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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2022	L\$153.0788/US\$1.00	L\$154.7320/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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# House investigates NEC

**-Over Biometric Voter Cards process**

NEC chair Madam Brown-Lansanah

P11

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# Continental News

## Cameroon Separatists Attack Bus, Kill 6 Civilians

**B**ANGOURAIN, CAMEROON — Military officials in Cameroon say armed separatists killed at least six people and wounded nine when they attacked a bus on

These are voices of Cameroon government troops pulling people out of a bus, asking what could have prompted separatist fighters to kill innocent commuters.

In the video, widely circulated on social media

separatists opened fire Tuesday on a bus at Ekona, a village in Cameroon's Southwest region.

The military says four people died on the spot, while two died on their way to a hospital in Buea, capital of the Southwest region. It says fighters disappeared into the bush and villages after the attack. The military says troops have been deployed and the shooters are wanted dead or alive.

Austin Ebai is a commuter. He says there has been heavy shooting since government troops arrived in Ekona on Tuesday. He spoke to VOA Wednesday by the messaging app Whatsapp.

He says no one has been able to travel from Douala, Limbe and Buea to Kumba because, midway at Ekona village, there is serious fighting between government troops and separatists. He says civilians in Ekona have not had the courage to go out of their houses since Tuesday afternoon because of the intensity of the fighting and noise of gunshots from both government troops and separatist fighters.

Bernard Okalia Bilai is the governor of Cameroon's

Southwest region. He says the troops are out to maintain peace and make sure civilians go about their daily chores unperturbed.

Bilai spoke on Cameroon's state radio CRTV noting "we must remain vigilant because it is a daily challenge. Continue the fight until the entire population help us to lay hands on all those who are still moving around with guns."

Separatists have said on social media that the bus was

attacked for disobeying instructions that all business and travel must be shut down to protest Monday's reopening of schools in Cameroon.

Capo Daniel is deputy defense chief of the Ambazonia Defense Forces, ADF, one of the separatist groups. He says besides Ekona, separatists also attacked and killed two people in Bamenda, capital of the English-speaking Northwest region on Tuesday.

Daniel denounced the attacks, which he suggested are the work of separatist splinter groups. VOA



Bangourain, Cameroon

a highway in the country's troubled Southwest region.

The military has deployed scores of troops to track down the rebels. Locals say there has been heavy fighting between the two sides since the Tuesday attack.

platforms including Facebook and WhatsApp, the men in military gear say they have removed four bodies from the bus.

The Cameroon military has confirmed that the video is of its troops helping victims after

## Kenya president disappointed chosen successor lost



Uhuru Kenyatta was backing Raila Odinga to become the country's fifth president

**K**enya's President Uhuru Kenyatta said he will gladly hand over power to President-elect William Ruto, but insisted that his preferred successor Raila Odinga would have been a better option to lead the country.

"I will hand over power smiling because it is my constitutional duty, but my leader is Baba," Mr Kenyatta said, referring to Mr Odinga by his nickname.

"You denied yourself an opportunity to bring the country together. You haven't denied Raila," Mr Kenyatta said of the 9 August presidential election.

Mr Ruto will be sworn in next Tuesday after the Supreme Court upheld his victory following a challenge

by Mr Odinga.

So far President Kenyatta has not publicly congratulated his deputy, but the two spoke privately on Wednesday to discuss the transition.

The two leaders have been meeting with their party coalitions ahead of the official opening of parliament on Thursday. Mr Kenyatta is the chairman of the Azimio coalition which had Mr Odinga as its presidential candidate.

Both sides are strategising on how to win the positions of Speaker in the two houses of parliament.

Neither grouping won a clear majority in parliament.

Mr Ruto will require a majority to pass crucial bills, approve nominees to the cabinet, principal secretaries, ambassadors and high commissioners. BBC

## At Least \$1 Billion Needed to Avert Famine in Somalia

**U**NITED NATIONS — The U.N. humanitarian chief predicted Tuesday that at least \$1 billion will be needed urgently to avert famine in Somalia in the coming months and early next year when two more dry seasons are expected to compound the historic drought that has hit the Horn of Africa nation.

Martin Griffiths said in a video briefing from Somalia's capital Mogadishu that a new report from an authoritative panel of independent experts says there will be a famine in Somalia between October and December "if we don't manage to stave it off and avoid it as had been the case in 2016 and 2017."

The undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs told U.N. correspondents that more than \$1 billion in new funds is needed in addition to the U.N. appeal of about \$1.4 billion. That appeal has been "very well-funded," he said, thanks to the U.S. Agency for International Development,

which announced a \$476 million donation of humanitarian and development aid in July.

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network, created by USAID, said in a report Monday that famine is projected to emerge later this year in three areas in Somalia's southeastern Bay region, including Baidoa without urgent humanitarian aid.

Up to 7.1 million people across Somalia need urgent assistance to treat and prevent

acute malnutrition and reduce the number of ongoing hunger-related deaths, according to a recent analysis by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification or IPC, used by the network to describe the severity of food insecurity.

The Horn of Africa region has seen four straight failed rainy seasons for the first time in over half a century, endangering an estimated 20 million people in one of the world's most impoverished and turbulent regions.



Maryan Madey, who fled the drought-stricken Lower Shabelle region, holds her malnourished daughter Deka Ali

Griffiths said meteorologists have predicted the likelihood of a fifth failed rainy season from October to December, and a sixth failed rainy season from January to March next year is also likely.

