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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2022	L\$150.4843 /US\$1.00	L\$152.1256/US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

The New Dawn

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VOL. 12 NO. 089 FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2022 PRICE LD\$40.00



ArcelorMittal fails to adhere to terms of MDA

-Says Government

Opposition sign up new alliance



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Continental News

No Doubt About it: Zimbabwe President Pro-China, Anti-US

If there's a new cold war brewing and both China and the United States are trying to get African countries on their side, it's clear where Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa's allegiance lies.

In his latest column in the local Sunday Mail newspaper, the 79-year-old president slammed the West and lavished praise on Beijing.

"Unlike Western interests which have been exploiting our continent even well before its formal occupation," the Chinese "have now come back to the continent they helped liberate as new, non-traditional investors," he said, referring to Beijing's backing of Zimbabwe's independence war against white minority rule.

"Here in Zimbabwe, China has helped fund and implement several projects in the sectors of energy, air transport, water, real estate, industrial value addition, mining and defense," the president said. "All these have secured and bolstered our independence while changing the structure of our economy in this season of punitive Western sanctions."



President of Zimbabwe Emmerson Mnangagwa

The United States and European Union have maintained sanctions on Zimbabwean individuals and companies for two decades, since longtime president Robert Mugabe was accused of election rigging and human rights abuses in the early 2000s. Western nations have resisted calls to remove the sanctions, pointing to the ruling ZANU-PF party's continued suppression of protests and opposition figures.

Beijing has stepped into the void left by Western powers — offering generous loans that aren't dependent on democratic reform — to become the

country's top investor. It has invested heavily in the lithium-rich country's mines and is funding the country's massive new parliament building.

While Washington says it's not in competition with China in Africa, officials have warned governments here against what are often dubbed China's "debt trap" loans. Meanwhile, the U.S. has been trying to win support for its stance on the war in Ukraine — something that many governments on the continent, including Zimbabwe's, have been

loathe to give.

When asked about the war of words with the West, Zimbabwe government spokeswoman Monica Mutsvangwa echoed the president's remarks.

"A number of Zimbabwe's detractors have long hidden behind the false veil of democracy and human rights gauntlet. ... This heinous policy has met its match in the sly and alert president," she told VOA.

"More and better money is winning the day," she added in apparent reference

to Chinese investment.

Mutsvangwa pointed to several Chinese-owned lithium mines and a steel plant being built by Chinese mining giant Tsingshan Group Holdings as proof that Zimbabwe's detractors had been "shunted by the wayside."

Media Allegations

Zimbabwe's state-run media, too, is echoing the government's anti-U.S. stance, with articles accusing the country's opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC), NGOs and civil society organizations of being U.S. "proxies" intent on regime change. VOA

Fire Kills 11 Newborn Babies at Senegal Hospital



The mother of a 10-day-old baby reacts as she sits outside the hospital

Senegal's President Macky Sall said on Wednesday that 11 newborn babies died in a fire at the neonatal section of a regional hospital in the town of Tivaouane, around 120 kilometers (74.56 miles) east of the capital Dakar.

"I have just learned with pain and consternation the death of 11 newborn babies in the fire that occurred in the neonatology department of the Mame Abdou Aziz Sy Dabakh hospital in Tivaouane," Sall said in a tweet without giving further details about the fire.

"To their mothers and

their families, I express my deepest sympathy," Sall, who is on a state visit in Angola, added.

Senegal's health minister, Abdoulaye Diouf Sarr, said on private Senegalese television TFM that "according to preliminary investigation, a short circuit triggered the fire."

Sarr, who is in Geneva for the World Health Assembly, said he would cut short the trip and return to Senegal immediately.

Demba Diop Sy, the mayor of Tivaouane, one of Senegal's holy cities and a transport hub, said police and fire service were still at the hospital, but did not provide further details. VOA

Families of Kidnap Victims Reject Nigerian Bill Punishing Ransom Payments

Relatives of kidnap victims in Nigeria have expressed concerns about a bill passed the Nigerian Senate on Wednesday that would outlaw ransom payments for someone's release.

Paul Mshelia, the father of a kidnap victim, was alerted by phone of an attack at a forestry college in Kaduna state the morning of March

12, 2021. His caller told him that his son, who is a student at the school, and 38 others had been taken away by armed gangs.

Mshelia says it was a difficult moment for his family.

"The experience we have passed through with my wife is still affecting me psychologically," he said. "Till today, at 4 a.m. when the day is breaking, I remember the

experience. I'll wake up from sleep and won't go back to sleep."

Mshelia's family and the parents of other kidnapped students say that after weeks of negotiations, they paid about \$100,000 to secure the release of their children. They negotiated despite warnings from Nigerian authorities not to give in to pressure from the kidnappers.

This week, the Nigerian Senate approved an amendment to the country's terrorism law that would outlaw ransom payments. Anyone who paid ransom could face up to 15 years in prison.

The bill also proposes the death penalty for convicted kidnappers when the abduction leads to loss of life, and life imprisonment in other instances.

Authorities warn that paying ransom was only making kidnappers emboldened and hope the bill will address the spate of kidnappings.

But Mshelia disagrees. "To me, it's out of context because I don't think it's going to solve any problem," he said. "Even if you jail somebody today and this kidnapping continues, people will

still go out of their way to pay."

The bill still needs approval from the lower house of parliament and from President Muhammadu Buhari before it becomes law.

Authorities in northern Nigeria are struggling to contain armed gangs who are on a kidnapping spree and have earned huge sums of money through ransom payments.

Human rights lawyer Martin Obono says the government is shifting responsibility by

criminalizing ransom payment by citizens.

"This is government actually trying to shift the post. If you're now saying that you want to criminalize ransom payment, who's going to criminalize government's failure to provide or guarantee my own security?" Obono said.

According to a report by Lagos-based risk analysis firm SB Morgen Intelligence, at least \$18.3 million in ransom was paid to Nigerian kidnappers between 2011 and 2020. VOA



The belongings of students of Bethel Baptist High School are scattered on school premises

EDITORIAL

Grand Cape Mount County deserves urgent attention

REPORT OF AN alleged pollution of the Mafa River in Grand Cape Mount County, western Liberia, resulting in the death of fishes and other species deserves urgent and thorough investigation to avert a potential human catastrophic.

ALREADY, REPORT SAYS a dog that ate some of the dead species from the pollution, subsequently died in the county, while the Mafa River, used by communities to fetch water for cooking and drinking, has become a no-go-zone area.

MEDIA REPORTS EMERGED here early Tuesday this week that over 10 communities had been affected by chemicals allegedly leaked from plant operated by Bea Mountain Mining Corporation (BMMC) into the Mafa River, but the company in a release issued Tuesday, May 24, said there has been no discharge from its plant, and that there is no abnormal condition there.

