeted in green with green roofing sheets supported by pillars painted in white located just few meters over the Farmington River in Marshall.

At the entrance of the palaver hut is the number 36, and inscribed on the gate of the main entrance to the palaver hut is "VIM" Island-representing the initials of

his wife-Mrs. Vivian Innis McGill.

This Palaver Hut, now at the center of alleged show of wealth is situated at the

edge of a one lot of underdeveloped land fenced in a white wall.

The Allegation

There have been media



Under the independent report titled "The Framework of Political Prosecution: The Case of Alexander B. Cummings, reveals how the CPP Investigative Committee failed to take into account key evidence showing the comprehensive review and approval of the Framework Document by all parties to the agreement.

"Inexplicably, this was despite its own Chairman having participated in this process of negotiating and agreeing the text. This raises serious questions about the committee's motivation and competence", the report further reads.

In response, Mr. Cummings says the findings of the report are conclusive, saying "With the baselessness of the accusations against me now laid bare, the truth - that this was a politicized attempt to impugn my integrity and derail our movement for real change - may prevail."

The ANC leader maintains that he has always stood firm and calm when the government has violated his domestic rights, but could not remain calm as the government orchestrated trial, which he notes has been an assault on the democratic rights of all Liberians and the values of the international democratic community. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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reports online that the palaver hut pictured in this article is a mansion, in fact a resort overlooking the Farmington River in Marshall. The report further alleged that it was specifically built by McGill as his wife's 36 birthday gift.

Excerpts of the report: "Despite the challenges the country is going through where "hospitals reporting no vaccines in the country for new born babies, when public hospitals are shutting down in the country due to lack of allotment", Mr. McGill was insensitive to the condition and has gone to the extent to" surprise his wife with a gift of a state of the art deck built in the middle of Farmington River in Marshall with a multi-million dollar estate named and styled "VIM ISLAND" at her 36th Birthday bash, claiming VIM to be an acronym for Vivian Innis McGill of building a private resort running into millions of dollars.

So what was McGill's explanation?

McGill, after shaking his head and motioning with his hands said the report claiming that he built a multimillion dollar resort for his wife as her birthday gift was just not true. He argued that the property in question which is a palaver hut was constructed by his wife Vivian.

McGill put the cost of the property in question at US25, 000, which he said was purely funded by his wife and that he had no part to play in its construction.

He explained that what was

so disingenuous about the allegation is that for someone to actually price the palaver hut as a multi-million dollar property speaks volume of how far people are prepared to go to malign others.

He invited this paper to go and tour the property and see if it represents the allegations being made and the insinuations being cast in the public.

What does Mrs. McGill do?

Vivian Innis McGill has been working with the UN System on a couple of projects as a development practitioner.

Her works and activities have centered on lives of women, children, disadvantaged youth and the extremely poor.

Her career path began at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection as the Supervisor of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR-1325) Secretariat at the ministry. Upon completion of her graduate studies in 2016, she was seconded by the Ministry of Gender to serve as the Project Manager for the Girls Ebola Recovery Livelihood Support Project (GERLS) sponsored by the World Bank.

She currently works as the Gender Justice Specialist for the Rule of Law Program and Gender Focal Person for UNDP Liberia Country Office.

So what the point?

Well, according to McGill with the work his wife does coupled with her experiences she is capable of erecting a US25, 000 property without a dime from his wallet.

## Bea Mountain: No abnormal condition at plant



specialist environmental team to investigate the allegations of pollution in the surrounding water streams," the statement said.

The company further noted that in addition to measures it has taken, it has also engaged an independent government certified laboratory to collect samples from the areas that are reported to be impacted.

"BMMC will keep the public informed on the results of all investigations that are underway," the statement added.

"In the interim, BMMC will continue to support its neighboring communities to ensure their

safety as relates to the incident until clarity is derived from these investigations.

Having notified the EPA of the incident, BMMC most welcome the EPA's response to

dispatch a team on site to investigate these allegations.

BMMC remains supportive and will continue to cooperate with authorities at every stage where needed," the company concluded.

**B**ea Mountain Mining Corporation (BMMC), says there is no abnormal condition at its plant, thereby refuting media report of alleged water pollution resulting in the death of fish and other species in the Mafa River streams in Grand Cape Mount County.

been affected by chemicals allegedly leaked from the company's plant into the Mafa River used by the communities to fetch water for cooking and drinking.

But the company in a release issued Tuesday May 24, said there has been no discharge from the plant.

"All protocols in keeping with EPA guidelines and best practice are intact. However, we have sent a

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