"This has never happened before in Somalia," he said. "This is unprecedented."

"We've been banging the drum and rattling the trees trying to get support internationally in terms of attention, prospects, and the possibilities and the horror of famine coming to the Horn of Africa - here in Somalia maybe first, but Ethiopia and Kenya, probably they're not far behind," Griffiths said. VOA

# EDITORIAL

## Welcoming Chief Justice Yuoh's intervention

**ALTHOUGH SHE** has not formally taken office, but immediate step taken by the incoming Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Her Honour, Cllr. Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh in freezing the account of the judiciary, is prudent and welcoming, for the sake of accountability.

**THE ACTION** by Chief Justice Yuoh comes at the time her predecessor, outgoing Chief Justice Francis Korkpor, Sr., who reached the 70 years age limit for anyone occupying the nation's Highest Court, drags to leave.

**FORMER CHIEF** Justice Korkpor, who reportedly turned 70 this week, is said to be holding on to end the March Term of Court before departing office sometimes this month.

**BUT AMID** the seeming vacuum, financial transactions could take place that could have a bearing on the incoming administration with accountability and transparency reservations.

**SO, THE** intervention should serve as a lesson for change of administration in any sector of government. Chances should not be created for public funds to be left at the discretion of officials, who are on their way out, for this may leave room for misappropriations at the detriment of the State.

**BY THIS** singular action, Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh clearly demonstrates that she is climbing the Judiciary's highest seat with full knowledge of her game. This was administratively correct and fiscally prudent.

**THE JUDICIARY** is a place of honor, trust and respect. Those ascending to leadership there should act and be seen as people with farsightedness, astuteness and discipline.

**HOWEVER, WE** do not by any imagination or insinuation belabor the leadership that outgoing Chief Justice Francis Korkpor provided over the Third Branch of the Liberian government during his nearly 20 years of service.

**TAKING OVER** from the reformist, developmentally-towering and fearless late Chief Justice Johnnie R. Lewis under the administration of ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Chief Justice Korkpor succeeded in not just keeping lawyers in check, but the entire judiciary intact, for which he should be commended.

**AS HE** steps down to give way to his successor, Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, we can but only wish the judiciary a smooth transition particularly, the Supreme Court of Liberia, the final arbiter of justice in the land.

# COMMENTARY

By Anuja Malhotra and  
Abi Vanak

## Ecosystem Restoration Is Good for Your Health

**N**EW DELHI - Humanity currently faces multiple, interlinked existential crises. The catastrophic consequences of climate change, ecological degradation, and biodiversity loss have cascading knock-on effects on human health and well-being. As the COVID-19 pandemic illustrates, ecosystem damage can contribute significantly to a global public-health emergency. But scientists are also increasingly finding that ecological restoration, by reversing the threats to soil, biodiversity, water, and other ecosystem services, can deliver major health benefits.

There have been many attempts to understand the nexus between ecological degradation and human health. A recent study of over 6,800 ecosystems across six continents provided further evidence that deforestation and extinction of species will make pandemics more likely. Ecosystem damage also leads to water contamination, creating breeding grounds for infectious diseases. Similarly, soil degradation not only reduces agricultural productivity, but also has been linked to disease and increased mortality.

The emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases like COVID-19 are closely associated with the health of ecosystems. For example, 75% of emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic, caused by unsustainable use of natural resources, factory farming of animals, and other industrial-scale anthropogenic factors.

Ecosystem decline has also contributed in recent decades to reduced immunological resilience and an increase in allergic conditions in humans. The effects are not limited to physical health, but also include mental-health problems such as an increase in eco-anxiety, or fear of environmental damage due to ongoing ecosystem degradation.

Conversely, restoring natural ecosystems could provide pathways for reversing some of the effects of climate change and ease the global chronic-disease burden, thus improving human health and well-being. One recent study showed that soil restoration and the reintroduction of native plant species led to a reduction in physical and psychological impacts of certain diseases. In another case, ecological restoration of an urban river in northwest England was linked to psychological benefits for surrounding communities.

There is also evidence that ecological restoration can protect people from extreme climate events and related public-health crises. Finally, using alternative cooking fuels such as biogas in improved stoves, thereby reducing the need for fuelwood and helping to prevent forest degradation, has been shown to improve respiratory health and household diets.

The economic case for ecological restoration is strong. Rising public-health costs and the significant disease burden - exacerbated by the pandemic - strengthen the case further. The World Health Organization estimates that global spending on health rose

continuously between 2000 and 2018, to \$8.3 trillion, or 10% of world GDP.

Some prominent international efforts to reap the benefits of ecological restoration to planetary and human health are already underway. The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, running from 2021 to 2030, and the land degradation neutrality program of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification encourage signatory countries to recognize the central importance of ecological restoration. Likewise, the #HealthyRecovery initiative, signed by over 4,500 health professionals from 90 countries, urged G20 leaders to fund projects that enable ecological restoration as part of their pandemic stimulus packages.

In recent decades, researchers have developed various models - including the Mandala of Health, the Wheel of Fundamental Human Needs, and, more recently, the One Health approach - to capture the interconnected relationship between humans and nature. The challenge now is to develop a unifying framework to maximize the synergy of ecological restoration and human health. Policies designed to address one should not exclude the other.