WHAT IS AUTHENTIC however, is that something is amiss in the county that poses serious threats to both human lives and the environment.

THIS SHOULD CLAIM the immediate attention of all stakeholders, including national government in order to arrest the situation before it goes off hand.

WE CALL ON the Environmental Protection Agency that the company says it has contacted to conduct sample test of water from the Mafa River in order to establish cause of death of animal species that has left citizens panicking.

THE EPA, UNDER the watch of Professor Wilson K. Tarpeh, as Director, should leave no stone unturned in scientifically getting to the bottom of the current threats in Grand Cape Mount County in order to allay all fears. We are hearing reports that some citizens are leaving their villages for safety.

THE GOVERNMENT AND the concession company should leave no room for suspicions, as we believe the pollution did not come from the sky. There is a source and it must be established so that citizens can once more live in peace.

THE GOVERNMENT IS under obligation to protect its citizens no matter where they live, and it should act in ways that demonstrate such commitment by being proactive.

THE SOONER FINDINGS are established about the river pollution in Grand Cape Mount County, which is a major tourism site, the better it would be not only for citizens there, but the entire country.

COMMENTARY

By George Soros

The Fight of Our Lives

DAVOS - Since the last Davos meeting, the course of history has changed dramatically. Russia invaded Ukraine. This has shaken Europe to its core. The European Union was established to prevent such a thing from happening. Even when the fighting stops, as it eventually must, the situation will never revert to the status quo ante. Indeed, the Russian invasion may turn out to be the beginning of World War III, and our civilization may not survive it.

The invasion of Ukraine did not come out of the blue. The world has been increasingly engaged over the past half-decade, or longer, in a struggle between two diametrically opposed systems of governance: open society and closed society. Let me define the differences as simply as I can.

In an open society, the role of the state is to protect the freedom of the individual; in a closed society, the role of the individual is to serve the rulers of the state. Other issues that concern all humanity - fighting pandemics and climate change, avoiding nuclear war, maintaining global institutions - have had to take a back seat to this systemic struggle. That's why I say our civilization may not survive.

I became engaged in what I call political philanthropy in the 1980s, a time when a large part of the world languished under Communist rule. I wanted to help people who were outraged and fought against oppression. I established one foundation after another in rapid succession in what was then the Soviet empire. The effort turned out to be more successful than I expected.

Those were exciting days. They also coincided with a period of personal financial success that allowed me to increase my annual giving from \$3 million in 1984 to more than \$300 million three years later.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, the tide began to turn against open societies. Repressive regimes are now ascendant, and open societies are under siege. Today, China and Russia represent the greatest threats to open societies.

I have pondered long and hard why this shift took place. Part of the answer is to be found in the rapid development of digital technology, especially artificial intelligence.

Technology with Fangs

In theory, AI ought to be politically neutral: it can be used for good or bad. In practice, the effect is asymmetric. AI is particularly good at producing instruments of control that help repressive regimes and endanger open societies. COVID-19 also helped legitimize such instruments of control, because they really are useful in dealing with the pandemic.

The rapid development of AI has gone hand in hand with the rise of Big Tech and social-media platforms. In short order, these conglomerates have come to dominate the global economy, their reach extending around the world.

These developments have had far-reaching consequences. They have sharpened the conflict between China and the United States. China has turned its tech platforms into national champions. The US has been more hesitant, because it has worried about the effect of these technologies on individual freedom.

These different attitudes shed new light on the conflict between the two different systems of governance. President Xi Jinping's China, which collects personal data to surveil and control its citizens more aggressively than any other country in history, ought to benefit from these developments. But, as I shall explain, that is not the case.

Putin and Xi Pair Up

Let me first turn to recent developments, in particular the meeting between Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin on February 4 at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics. They issued a long statement announcing that the cooperation between them has

"no limits." Putin informed Xi of a "special military operation" in Ukraine, but it is unclear whether he told Xi that he had a full-scale invasion in mind. US and British military experts certainly told their Chinese counterparts what was in store. Xi approved, but asked Putin to wait until the conclusion of the Winter Games.

For his part, Xi resolved to hold the Olympics despite the appearance of the highly contagious Omicron variant, that was just beginning to spread in China. The organizers went to great lengths to create an airtight bubble for the competitors, and the Olympics concluded without a hitch.

But Omicron established itself in the community, first in Shanghai, China's largest city and commercial hub. Now it is spreading to the rest of the country. Yet Xi persists to this day with his zero-COVID policy, which has inflicted great hardships on Shanghai's population by forcing residents into makeshift quarantine centers instead of allowing them to self-quarantine at home. Shanghai's inhabitants have been driven to the verge of open rebellion.

Many people are puzzled by this seemingly irrational approach to the pandemic, but I can give you the explanation: Xi harbors a guilty secret. He never told the Chinese people that they had been inoculated with a vaccine that was designed for the original Wuhan variant of the disease, but which offers little protection against new variants.

Xi cannot afford to come clean about this, because he is at a very delicate moment in his career. His second term in office expires this fall, and he wants to be appointed to an unprecedented third term and eventually become ruler for life. He has carefully choreographed a process that would allow him to fulfill his life's ambition, and everything must be subordinated to this goal.

Resisting Russia

In the meantime, Putin's "special military operation" has not unfolded according to plan. He expected his army to be welcomed as liberators by the Russian-speaking population of Ukraine. His soldiers carried dress uniforms for a victory parade.

Instead, Ukraine put up unexpectedly strong resistance and inflicted severe damage on the invading Russian army, which was badly equipped, badly led, and soon became demoralized. The US and the EU rallied to Ukraine's support and supplied it with armaments. With their help, Ukraine was able to defeat the much larger Russian army in the battle for Kyiv.

Putin could not afford to accept defeat and changed his plans accordingly. He put General Vladimir Shamanov, well known for his cruelty in the siege of Grozny, and later for the savagery of the campaign he conducted in Syria, in charge and ordered him to produce some success by May 9, when Victory Day was to be celebrated.

But Putin had very little to celebrate. Shamanov concentrated his efforts on the port city of Mariupol, which used to have 400,000 inhabitants. He reduced it to rubble, as he had done to Grozny, but the Ukrainian defenders held out for a long time.

The hasty withdrawal from Kyiv revealed the atrocities that Putin's army had committed on the civilian population in the city's northern suburbs. The war crimes are well documented, and images of civilians murdered by Russian troops in towns like Bucha have stirred widespread international outrage, though not in Russia, where the population has been kept in the dark about Putin's war.

The invasion of Ukraine has now entered a new, more challenging phase for the country's defenders. The Ukrainian army must fight on open terrain where the numerical superiority of Russian forces is more difficult to overcome.