We therefore need to redefine ecological degradation, understand its far-reaching effects on human health, and recognize that these effects cannot be fully addressed without structured, context-specific ecological restoration plans. Achieving this will require institutionalizing and mainstreaming inter-sectoral collaboration between scientists and practitioners from the ecological, medical, and sustainability domains.

Alliances and a sense of ownership among core governance structures of public health and ecosystem restoration will be crucial. In India, for example, a pioneering effort to mainstream cross-disciplinary initiatives is bringing together the government, scientists, and local partners and practitioners with the aim of improving zoonotic-disease control. Such a framework can generate valuable knowledge and insights for similar collaborative initiatives elsewhere.

Ecological restoration is a clear and identifiable way to tackle the global disease burden and improve public health. As the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration commences, policymakers should encourage collective action to spur inclusive, interdisciplinary activities that demonstrate the positive global benefits of restoration for social, physical, and mental health. We owe it to ourselves and to the planet to mitigate at least some of the threats we have created.

*Anuja Malhotra is a policy analyst at the Centre for Policy Design at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & the Environment (ATREE). Abi Vanak, Honorary Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, is a senior fellow at the Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & the Environment (ATREE).*

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## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Liberia: on Jalwah Tonpo attack on Cllr Tiawan Gongloe

By. S.Karweaye

Recently, Jalawah Tonpo, Deputy Minister of Information for Press and Public Affairs, a man Liberians know quite well as one of the most destructive and vindictive liars in existence, came out publicly to attack Presidential Aspirant Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe and another opposition leader, Mr. Alex Cummings during the Ministry of Information daily briefing. According to Tonpo, Gongloe is constantly passing around using sarcasm and making unsubstantiated statements against the presidency. He alleged Gongloe has also been using invectives against the country's presidency and Liberian people are not prepared to entrust the country to unserious-minded - politicians like Gongloe.

We are not surprised at Jalawah Tonpo's recent attacks on Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe and others in the opposition. Jalawah Tonpo has an incurable knack for lying. His penchant for incompetence and reputation-savaging is almost pathological. Why does he do it? We don't know. What we do know is the same Tonpon who tried to ruthlessly savage the reputation of Former Public Work Minister and renowned human rights activist, Cllr Kofi Wood, and others who dare to speak against the ills of our society.

It is so easy to expose Jalawah Tonpo as a sycophant who is a member of the ruling Coalition of Democratic Change (CDC), a major supporter of President George Weah, and chief deputy spokesperson for the government of Liberia. His attack on Gongloe and others is voiced in ignorance or deliberate mischief. Liberians are living witnesses to the public humiliation of the presidency when the United States Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated the president's trusted aides: Nathaniel McGill, Sayma Syrenius Cephus, and Bill Twehway for their involvement in ongoing public corruption in Liberia. I wonder whether Tonpo is aware that these top government officials' actions brought "substantiated statements and invectives" against the presidency as well as the Liberian people and not Gongloe or Cummings?

It is laughable and extremely ridiculous when toady like Tonpo called Gongloe an "unserious-minded" politician. It is unfortunate that the greatest "sins" committed by Cllr Tiawan Saye Gongloe, for which his traducers want to crucify him is his criticism of bad governance under Weah's administration and his stance to adhere strictly to the rule of law in tackling corruption and moving the country. The most painful "crime" for Gongloe's traducers is his prominent role in calling for U.S sanctions against Weah's Chief of Staff and Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill. Worse for them, was Cllr Gongloe's effrontery to tongue-lash George Weah over his very poor handling of the state of affairs in Liberia. He has equally been canvassing for the establishment of the war and economic crimes court in Liberia. Only a biased mind or sycophant will say Cllr Tiawan Saye Gongloe is an unserious politician.

Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe is a renowned human right lawyer that is taken seriously by the Liberian people and our international partners. For the

record, Gongloe is an Associate Professor of law at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia, Former President of the Liberian National Bar Association, Former Minister of Labor, Former Solicitor General, and Former Research fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Former research fellow, Harvard University, W.E.B. Du Bois Institute of African and African American Research; Human Rights Watch Highest honor for human rights work in Liberia. He is a recipient of the Philip Randolph Bayard Rustin Freedom Award and has been in the business of fighting for social justice and democracy in Liberia for over forty-four years of which he has been arrested and tortured in the 70s 80s and 2000s. Now, that is a Serious Politician.

It is really sad when Jalawah Tonpo chooses to ignore the key human development issues in the



country to appease his puppet master by attacking opposition figures. Tonpon's sinister narrative was intentionally silent on the 2022 Fragile State Index (FSI) where Liberia was ranked the 33rd most fragile state in the world. He also chooses to ignore the followings: poverty has reportedly increased by 1.1% (50.9 to 52) according to the World Bank's 2021 Poverty and Equity Brief; at the end of 2021, Liberia was ranked among the top tenth poorest countries in the world as well as ranked as the 136th most corrupt country in the world according to the 2021 Corruption Perception Index. Tonpo chooses to ignore the high unemployment in the country, especially among the youth, or the food insecurity in the country. On the 2021 Global Hunger Index (GHI), Liberia's score was 33.3 indicating Liberia has a 'serious' hunger problem. He also chooses to ignore the 2019-20 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey (LDHS) revelation of the infant mortality rate in Liberia of 64 deaths per 1,000 live births. About half of these occur in the first month of life. The maternal mortality ratio was 742 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. According to UNICEF, Liberia loses 11,000 children under five each year, and close to one in three children and adults live five kilometers or more from a health facility.

CRITICISM, according to the late British Prime Minister and author, Sir Winston Churchill, is necessary because "like a pain in the human body, it calls our attention to an unhealthy state". It is shameful that the likes of Jalwah Tonpo and other lickspittles in the CDC-led government don't know the

sole purpose of criticism is to enable the person (President Weah) that is being criticized to make amends where necessary. We make bold to say Tonpo labeling Liberia's renowned human right advocate because of his intentions of combating corruption, is doing so in bad faith. Any discerning mind will agree with this writer that the likes of Tongo don't mean well for our beloved country, Liberia.

The collective duty and the desire of all patriotic Liberians, irrespective of political affiliation is to support President Weah's exit power through the ballot box in a manner that will foreclose any thought of going back to the dark days of military coups or civil wars in Liberia. Theodore Roosevelt says "Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the president or any other public official." We judge the performance of any government, either positively or negatively, by what that government has been able to achieve and so far, the Weah's administration has performed poorly.

It is the view of this writer that unless Jalawah Tonpo and his kind in the government of Liberia depart from sycophancy and do the job of the Liberia people, they forfeit the moral high ground to attack the serious-minded individuals in our society. Too often, many in Weah's administration behave like automatic defenders who go after anything coming out of the opposition whether good or bad. Opposition or criticism is badly needed, especially in a system such as ours with a pronounced moral deficit.

The fact remains President Weah is a weak President, and his political trajectory explains why he cannot help himself. First, fate cast him into oblivion in 2005, and then made him spend 12 years of his life chasing the presidency while he danced to the tunes of Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. By the time fate decided to humor him and make him President, he wasn't prepared. The Liberian people now realized the Weah image he sold us was irreconcilable with his capabilities. He had won the election before reality dawned on him that the gap that exists between what people expect and what he can achieve could never be bridged. He turned reclusive, avoiding Liberians as much as he could. Despite hiding away in Jamaica resort, he remains haunted by the fear of being ousted in 2023. That fear rules him, and he is so paranoid that he and his army of sycophants confront any constructive criticisms with the full force of presidential rage.

Whether Gongloe's traducers like it or not, no politician has given us the prescription for fighting public corruption like Gongloe. Gongloe's stance on fighting corruption, despite strong opposition to it, opened a can of worms that made it known to the whole world that for decades, millions of dollars would have been spent on live-enhancing projects in all sectors, which would have had a direct bearing on the lives of the masses in Liberia, was going into private pockets of fat cats. Many will also agree with this writer that Gongloe deserves commendation for mustering the political will to expose the ills in our society.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## IOM donate 5 motorcycles to Liberia Immigration Service

By Lewis S. Teh

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has presented five motorcycles to the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) to help curb

up for elections. "We know that resources have been scarce in recent times, but whenever we have the opportunity, we will do for the Liberia Immigration Service", he

a multi-partners trust fund. He said IOM team has been on the ground in Lofa, working alongside LIS and other key players. He narrated that IOM is also involved in monitoring human trafficking, with a special focus on flow of Liberian women to Oman, which according to him, remains a sad thing that needs urgent attention.

Diallo continued that bikes are meant to support LIS staff that are in the region to help track information faster and report cases of illegal entry.

He noted that the IOM is also putting up some water supply system at some border points, including solar panel to enable immigration personnel execute their duty efficiently.

Meanwhile, receiving the donation, LIS Commissioner General Col. Robert Buddy extolled the IOM and pledged his men's commitment to working hard to curtail illegal entry to Liberia.

Commissioner Buddy details that Liberia has 926 border towns, adding "Today, I'm glad that the IOM has seen the constraints that we face in terms of dealing with these crossing points."



illegal entry at various borders across the country.

Making the donation recently, Country Representative, Mohammed Diallo, said there are too many illegal entries to the country, so IOM is concerned especially, as Liberians gear

pledged. Diallo added that the many illegal entries are something that prompted the IOM to make such donation based on a project it has in the Lofa belt that connects to neighboring Guinea, saying the project is

## Costa draws Saah Joseph in a fight

By Lincoln G. Peters

Controversial political commentator and chairman of the once formidable Council of Patriots (CoP), Henry Pedro Costa has been picking bones with ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Montserrado County Senator Saah Joseph.

Costa opted for a political fight against Senator Joseph and he has made known his intention to run for the Senate in Montserrado against the latter in next year's presidential and legislative elections.

To start the battle, Costa, has described Joseph as a lackadaisical lawmaker that is in the constant habit of distributing old buses, ambulances, fake and expired medical drugs to the Liberian people.

Despite his popularity gained from years of running a talk show program both on radio stations and on social media, Costa was defeated in a district representative election in Montserrado's Sixth Electoral District in 2017.

His plan to run for the Senate seat, especially

against Senator Joseph whose interventions in Liberia's health sector has built his political support both within and outside of CDC, has left some Liberians wondering if Costa would do any better this time.

Disclosing his plan to contest for the senatorial seat Tuesday night on the Spoon Midnight Talk, Costa said gone are those days when Senator Joseph would be using old buses, ambulances and fake and expired drugs from the United States to win the sympathy of the Liberian people.

"The people are not impressed with an incumbent senator (Saah Joseph) who brings old buses, ambulances and outdated drugs...", Costa, a stalwart of the opposition All Liberian Party (ALP), alleged.