The Ukrainians are doing their best, counterattacking, even at times boldly penetrating Russian territory. Such tactics have had the added benefit of bringing home to the Russian population what is really going on.

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The Right Way to Worry

CAMBRIDGE - The reign of the dinosaurs was brought to an end 65 million years ago by an asteroid that crashed into what is now the town of Chicxulub in Mexico. Although this lump of rock and metal was not particularly large - probably about ten kilometers (six miles) across - it struck the Earth at more than 60,000 kilometers per hour (37,000 miles per hour), generating an explosion billions of times greater than that of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, and killing all life within 1,000 kilometers.

More ominously, the explosion sent a massive cloud of dust and ash into the upper atmosphere, blocking the sun for years to come. This prevented photosynthesis and led to sharply reduced temperatures, which is why scientists reckon that it was this atmospheric dust and sulfate aerosols that ultimately killed the dinosaurs and many other species.

If a similar asteroid or comet were to crash into Earth today, it would cause another mass-extinction event, wiping out most species and human civilization as we know it. This distant possibility is an example of a natural existential risk: an event not caused by humans that leads to the extinction or near-extinction of our species.

But there are also anthropogenic - human-created - existential risks. As the University of Oxford philosopher Toby Ord argues in his thought-provoking new book, *The Precipice: Existential Risk and the Future of Humanity*, it is these risks that should most concern us now and in the coming century.

Risk and Reward

Ord recognizes that science and technology are humankind's most potent tools for solving problems and achieving prosperity. But he reminds us that there are always dangers associated with such power, particularly when it is placed in the wrong hands or wielded without concern for long-term and unintended consequences.

More to the point, Ord argues that anthropogenic existential risk has reached an alarmingly high level, because we have developed tools capable of destroying humanity without the accompanying wisdom needed to recognize the danger we are in. He notes that the eminent twentieth-century astronomer Carl Sagan issued a similar warning in his 1994 book, *Pale Blue Dot*, writing:

"Many of the dangers we face indeed arise from science and technology - but, more fundamentally, because we have become powerful without becoming commensurately wise. The world-altering powers that technology has delivered into our heads now require a degree of consideration and foresight that has never before been asked of us."

For Ord, this gap between power and wisdom could decide humanity's future. On one hand, we could disappear entirely or suffer a collapse that wipes out most of the hallmarks of civilization (from vaccines and antibiotics to art and writing). But, on the other hand, Ord sees in humankind the potential for long-term flourishing on a cosmic scale: with both wisdom and technological ingenuity, humans could well outlive this planet and launch new civilizations across space.

This far-reaching vision of flourishing weighs heavily in Ord's reckoning, because he recognizes that there may not be any other intelligent life forms in the universe. If we are indeed alone, a mass-extinction event that wiped out everyone on this planet would also eliminate all of the potential for intelligent, purposeful existence everywhere.

Based on this reasoning, Ord arrives at what mathematicians and economists would call a "lexicographic preference ordering." In a situation where we care about multiple criteria, a lexicographic order assigns overwhelming importance to one criterion in order to provide clarity when two options are being compared. For example, in a lexicographic order between food and shelter, one would always prefer whichever option offers more food, regardless of how much more shelter the other option offers.

Ord's philosophical stance is equivalent to a lexicographic order because it implies that we should minimize existential risk, whatever the costs. A future in which existential risk has been minimized trumps any future in which it has not been minimized, regardless of any other considerations. After establishing this basic hierarchy, Ord then proceeds with an expert overview of different types of anthropogenic existential risk, concluding that the greatest threat comes from an artificial superintelligence that has evolved beyond our control.

When Progress Isn't Progress

One can date science-driven existential risk at least to the controlled nuclear chain reactions that enabled atomic weapons. Ord is probably right that our (social) wisdom has not increased since this fateful development, with its earlier culmination in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Though we have established some institutions, regulatory tools, norms, and other internalization mechanisms to ensure that we do not misuse science, nobody would argue that these are sufficient.

Ord suggests that today's inadequate institutional framework may be a temporary phenomenon that could be addressed in due time, so long as we survive the next century or so. "For we stand at a crucial moment in the history of our species," he writes. "Fueled by technological progress, our power has grown so great that for the first time in humanity's long history, we have the capacity to destroy ourselves..." And, in fact, in writing his book, Ord "aspires to start closing the gap between our wisdom and power, allowing humanity a clear view of what is at stake, so that we will make the choices necessary to safeguard our future."

However, I see no evidence that this is really feasible. Nor is there any sign that our society and leaders have shown any wisdom when it comes to reining in the destructive power of technology.

Tackling the Global Learning Crisis

NEW 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
- 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**.

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

Gov't acknowledges receipt of Princess' family demand for body

The Government has announced that it is in receipt of a communication from the family of the late Princess Cooper, who was found dead in March, requesting the body of the deceased for burial without the agreed second autopsy.

In a statement issued Thursday May 26, the Government said the request by the deceased family is contrary to an initial agreement involving the family, their lawyer, and some civil society organizations for a second autopsy to be conducted by a pathologist the family will

regarding the cause of her death, in order to bring proper closure to this matter.

"Her family, in keeping with the government's commitment to facilitate and fund the conduct of a second autopsy by their designated pathologist, recommended in April a practitioner from the Philippines named Doctor Ritualo.

The office of the Attorney General immediately made contact with Dr. Ritualo. Email exchanges began in which the Attorney General requested Doctor Ritualo to send his CV and License that qualify him as a medical

said.

The statement further noted that since the doctor was asked to submit a copy of his license to operate as a pathologist, a requirement of the Liberia Medical and Dental Council, he has not been heard from. It said many attempts by the Minister of Justice to get Doctor Ritualo to comply with his request have yielded no result.

"The Cooper family was duly informed of this lack of communication, through their representative Dr. Abel Momo, their Lawyer Cllr. Tiawon Gongloe and the President of the Liberia Council of Churches Bishop Kortu Brown.

The government wants to make it categorically clear that it remains open to bringing in any other pathologist of the family's will," the statement added.

The government further stated that regardless of the many overtures made through the Attorney General to lend support to the bereaved family in their quest to bring closure to the circumstances surrounding the death of Princess Cooper, some have opted to politicize the matter.

Meanwhile, it said the Minister of Justice, Cllr. Frank Musa Dean as a further demonstration of goodwill, will convene a discussion with the family, their lawyer, the inter-religious Council, and any other civil society organization interested in providing assistance in this matter to find an amicable solution to the stalemate.



select.

However, the government noted in its statement that it remains very committed to conducting the autopsy that was requested by Princess' family to allay all the allegations and claims

doctor and pathologist for onward presentation to the Liberia Medical and Dental Association in keeping with the law and professional medical standards in Liberia," excerpts of the government's statement

Pres. Weah Approves Rufus N. Darkortey as Executive Director at the ADB

President George Manneh Weah on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, approved the nomination of Mr. Rufus N. Darkortey to serve as Executive Director at the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire.