"The people want a candidate that will be a flow fighter for them in the Senate," he said.

Costa claimed that buses and ambulances donated by Senator Joseph to the people of Montserrado County are a death trap.

He alleged that medical supplies donated by Joseph

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



## ULCHS Opens ELAB At JFK In Honor of Dr. Samuel Bowman

The University of Liberia College of Health Sciences' (ULCHS') Experiential Learning and Assessment Lab (ELAB) clinical simulation space has officially opened at the John F. Kennedy (JFK) Medical Center, named in honor of the late Liberian Medical Doctor Samuel G. Bowman.

Before his death in December 2020, Dr. Bowman provided healthcare services to the women of Liberia and was credited for having delivered more babies than any other Doctor in Liberia.

On Tuesday, September 6, 2022, the Samuel G. Bowman ELAB officially opened at the JFK Medical Center to provide an environment to build learners' skills and competences to cut down the numbers of preventable deaths in the country.

Through the support of USAID - funded BRIDGE:U - Liberia project, and donations from the Liberia Medical and Dental Association (LMDA) and LMDA Alumni Association Members, the

the UL Administration towards its target to be among the first 20 universities in Africa.

"We are strengthening the teaching activities and the ELAB is one of the activities that we have come here today to launch," Dr. Dahn said during the official opening ceremony.

She explained that the university is starting with a small program, but the dreams are big.

"We will open the small one we have today and we will start using it," she added.

The UL Vice President explained that the College is just taking root following a few years of its existence at the University.

Dr. Dahn recalled that since 2019/2020, the University Authorities gave the College the responsibilities to actually position the university to be a well classed training center in health sciences.

Dr. Dahn reflected that during her school days as medical students, they did not have the opportunity to repeat



ULCHS Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation (CTLI) launched the ELAB clinical simulation space at the JFK Medical Center on Thursday, June 23, 2022.

CTLI is a public - private academic hub for research utilization, inter - professional training, innovation, and knowledge generation in Liberia.

It will deliver: faculty development programming; Camp xSEL, an annual science camp for secondary school students; research on utilizing evidence in the health sciences; the ELAB, a clinical simulation center at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center, an evidence-based decision - making course for current policy makers; and innovation and entrepreneurship, mentorship, and venture incubation.

Dr. Bernice Dahn, Vice President, College of Health Sciences, University of Liberia, said the College is working with

things as many times as they wished to master a skill.

These days, she said, there are manikins that react like human beings which medical students can now use to practice and repeat things to master their skills.

"And our plan is to build a simulation lab that we can even do surgery; you'll have a surgical unit that you can practice some of the things you need to practice in that surgical unit before you get in the OR (Operating Room)," said Dr. Dahn.

Dr. Jerry Brown, Chief Executive Officer, John F. Kennedy Medical Center, said the hospital is happy to have the official opening of ELAB at its facilities.

Dr. Brown said for the past four years including now, JFK has been getting better, and it is bound to get better by virtue of the changes it has had over the years.



# MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)  
FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTING SERVICES (FIRM) FOR THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF  
(LIBERIA ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM)

(REP No. MFD/CONS/06/2022)

## 1. BACKGROUND

The inauguration of H.E. George Manneh Weah, in January 2018, as the 24th President of the Republic of Liberia, presented a unique opportunity for change. This peaceful transfer of power from one President to another showcased the first generational change in national leadership by popular ballot since the universal suffrage was introduced in 1951 and the National Unification and Integration Policy in 1960<sup>1</sup>. Since the inauguration in 2018, significant actions have been taken by the current administration to build a new nation based on principles of inclusion, equity in the allocation of earnings from the country's public resources, and also a mass-based approach to national development.

Despite existing economic challenges imposed by major external shocks, the Government of Liberia, remain strongly committed to improving livelihoods and serving the Liberian people in the best way possible—through the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD). The current atmosphere provides the opportunity and space to potentially unite Liberia under a national identity that reflects the country's unique geographical location and links with the rest of Africa and the world—by utilizing the opportunity to educate our people and truly image the country as we make progress.

The PAPD emphasizes framework for coordination and enhanced partnership. Combining economic incentives and expansion can help promote overall goal achievement within the government and increase visibility both locally and internationally. The PAPD also highlights the urgent need to create awareness around national development frameworks, communicate existing implementation issues and promote public engagement on key achievements and lessons learnt. Such approach to economic development issues and financing can provide a useful direction for expanding public services across government—which is extremely crucial for increasing strong civic ownership and trust in providing support systems.

Therefore, the Department of Economic Management is requesting proposals from competent consulting firms to implement specific components of its program entitled: "LIBERIA ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM"—in an effort to provide updates on more policies and programs implemented by the department to support fiscal transparency and accountability.

<sup>1</sup> The Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD)

## 2. RELEVANCE AND MOTIVATION

With little exploration of the many options that Liberia offers, the country has been mostly seen as a nation that has and continues to be faced with many challenges including the Ebola outbreak, COVID '19 Outbreak, the shock of UNMIL withdrawal, and others including the fight against poverty. The nation's economic and social revolution brought on by the current government has largely not been structurally presented to the appropriate consumers to attract more economic gains to the country, including investors and social actors. In light of this, there is strong motivation for the Liberian government to launch a multifaceted plan to strengthen its economic engagement both inside and outside of its borders. It has become a reality that development taking place in the economy is often not properly and timely followed by the general public. As a result, there are misunderstanding often on social media, in the intellectual community, on the radio stations and in newspapers about government activities towards economic development which can potentially undermine civic trust and social cohesion.

Given the huge presence and current ease of access to social media platforms, poor understanding of the local context and "fake news" could be used effortlessly by both domestic and external audiences to negatively brand the country due to insufficient awareness of government policies and programs. Therefore, the Department of Economic Management's economic policy dissemination and engagement will integrate and unveil evidence-based economic results for timely public consumption.

## 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

The overarching objective of the Department of Economic Management's Liberia Economic Management Support Program is to increase public engagement and dissemination of economic progress by promoting fiscal transparency and accountability, and supporting effective public engagements at all levels. The following specific objectives are defined, consistent with the overall goal of the program:

- To communicate major achievements of government's transformational and economic development initiatives both domestically and externally;
- To establish Liberia's "core cross-cutting values" and "segment-specific values" by gaining thorough understanding of how domestic and external stakeholders perceives her;
- To successfully engage and compete in global value chains, as well as to promote Liberia's rich cultural heritage and opportunities that can be further explored by interested parties;
- Supporting effort to sustain the gains already made, acknowledge existing challenges, and provide shared platforms for effective dialogues and development cooperation;
- To assert her competitive advantage and power among its African counterparts and re-brand its intrinsic image as a nation of many "great-things"—globally; and
- To identify and work with significant influential Economic Fora, Trade Bodies, and Membership Organizations of potential investors.

## 4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTANCIES

The expected outcomes of the program include but not limited to the following:

- Increased awareness of government economic policy agenda and how same is being crafted, implemented and monitored;
- Well educated and sensitized population on government's economic growth efforts, economic data, public financial management practices and improved governance systems;
- Increased public knowledge both domestically and externally and positively communicate the country global value chains as a culturally rich and premier travel destination;
- Increased investment opportunities and improved socio-economic wellbeing as a country by communicating its inherent image as a great nation, while establishing its competitive edge and influence among its counterparts; and
- Improved coordination that enhances more results.

## 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSULTANCIES

To achieve the objectives of the program, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning through the Department of Economic Management is requesting consulting services from competent consulting firms in the following areas: **LOT I**, **LOT II** and **LOT III**

### I. LOT I: SCOPING STUDY AND POSITIONING OF THE LIBERIAN BRAND

The Scoping Study will consider both primary research and desk reviews through: i) anonymized surveys, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, analysis of relevant media coverage for both domestic and international proceedings, news periodicals; and ii) examination of key social media platforms regarding Liberia's politics, the economy, and social life. The scoping study will also provide further guidance on how to directly engage rural people in selected villages and towns via community meetings, and using traditional festivals and religious gatherings, etc. To execute this sub-component properly, selected specialists who have extensive experience in marketing African economies will work with the Department of Economic Management.

Positioning of the Liberian Brand intends to assert Liberia's position as an emerging social and economic hub across West Africa and the continent. This will consist of: 1) Leveraging on accessible mainstream media outlets (especially top external media institutions). This will provide an opportunity to tell the Liberian story by emphasizing its cultural, economic and social values. It will also involve critical debates on ongoing changes such as the dominating education and socio-economic reforms that have been done by the government. 2) Understanding Liberia's unique selling points and existing positioning by considering, for

examples, i) previous or existing competitive industries that Liberia can reclaim/build on: agriculture, tourism, financial services, and education; ii) sectors that Liberia wishes to go into and thrive in, e.g., becoming a preferred location for water sports in Africa (already Robertsport, a coastal town in Liberia, has been described as the greatest undiscovered surf spot in Africa, offering vast stretches of deserted beaches); iii) global concerns that Liberia seeks to champion on international/multilateral platforms, e.g. climate change, sports, regional integration, etc.; and iv) pinpointing which domestic socio-economic conditions need to be adjusted, amended or built on. 3) Conducting a competitive landscape analysis to understand: i) What are competitors' capabilities, assets, objectives, etc. relative to Liberia? ii) What are competitors' capabilities compared to global macro-economic/developmental trends? iii) Which countries can serve as standards in terms of lessons learnt and best practices for Liberia?

### More specifically, the consulting firm for this component will:

- Undertake scoping study to determine Liberia's core/cross-cutting values as well as segment-specific values by gaining an understanding of how external and internal stakeholders see her, both positively and negatively;
- Conduct appropriate stakeholder mapping and consultations to include community leaders, members of the civil society, members of the public and private sector cutting across rural and urban spaces, members of the diaspora, members of the media – both foreign and domestic, and members of the international community, focusing on multilateral institutions and international NGOs;
- Conduct primary research with focus on anonymized surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews;
- Undertake desktop research by reviewing longitudinal surveys of major domestic and international media coverages, news publications, analysis of publicly available social media reportage pertaining to Liberia's politics, economics, and social life;
- Conduct effective evaluation of the country assets and qualities with focus on tangibles (such as landmarks, artifacts, natural resources, highly educated population, celebrities and leaders including athletes, academics, good legacy infrastructure, etc.), as well as intangible qualities (such as—the spirit of excellence, resilience, good work ethic, professionalism, etc.);
- Examine Liberia's unique selling points and current positioning by identifying previous and existing competitive sectors, global issues that Liberia can better champion, and conducting competitive landscape analysis;
- Identify and propose best practices in building sustainable partnerships that attracts more economic opportunities and drive foreign direct investment; and
- Perform any other tasks as may be required by senior management.