Upon the President's approval of the nomination, the Board of Governors of the African Development Bank today, May 26, 2022 elected Mr. Rufus N. Darkortey as the Executive Director for the Constituency representing The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Sudan. Mr. Darkortey will serve as one of the twenty (20) Board of Directors of the Bank representing eighty-one (81) countries from across the world to steer the affairs of the Bank.

Prior to this appointment, Mr. Darkortey previously worked at the Bank as Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of the Constituency

from 2018 to 2019. He also served as the Alternate Executive Director at the Bank from 2020 up to his election as Executive Director



ECOWAS to hold discussion with GOL on VAT



The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) says, it is sending a three-member high level delegation to Monrovia from 30th May to 2nd June 2022 to hold series of discussions with the Liberian Government to support the process leading to the smooth transition from Goods and Service Tax (GST) to Value Added Tax (VAT) in Liberia.

The GOL will be represented at the talks by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, the Minister of Justice, the Commissioner General of the Liberia Revenue Authority and the VAT Reform Committee.

The ECOWAS side will be led by Mr. Tei KONZI, Commissioner of Trade, Customs and Free Movement with Mr. Salifou TIEMTORE, Director of Customs and Taxation and Mrs. Renilde BAZAHICA, PATF Expert on VAT as members.

The ECOWAS delegation is also expected to meet with Representatives of the European Union (EU) and (USAID) including the ECOWAS Special Representative in Liberia as well as create modalities for engagements with the National Legislature.

According to Liberia's VAT Ministerial Focus Person, Assistant Finance Minister T. Ojuku Nyenpan, the ECOWAS

delegation will specifically focus the discussions on the "roadmap towards a possible adoption of the VAT Project so as to bring Liberia into regional alignment with the rest of the sub-region; Better understand the main challenges faced by Liberia, Identify the support from ECOWAS in order to propose practical solutions leading to the adoption of the VAT within the desired timeframe".

The scheduled high level talks come following the successful launch of the Support Program for Fiscal Transition in West Africa (PATF) activities in Liberia in November 2021. PATF is being financed by the European Union (EU) under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for the benefit of ECOWAS Member States.

As part of PATF activities, Liberia is receiving specific support under this program for which the Government of Liberia is expected to implement VAT in the country in line with ECOWAS standards. To support this component, a non-principal expert is now based in Liberia to ensure the effective achievement of program objectives and to introduce the VAT reform in Liberia.

In addition to Liberia, PATF is supporting Nigeria and Guinea Bissau to implement VAT in line with the ECOWAS VAT Directive.

on May 26, 2022.

Additionally, before his approval by the President of Liberia, Mr. Darkortey served as the Senior Economic and Policy Advisor in the Office of the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Hon. Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., with focus on fostering economic, fiscal, monetary, and other development related matters of the country, including public and private sector stakeholders engagements, both at the national and international levels to facilitate the coordination, formulation and implementation

of the country's development plan, the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

Rufus N. Darkortey is an Economist and a financial and development professional with more than 20 years of experience working in the public and private sectors, including multilateral and commercial institutions.

He holds a Master and a Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Economics from the Cleveland State University in Cleveland, Ohio, the United States of America; and an Associate Degree in Computer Science from the A.M.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Lonestar Cell MTN and International Bank Liberia Limited (IB) Launch Mobile Money Push and Pull Service

The more than 50,000 International Bank Liberia Limited (IB) customers can now link their bank accounts to their mobile money wallets, thanks to a new partnership with Lonestar Cell MTN.

International Bank officially launched the Lonestar Cell MTN Mobile Money Push and Pull service

Cell MTN mobile money wallets, enabling them to move money from “bank to wallet” and vice versa with ease and from anywhere.

The Mobile Money Push and Pull service is part of the national drive to move Liberia towards a digital economy.

Mr. Sully Turay IB Manager, E-Banking and Digital

brings with it.

The push and pull service allows International Bank account holders to access basic financial services from their mobile phones from any county in Liberia. This service is an added advantage as this gives International Bank account holders access to their IB account(s) anytime and anywhere in Liberia, in the 15 counties.

With access to mobile money, IB account holders can receive money from abroad via Sendwave, BnB, World Remit, and Remitly directly to their mobile money wallets, then, if necessary, push the remittance to their bank accounts.

With the onboarding of International Bank, Lonestar Cell MTN, now has six of Liberia’s 10 commercial banks a part of its mobile money ecosystem.

Christopher Ssali, Lonestar Cell MTN Mobile Financial Services General Manager welcomes International Bank to the MoMo family.

“With thousands of agents and merchants in our network, IB account holders can access cash, pay bills, and buy goods and services stress-free. When it comes to safe, secure, and convenient digital transactions Mobile Money is the answer,” he said.

bold, new digital world for our customers. Our reliable country-wide network, partnerships with Liberia’s major banks and over nine-thousand Mobile Money agents, Lonestar Cell MTN subscribers can deposit and withdraw cash, pay bills and pay for services seamlessly. We believe everyone deserves the benefits of a modern and connected life.

Starts from back page

a complete affront and disregard for the plight of the Liberian for anybody to take the National Road Fund money in the wake of what is happening to Liberians and what they are experiencing in reference to road connectivity across the country.

“How will Minster Tweah take \$25 million from the National Road Fund and misapply it when you only need \$1.3 million to get Lofa road done?” said Mr. Nyumalin.

He wondered how that can happen again when just \$4 million is needed to rehabilitate the entire South Eastern road network.

“We will make sure he is

Dismiss Samuel Tweah

dismissed because what he did, not even President Weah will have done it,” Nyumalin noted.

Mr. Nyumalin disclosed that he is not aware of any verbal or written decision of the Legislature or any branches of the government on the order especially so when it has to do with law, adding that he will make sure that both houses jointly prevail on the President to dismiss Minister Tweah.

“I want to speak simple English, it’s not true today and it’s not true tomorrow. At no point in time that I know of, the Legislature gave Minister Tweah approval to misapply the National Road Fund,” said Nyumalin.

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Giddings took Odell to the ELWA Hospital and registered her under an assumed name even though he previously knew her, had contact with her, and had reason to know her name.

“The unfinished building where the late Odell Sherman was found also belonged to Rev. Emmanuel Giddings,” the group explained.

In the Post Mortem Examination conducted on the remains of the late Odell Sherman, the women’s group said Dr. Mitchell concluded in his final report that the deceased student died as the result of “Blunt Force Trauma of the Head,” a consequence of descent.

Since the autopsy report, the group lamented that the police have neglected to find the underlying reasons behind the blunt force trauma of the head.