### Required Competencies for LOT I:

The following skillset, knowledge and experience are required:

- The Lead Consultant of the firm must have at least a Master's Degree in Journalism, Economics, Development Studies, Public Policy or related field;
- Involvement in similar and/or relevant consulting services of size, complexity, and technical specialty with minimum seven (7) years of experience;
- Extensive experience in strategy development by providing clients with the necessary expertise to work smarter and grow more quickly using empirical research and granular analysis;
- Ability to showcase and/or co-create game-changing strategies that assist institutions in becoming more innovative in achieving their objectives;
- Hold multifaceted skill set with specialist knowledge and experience in communication, policy and strategy, international relations, and capacity development and the commitment to drive change throughout the entire spectrum, from conception to adoption;
- Good experience in integrating data and technology to help clients unlock growth and adapt to a fast-paced environment;
- Practical experience in public and private sector engagement by teaming up with policymakers in a variety of developing countries to build partnerships that accelerate private sector development and align business and development goals to promote prosperity for all;
- Able to leverage global best practices and key case studies that can be of great assistance to Liberia by employing benchmarking approach that will ensure that while the local context is taken into account, solutions adhere to international standards;
- Knowledge and experience in policy dialogue and cross-institutional collaboration at the highest level, including with representatives of government and non-government partners;
- Understanding of critical issues in sustainable development, national development priorities, cultural practices and the regulatory environment of the public sector;
- Strong experience in knowledge and communication management; and
- Proficiency in English language with good facilitation, presentation and reporting skills.

### Expected outputs/deliverables for LOT I:

The main outputs/deliverables from the proposed consultancy are:

- Assessment protocol including a detailed work plan;
- Consultative meetings and mapping of relevant stakeholders;
- Follow-up action matrix on policy statements and next steps;
- Development and facilitation of mid-term progress report;
- Submission and presentation of final report. And
- Disseminate the final report both internally and externally.

### LOT II: ECONOMIC NEWSLETTER AND KEY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MECHANISM

The Economic Newsletter will capture and publish major highlights on key national development initiatives using easy to read infographics, drawing insights from data and the evidence at hand, by working with key ministries, agencies, and commissions. It will include relevant statistics on macroeconomic performance, external resource mobilization and debt management. The economic newsletter will be produced and published at the end of every quarter. As part of this initiative, both print and social media platforms will be used to communicate major development activities using economic statistics, and key highlights from various fiscal reports. Major highlights from the economic newsletter will also be shared on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms, including WhatsApp groups.

The Key Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism will put in place strategic engagement model that attracts both diaspora groups (to understand their aspirations for development) and key potential investors. This can be accomplished using a variety of strategies, including: creating communication plans to connect with the appropriate diaspora members; finding investments and business opportunities for entrepreneurs who may be interested; and connecting diaspora groups through network development. This platform will further be used to promote Liberia's economic potential and promote Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the country.

### More specifically, the consulting firm working on LOT II will:

- Work with important ministries, agencies, and commissions to gather and develop infographics that are simple to read and showcase important national development initiatives;

- Support the development of key communication products, such as newsletter, infographics, brochures, and make regular update to articles and other communication vehicles, such as social media;
- Develop a quarterly newsletter that includes pertinent macroeconomic performance, external resource mobilization, and debt management statistics;
- Utilize both print and social media platforms to disseminate information about the national development programs, projects and activities using economic statistics and highlights from various fiscal reports;
- Design effective contents for various social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., and able to manage institutional brand's reputation consistently;
- Put into practice a strategy that draws in diaspora communities and the discovery of investment and commercial prospects for entrepreneurs who may be interested in different investment opportunities; and
- Develop communication plans to connect with relevant diaspora members and potential investors.

#### **Required Competencies for LOT II:**

The following skillset, knowledge and experience are required:

- The lead consultant must have at least a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication, Economics, Development Studies, Public Policy or related field;
- Involvement in similar and/or relevant consulting services of size, complexity, and technical specialty with minimum five (5) years of experience;
- Knowledgeable about the most recent developments in digital technology and social media trends as a social media manager;
- Outstanding communication, networking, and negotiation skills with demonstrated infographics skills and ability to work independently—be dynamic, proactive, and creative;
- Proven Knowledge of key human development issues, strong experience in knowledge and communication management; and
- Proficiency in English language with good facilitation, presentation and reporting skills.

#### **Expected outputs/deliverables for LOT II:**

The main outputs/deliverables from the proposed consultancy are:

- Inception report including a detailed work plan;
- Bi-monthly info update on economic developments;
- Quarterly newsletter with relevant text, statistics and/or infographics;
- Content gathering, management and presentation trainings for both print and social media;
- Development and facilitation of mid-term progress report including challenges; and
- Submission of final report and sustainability plan.

### **III. LOT III: TOWN HALL ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS VIA THE ECONOMIC HOUR**

The Town Hall Engagement Meetings will bring together youth, community and traditional leaders as well as residents in targeted locations to exchange ideas and enlighten them about key national development initiatives to purposely promote fiscal accountability and transparency. The tasks will be performed by a consulting firm will relevant experience in providing similar services. All airing of the product of the town hall engagements will be done in collaboration with the Department of Economic Management.