“Many questions still surround Odell’s death. How could a healthy young woman find her way after an approximately 4-minutes’ walk to a home she had been before and drop head on?” the group wondered.

“Who was there? Why did she go to the home at mid-night alone? Why did the security open the gate at midnight [to someone] who didn’t live in the compound?” it continued.

The women’s group also wants to know what reasons did Rev. Giddings [have] initially for

registering Odell under an assumed name.

“These and many other answers, we still seek to know. Some fear we will never know. Today we remember Odell Sherman, [a] vibrant young woman whose life was snuffed without answers,” the group said.

It noted that Odell is a symbol of the many young women and girls and Liberians who were allegedly murdered without accountability.

In recent times, the group said it has heard and seen dozens of other mysterious deaths that so-called police investigation leaves without a logical conclusion.

It warned that this was the peak of impunity and lack of accountability, saying “how we treat our people as a nation determines the progress we will make.”

The group argued that Article 11© of the Liberian Constitution provides that “All persons are equal before the law and are therefore entitled to the equal protection of the law.”

“Time is out - our government must no longer turn a blind eye to the equal protection of all citizens.”

“We demand answers and timely actions from this government, respecting the Constitutional rights guaranteeing all persons including girls and young women,” the women group stated.



today to provide their customers with banking convenience.

The Push and Pull service allows International Bank account holders to link their accounts to their Lonestar

Channels, said that the Push and Pull service is a key channel for customer’s financial convenience. With it, they have 24-hour access to their money and all the benefits that mobile money

Reopen investigation in Odell Sherman’s death –Women group tells government

A women’s group observing the third memorial of the late Odell Sherman’s death is calling on the Government of Liberia to reopen the investigation in the case because too many questions surrounding her death since May 2019 remain

unanswered.

“We call on the Government of Liberia to reopen the investigation in the case of Odell Sherman, for what it represents for justice for women in Liberia,” the group said.

In the ‘Odell Sherman Memorial Day Press

Statement’ released in Monrovia, the group narrated that on 21 May 2019, Rev. Emmanuel Giddings allegedly discovered in his unfinished building Odell Sherman unconscious.

The deceased was a 21-year-old student of the Harriet Bailey United Methodist School.

Upon her discovery, the group recalled that Rev.



Français

Le Libéria s'appuiera sur la politique de réformes révolutionnaires de la Chine

La République populaire de Chine, par l'intermédiaire de son ambassade accréditée près de Monrovia, a organisé le mercredi 25 mai 2022 une série de conférences intensives sur le secret et l'éclaircissement de la "politique de réforme et d'ouverture de la Chine" avec plusieurs ministres, directeurs de divers ministères et organismes gouvernementaux au Libéria.

La série de conférences de

dialogue intensives et interactives a été mise en œuvre sous les auspices de l'Ambassade de Chine au Libéria.

L'initiative visait à raconter les défis, les succès, la stratégie et les progrès que la Chine a connus au cours de son processus de réforme, et comment le Libéria peut apprendre et mettre en œuvre cette stratégie.

Le programme a réuni Tanneh Brunson, sous-ministre du budget et de la gestion économique, ministre des finances et de la planification du

développement, Vaifee Tulay, sous-ministre des affaires fiscales, des finances, Madame Yaba Thompson, ministre adjointe de l'organisation internationale, ministère des affaires étrangères et plusieurs autres ministres et organismes gouvernementaux.

Faisant une présentation PowerPoint sur l'expérience réussie et l'éclaircissement de la politique de réforme et d'ouverture de la Chine, l'Ambassadeur Ren Yisheng a déclaré que si le Libéria connaîtrait une réforme, le gouvernement devrait d'abord adhérer à la direction centralisée et unifiée du Parti sur la réforme.

Il a déclaré que la raison fondamentale du succès de la réforme et de l'ouverture réside dans la direction du Parti.

Premièrement, a-t-il expliqué, les chefs de parti sont déterminés à réformer. De Deng Xiaoping à Xi Jinping, les chefs de parti ont tous parlé de réformes

« La réforme de la Chine s'est déroulée en quatre étapes. La première étape

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Sénégal : colère après la mort de onze bébés lors d'un incendie dans un hôpital

Pour l'opposition et la société civile, cette tragédie remet en lumière les carences du système sanitaire du pays. Le président Macky Sall a fait part de sa « consternation », et exprimé sa « compassion à leurs mamans et leurs familles ».

Le drame s'est déroulé au sein de l'hôpital de Tivaouane, structure inaugurée récemment d'après la presse locale. Le député-maire de la ville, Demba Diop a déclaré que l'incendie a été causé par « un court-circuit et qu'il s'est propagé très vite ». L' élu a également indiqué qu'au sein du service de néonatalogie « trois bébés ont été sauvés ».

Le ministre Abdoulaye Diouf Sarr, en déplacement en Suisse, a annoncé son retour immédiat au Sénégal. Une enquête est en cours.

Onze bébés décédés. Un drame qui en rappelle malheureusement d'autres. En avril 2021, quatre

nourrissons avaient péri dans l'incendie de l'hôpital de Linguere, au nord du pays. Le maire de la ville avait alors parlé d'une défaillance dans le système de climatisation. Au début du même mois, une femme enceinte de neuf mois était morte à Louga (nord) après avoir attendu la césarienne qu'elle réclamait.

« Plus jamais ça »

Le système de santé

sénégalais est donc une nouvelle fois pointé du doigt. « Nous espérons que toutes les mesures seront enfin prises pour que ce genre de drame ne survienne plus, plus jamais ça », écrit la coalition d'opposition Yewwi Askan Wi dans un communiqué.

Seydi Gassama, responsable de la section sénégalaise d'Amnesty

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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

Le Libéria s'appuiera sur la politique de réformes

s'est déroulée de 1978 à 1992, clarifiant l'objectif de réforme consistant à établir un système économique de marché socialiste », a-t-il raconté.

"La deuxième étape s'est déroulée du 14e Congrès national du PCC en 1992 au 16e Congrès national du PCC en 2002, établissant initialement le cadre du système économique de marché socialiste", a noté l'envoyé chinois.

Il a déclaré que la troisième étape allait du 16e Congrès national du PCC en 2002 au 18e Congrès national du PCC en 2012, approfondissant la réforme du système économique et améliorant continuellement le système économique de marché socialiste.

Il a ajouté que depuis le 18e Congrès national du PCC en 2012, la réforme de la Chine est entrée dans une nouvelle étape et que l'objectif global d'approfondir de manière globale la réforme a été proposé, mais que l'accent est toujours mis sur la réforme du système économique.

Selon lui, c'est précisément parce qu'ils ont fermement saisi les points clés de la réforme qu'ils ont joué un rôle moteur dans le développement global et ont permis à la Chine de se développer régulièrement et de progresser.

M. Ren Yisheng a déclaré que la dernière étape de la réforme consistait à émanciper l'esprit et à encourager l'exploration, ajoutant qu'une histoire de réforme et d'ouverture est une histoire d'émancipation constante de l'esprit et d'innovation.

Il a indiqué que pour qu'une politique soit bonne ou non, efficace ou non, elle devrait d'abord être testée dans une certaine zone, puis mise en œuvre et promue à l'échelle nationale si elle est efficace, afin de prendre en compte les conditions spécifiques de chaque région

et de s'adapter mesures adaptées aux conditions locales et éviter la résistance aux réformes ou les coûts excessifs de correction des erreurs.

Il a expliqué que "Traverser la rivière en tâtant les pierres" signifie qu'il sera piloté dans quelques zones de manière expérimentale, puis qu'il sera promu après une pratique réussie.

« C'est devenu le modèle unique de réforme économique de la Chine », a-t-il déclaré.

Cependant, le diplomate chinois recommande au gouvernement du Libéria une méthodologie de réforme stratégique à laquelle il devrait adhérer afin de rendre le pays grand.

Il a exhorté le gouvernement à adhérer à la philosophie centrée sur le peuple, ajoutant que le grand parcours de 40 ans de réforme et d'ouverture a toujours tourné autour de la recherche du bonheur pour le peuple, ce qui se reflète principalement dans les arrangements stratégiques.

Remarquant après la présentation PowerPoint, le ministre adjoint de l'Organisation internationale, des Affaires étrangères, Daniel N. Thomas, Todd Joseph, le vice-ministre de l'Administration, des Travaux publics et plusieurs autres ont exprimé leur enthousiasme et leur appréciation pour la série de conférences sur le partage des connaissances sur la politique de réforme de la Chine.

Ils ont ajouté que cela devrait être porté devant le ministre propre afin que la mise en œuvre soit réalisée plus rapidement.

"Nous sommes reconnaissants des connaissances partagées et de l'engagement à fournir davantage de bourses à notre peuple afin de renforcer notre capacité de réforme et d'illumination nationales", ont déclaré les responsables libériens.

"Nous espérons et prions pour que ce ne soit pas seulement nous, mais également étendu aux autres responsables et décideurs du gouvernement national", ont-ils dit.

Sénégal : colère après la mort de onze bébés

International, appelle le gouvernement à mettre en place « une commission d'enquête indépendante pour situer les responsabilités et sanctionner les coupables à quelque niveau qu'ils soient

dans l'appareil d'Etat »

« Cette situation est très regrettable et extrêmement douloureuse. L'enquête est en cours pour voir ce qui s'est passé » à l'hôpital de Tivaouane, a déclaré, mercredi, le ministre de la Santé Abdoulaye Diouf Sarr.

COMMENTAIRE

Par George Soros

La lutte pour notre survie

DAVOS - Depuis le dernier rassemblement annuel du Forum économique mondial, le cours de l'histoire a considérablement changé. La Russie a envahi l'Ukraine, bouleversant au plus profond d'elle-même une Union européenne créée pour empêcher le retour de la guerre sur le continent. Même lorsque les combats auront cessé, ce qui arrivera tôt ou tard, la situation ne retournera jamais au statu quo ante bellum. L'invasion russe pourrait bien constituer le commencement d'une troisième guerre mondiale, à laquelle notre civilisation risque de ne pas survivre.

L'invasion de l'Ukraine n'est pas tombée du ciel. Depuis au moins un demi-siècle, le monde voit de plus en plus s'affronter deux systèmes de gouvernance diamétralement opposés : la société ouverte et la société fermée. Permettez-moi de les définir aussi simplement que possible.

Dans une société ouverte, le rôle de l'État consiste à protéger la liberté de l'individu ; dans une société fermée, le rôle de l'individu consiste à servir ceux qui règnent à la tête de l'État. Plusieurs autres problématiques communes à toute l'humanité - lutte contre les pandémies et le changement climatique, prévention d'une guerre nucléaire, préservation des institutions mondiales - sont passées au second plan par rapport à ce conflit systémique. C'est la raison pour laquelle je parle de risque pour la survie de notre civilisation.

J'ai commencé à entreprendre ce que j'appelle une démarche de philanthropie politique dans les années 1980, époque à laquelle une grande partie du monde demeurait sous le joug du communisme. Je voulais aider les indignés désireux de lutter contre l'oppression. J'ai créé des fondations les unes après les autres, dans une succession rapide au sein de ce qui était à cette période l'empire soviétique. Cet effort a porté ses fruits au-delà de ce que j'avais imaginé.

Cette époque passionnante a coïncidé avec une période de réussite financière personnelle, qui m'a permis de faire passer mes dons annuels de 3 millions \$ en 1984 à plus de 300 millions trois ans plus tard.

Après les attentats terroristes du 11 septembre 2001, le vent a commencé à tourner en défaveur des sociétés ouvertes. Les régimes répressifs sont désormais en pleine dynamique, tandis que les sociétés ouvertes se trouvent assiégées, menacées principalement par la Chine et la Russie.

J'ai longtemps et profondément réfléchi aux raisons de ce changement majeur. Une partie de la réponse réside dans le développement rapide des technologies numériques, et notamment de l'intelligence artificielle.

L'écueil technologique

En théorie, l'IA devrait être politiquement neutre : elle peut être utilisée aux fins du bien ou du mal. En pratique, elle crée un effet asymétrique. L'IA est particulièrement efficace dans la production d'outils de contrôle qui appuient les régimes répressifs, et qui mettent à mal les sociétés ouvertes. Le COVID-19 a contribué à légitimer l'utilisation de ces instruments de contrôle, en raison de leur utilité réelle dans la lutte contre la pandémie.

Le développement rapide de l'IA est allé de paire avec la montée en puissance des sociétés du Big Tech et des plateformes de réseaux sociaux. Ces conglomérats n'ont pas tardé à dominer l'économie mondiale, forts d'une portée absolument planétaire.

Ces évolutions ont produit des retombées considérables. Elles ont accentué le conflit entre la Chine et les États-Unis. Pékin a fait de ses plateformes technologiques de véritables

championnes nationales. Les États-Unis se sont montrés plus hésitants, car davantage préoccupés par les effets de ces technologies sur les libertés individuelles.

Ces différentes attitudes apportent un nouvel éclairage sur le conflit entre les deux systèmes de gouvernance. La Chine du président Xi Jinping, qui collecte des données personnelles pour surveiller et contrôler ses citoyens plus intensément que n'importe quel autre pays dans l'histoire, devrait a priori bénéficier de ces évolutions. Or, comme je l'expliquerai, ce n'est pas le cas.

Poutine et Xi en duo

Revenons sur les événements récents, en particulier sur la rencontre du 4 février entre Xi et le président russe Vladimir Poutine, lors de la cérémonie d'ouverture des Jeux Olympiques d'hiver de Pékin. Dans une longue déclaration, tous deux annoncent une coopération « sans limite » entre les deux pays. Poutine informe Xi qu'une « opération militaire spéciale » aura lieu en Ukraine. Bien qu'il soit difficile de déterminer si Xi savait à cet instant que le président russe avait à l'esprit une invasion totale, les experts militaires américains et britanniques ont sans aucun doute informé leurs homologues chinois de ce qui se préparait. Xi approuve, mais demande à Poutine de patienter jusqu'à la conclusion des JO d'hiver.

De son côté, Xi maintiendra avec détermination la tenue des JO, malgré l'apparition d'un variant Omicron extrêmement contagieux, dont la propagation ne fait que débiter à cette période en Chine. Les organisateurs feront tout pour constituer une bulle hermétique autour des athlètes, et les JO s'achèveront sans incident.

Omicron commencera toutefois à s'installer dans la population, tout d'abord à Shanghai, première ville et cœur commercial de la Chine. Le virus se propage aujourd'hui au reste du pays. Or, Xi persiste jusqu'à ce jour dans la mise en œuvre de sa politique zéro COVID-19, qui inflige d'immenses difficultés à la population de Shanghai, en imposant aux habitants de se rendre dans des centres de quarantaine improvisés plutôt que de leur permettre de s'isoler à la maison. Les habitants de Shanghai sont poussés jusqu'au bord d'un soulèvement pur et simple.

Si de nombreux observateurs s'étonnent de cette approche a priori irrationnelle face à la pandémie, une explication existe : Xi cache un secret coupable. Il n'a jamais dit à la population chinoise qu'elle s'était fait injecter un vaccin conçu pour cibler le variant initial de Wuhan, un vaccin qui protège très peu contre les nouveaux variants.

Xi ne peut se permettre d'avouer cette réalité, dans la mesure où il vit une période très délicate de sa carrière. Son deuxième mandat au pouvoir expire cet automne, et il entend être élu une troisième fois (ce qui serait une première en Chine) pour finalement devenir chef d'État à vie. Il a soigneusement chorégraphié un processus lui permettant d'accomplir l'ambition de sa vie, et tout doit être subordonné à cet objectif.

Résistance face à la Russie

Pendant ce temps, « l'opération militaire spéciale » de Poutine ne se déroule pas comme prévu. Le président russe avait annoncé que ses soldats seraient accueillis en libérateurs par la population russophone d'Ukraine. Ses militaires avaient emporté avec eux un uniforme de cérémonie en vue d'une parade victorieuse.

Au lieu de cela, l'Ukraine a mené une résistance contre toute attente puissante, et infligé de sérieuses pertes à l'armée d'invasion russe, qui était mal équipée, mal dirigée, et dont le moral s'est rapidement détérioré. Les États-Unis et l'UE sont venus au secours de l'Ukraine en lui fournissant des armes. Grâce à leur aide, l'Ukraine est parvenue à l'emporter sur l'armée russe, bien supérieure en nombre, dans la bataille pour Kiev.



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 km².

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

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.

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May 23, 2022

Re-Survey Notice

This is to inform the general public that **The First Assembly of God Church (A.G.), Johnsonville Branch** have duly authorized **Contours, Limited** to conduct a Detail & Perimeter Re-Survey of **Three Point Five (3.5) Acres** of land within the Township of Johnsonville, Montserrado County.

The parcel of land to be Re-Survey is lying and situated within the **Palm Farm Community, in the Township of Johnsonville, Montserrado County.**

This Re-survey will commence on Saturday, 28th of May 2022 beginning at 10:00AM.

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

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

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---------|
| 1. Peter D. Young | F.M.I | M.K |
| 2. The Gray Family | A.S.D | S.Y |
| 3. The Heart Family | J.S.M | S.D |
| 4. B.S. Tedoe | J.E.R | B.K |
| 5. Sieh Freeman | J.S.B | R.T |
| 6. Mohammed Kamara | A.M.K | K.M |
| 7. Lawson Teah | A.M.J | P.M.J.J |
| 8. Henry Marshall--- (Community Chairman) | M.A.T | P.D.Y |
| 9. All other interested Parties | S.K./M.K | |
| | M.B.T.M.S.G.M/P.G.N.M | |

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

**Cc: Office of the Commissioner
Township of Johnsonville
Cc: Police Commander, Johnsonville Police Dept**

ArcelorMittal fails to adhere to terms of MDA

By Jonathan Browne

The Government of Liberia bluntly accuses Concessionaire, ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) Limited and its Principal, ArcelorMittal Limited, of default in adhering to terms of the amended Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) of January 23, 2013.

The government here thru the Ministry of Mines and Energy on 22 May 2022 made the observation in a written

schedule and failure to maintain railroad, which the government says constitute serious and prolonged breaches of a material obligations by AML.

Minister Murray notes that Article XVI, Section 3 of the MDA provides that "[At no time shall the ratio of debt of the Concessionaire to Equity of the Concessionaire Exceed 3:1. For purposes of this Section 3, "Debt" shall mean the long-term debt of the Concessionaire, and "Equity" shall mean the

permitted ratio, saying "This is a serious and prolonged breach of AML's material obligations under Article XVI of the MDA."

In failure to satisfy production schedule, the government cites Article V Section 1 of the MDA which states that "Subject to the availability of economically mineable Iron Ore reserves, the Concessionaire shall, during the Operating Period, extract at least as much Iron Ore per year from the Production Areas.

But government notes that based on available records, AML has failed to meet the Run of Mine Production levels in every Commercial Operations Year, something, the Liberian authorities describe as a serious and prolonged breach of AML's material obligations under Article V of the MDA, which has resulted in significant loss of revenue to the Government and will continue so until this breach is cured by the company.

On failure to maintain the railroad, the Ministry of Mines and Energy further cites Article IX Section 3(d) of the MDA, which requires AML, to among other things, "invest in the rehabilitation and maintenance of the Railroad in accordance with standard industry practices during the term of the Agreement."

However, Minister Murray reveals that based on an inspection of the railroad conducted by independent expert in May 2019, AML has failed to comply with this standard.

Government says the forgoing serious and prolonged breaches of material obligations of AML under the MDA constitute Events of Default under Article XXIX Section 2(d) of the MDA.

shareholders' equity in the Concessionaire as defined by standard accounting practices."

However, he reveals that the unaudited balance sheet of AML, as at December 31, 2020, provided by AML to the Government, the equity as of that date was US\$249 million, and Debt was US\$1,515 million, which results in a ratio of Debt to Equity in excess of 5.8:1 or nearly two times the

Meanwhile, the Liberian government says in line with Article XXIX Section 3 of the MDA, it hereby offers AML and its Principal, an opportunity for consultation on how to resolve these outstanding matters, and warns that if it reasonably determined that one or more of the forgoing matters cannot be resolved by consultations, it may send a further notice, terminating the consultation period relating to such matters and to instead, demand the company to cure such matters in 60 days or as may be reasonably required to do so.

At the same time Liberia's Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Cllr. Frank Musa Dean, says contrary to ArcelorMittal Limited's claims that Government of Liberia's execution of the Ivanhole Framework Agreement constitutes "a serious encroachment on its rights under the MDA, particularly Articles XI (3) (d) and Article IX(3)(e)", and that if the Government were to give effect to the [Ivanhole] Framework Agreement, this would give rise to further violations of AM's rights under the MDA", the Agreement is consistent with the MDA.

In a letter dated May 20, 2022 to the Vice President and Group General Counsel of ArcelorMittal Limited, Mr. Sapan Gupta, based in London, UK, Justice Minister Dean explains that the Mineral

Development Agreement expressly provides that the Government must comply with its obligation under the MDA when giving effect to the Ivanhole Framework Agreement.

He says the parties to the IFA included this provision to ensure that there would be no conflict between the Government's obligations under the MDA and its obligations under the Ivanhole Framework Agreement.

Meanwhile, the Attorney General directs that based on Section 33.3(b) of the MDA, all communications from ArcelorMittal Limited to the Government of Liberia on the MDA should be addressed to the Minister of Mines and Energy instead, with copies to the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Finance, respectively.

"While I have elected to respond on this occasion in the interest of time, I hereby request that henceforth, AM and AML should adhere to this MDA provision with respect to communications such as this one relating to rights under the MDA", Cllr. Dean's letter concludes.

ArcelorMittal Limited and the Government of Liberia signed a Mineral Development Agreement on August 17, 2005, and was subsequently amended on January 23, 2013, but implementation by the company has not been satisfactory to both the Government and People of Liberia with many terms yet to be fulfilled 16 years after.



notice to the Chief Executive Officer of AML, Mr. Joseph Coenen, who is resident in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

In the letter of notice, Mines and Energy Minister Gesler E. Murray, says AML, has for a prolonged period, been in default of certain material obligations under the MDA.

It cites among others, the company's failure to comply with its debt-equity ratio, failure to satisfy production

alliances can go, judging from the failure of the Unity Party, Alternative National Congress, All Liberian Party and Liberty Party to make the CPP work.

During Wednesday's signing ceremony for the DAL, two persons from each of the three political parties affixed their signatures for the declaration of intent along with the leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia, Emmanuel Gonguoi.

Three other private individuals representing persons of influence in the society signed.

Rev. David Kemu and Attorney Dickson Tamba, National Chairman of DPPL signed for the party; Thomas Kaydor and Siapha Gbollie signed for the NDC; and Dr. Jeremiah Whapoe and Mr. Gbowuah signed for VOLT.

Prof. Alaric Tokpah, organizing Chairperson of the DAL who read the Declaration of Intent, said the Democratic Alliance of Liberia emerges to reassure the Liberian people and all that help is on the way against economic deprivation and rampant corruption.

Dr. Tokpah said help is on the way against mysterious deaths, and DAL shall remain opened to work with patriotic Liberians to move Liberia forward.

Prof. Tokpa said the leaders of the opposition political parties along with patriotic and well-meaning individual Liberians have decided to come

together as a body under one leadership for the purpose of jointly participating in the democratic process within the Republic of Liberia.

"We therefore agreed to commit ourselves to campaigning together around the interest of the Liberian people in erecting a government that will promote Justice for all, unify the country, build peace and stability to encourage, foster economic development, serve the best interest of Liberia and continue to bring dignity to the Country," said Prof. Tokpa.

When DAL becomes a full fledged political party, then it will be the third coalition of political parties in the country following the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) and the Rainbow Alliance.

Even though it was observed that stalwarts from the Unity Party, and All Liberian Party were present at the DAL signing of intent, there has not been any indication yet whether DAL would seek to merge with other political parties to strengthen their chances in 2023.

Making remarks at the ceremony, VOLT Political leader Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe said they are excited to form part of the DAL in order to change the damaged system through joint political efforts.

Dr. Whapoe explained that with that alliance, they will ensure that the hope of the Liberian people are inspired and Liberians will be independent.

Opposition signup new alliance

By Lincoln G. Peters

Three opposition political parties in Liberia have signed up to a new political alliance named the Democratic Alliance of Liberia (DAL) ahead of the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

The Democratic People's Party of Liberia (DPPL) of Reverend David Kemu, the National Democratic Coalition (NDC) of Prof. Alaric Tokpa and the Vision of Liberia Transformation (VOLT) of Dr. Jeremiah Whapoe, signed the declaration of intent Wednesday, 25 May 2022 leading to the formalization of a proposed DAL.

The formation of the DAL comes at a time another opposition bloc which was formed by four opposition political parties - the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) - has been broken apart following

prolonged internal political fight which has resulted to ongoing court cases.

The distrust and fight for power among political leaders within the opposition community leave many here to wonder how far their



Dismiss Samuel Tweah

-Lofa lawmaker angered over US\$25m Road Fund



Rep. Francis Nyumalin

By Lincoln G. Peters

Lofa County Electoral District #1 Representative Francis Nyumalin has called for the immediate dismissal of Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., for allegedly misapplying and unilaterally withdrawing US\$25 million from the National Road Fund (NRF) for the payment of salary.

The opposition Unity Party

(UP lawmaker told an interview with journalists recently in Monrovia that at no point in time did the Legislature ever instruct, mandate or approve for Minister Tweah to take US\$25 million from the National Road Fund to be used for other things.

"Let me say this for everyone to know, at no point in time the Legislature approved Minister Tweah to take money from the National Road Fund,"

Representative Nyumalin said after the opposition political parties signed a declaration of intent to work together under the National Democratic Alliance on the Old Road.

"However, my first action is, we will prevail on President George Weah to immediately dismiss Minister Tweah for taking the Presidential and Legislative authorities on to himself to misapply the Liberian money," Nyumalin added.

He said he will make sure that Minister Tweah faces the full weight of the law.

The Unity Party lawmaker disclosed that Minister Tweah did not get any approval or seek any approval from the Legislature to use the National Road Fund money, adding that he unilaterally gave himself the authority and power that he does not have.

Mr. Nyumalin explained that the National Road Fund is guided and aided by law, saying before money is diverted it has to be done with the knowledge of the legislature as the law mandates.

The Lofa lawmaker argued that it is

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