#### **More specifically, the consulting firm working on LOT III will:**

- Organize town hall meetings by bringing together targeted population (including youth, community and traditional leaders as well as key inhabitants and other stakeholders);
- Work with the Department of Economic Management Team to provide strategic communications support, such as: collaborating with relevant stakeholders from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to present major information on pressing topics; working with the Department of Economic Management to arrange media coverage of the meetings during town hall discussions;
- Coordinate the design, editing, and publication of stories from the meetings;
- Develop communication briefs and serve as the lead facilitator during town hall meetings;
- Exhibits cultural, gender, religious, national, and age sensitivity and adaptation;
- Perform any additional duties requested by senior management or the collaborating Department of Economic Management.

#### **Required Competencies for LOT III:**

The following skillset, knowledge and experience are required:

- At least a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication, Economics, Development Studies, Public Policy or related field;
- Involvement in similar and/or relevant consulting services of size, complexity, and technical specialty with minimum five (5) years of experience;
- Outstanding communication, networking, and negotiation skills with demonstrated ability to work independently—be dynamic, proactive, and creative;
- Proven Knowledge of key human development issues, strong experience in knowledge and communication management; and
- Proficiency in English language with good facilitation, presentation and reporting skills.

#### **Expected outputs/deliverables for LOT III:**

The main outputs/deliverables from the proposed consultancy are:

- Organize and facilitate town hall meetings;
- Develop and present inception report including a detailed work plan;
- Develop stories, briefs and one hour coverage for radio airing on major topics discussed and lessons learnt from each town hall meetings;
- Development and facilitation of mid-term progress report; and
- Submission of final report highlighting challenges, prospects and recommendations to guide further engagements.

### **6. PAYMENT OF FEES**

Payments will be done based on deliverables as highlighted in **LOTS I, II, and III**.

### **7. RESOURCES AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS**

The consulting firms will report to the Deputy Minister for Economic Management at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. In consultation with the Assistant Minister for Economic Policy, the consulting firms working on **LOTS I, II and III** of the consultancies will receive relevant support to facilitate data collection, helping to organize consultative and town hall meetings; compiling and facilitating reports, and coordinating major validation meetings pertinent to the overall program. For the consulting firms working on **LOTS I and II** exclusively, the lead consultants could be stationed in the Department of Economic Management, and will work directly with relevant staff to provide regular updates on major challenges/progress concerning the program activities.

### **8. SELECTION METHOD**

The firms will be selected using the procedures set out in the Restated and Amended 2010 public procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA) of the Republic of Liberia.

Consultant firms that meet the qualification requirements will be short-listed and invited to submit final proposals.

### **10. Submission of EOI**

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning anticipated funds from the Government of Liberia FY2022 National Budget and intends to apply part of it to eligible payment for the Provision of Consulting Services for the **Development of Liberia Economic Management Support Program**.

MFDPA is seeking firm (s) for the **Development of Liberia Economic Management Support Program**. The consulting firm will work closely with the Department of Economic Management for the implementation of the assignment for the Ministry.

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services divided into **LOT I, LOT II and LOT III** respectively. Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc). Consulting firms must also provide documentary evidence that they are duly registered and tax compliance.

Interested consulting firms may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 09:00 to 17:00 hours GMT, Mondays through Fridays.

Sealed Expression of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person) by 14:00 hours GMT on or before October 3, 2022. Late EOI will be rejected and returned to consultants unopened.

**Note that electronic bids will not be accepted. Please hand deliver the Expression of Interest in person to the below address.**

Expression of Interest (EOI) must be submitted in one (1) original set and three (3) copies

The address referred to is:

Attn: Eric B. Arkoi

Procurement Director

Procurement Unit, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

Broad and Mechlin Streets

Monrovia, Liberia

Cell#: (+231 )886579455 or 777579455

Email: [ebarkkoi@mfdp.gov.lr](mailto:ebarkkoi@mfdp.gov.lr) or [mvmassallay@mfdp.gov.lr](mailto:mvmassallay@mfdp.gov.lr)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Procurement

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Acting Deputy Minister for Administration

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

**The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDPA) through the Department of Economic Management shall own all advertising, creative contents, reports, and original materials (raw and edited) developed and designed in conjunction with this program, and shall have complete and exclusive rights with regard to their future usage both domestically and abroad.**

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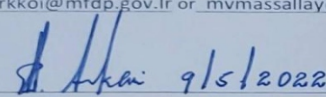
Procurement Unit, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

Broad and Mechlin Streets

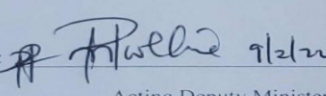
Monrovia, Liberia

Cell#: (+231 )886579455 or 777579455

Email: [ebarkkoi@mfdp.gov.lr](mailto:ebarkkoi@mfdp.gov.lr) or [mvmassallay@mfdp.gov.lr](mailto:mvmassallay@mfdp.gov.lr)

Signed:  9/15/2022

Director of Procurement

Approved:  9/12/22

Acting Deputy Minister for Administration

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

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# Français

## Des ingénieurs chinois sont attendus, selon le diplomate chinois

**A** en croire l'ambassadeur chinois au Libéria Ren Yisheng, une délégation d'ingénieurs chinois doit arriver au Libéria pour mener une étude de faisabilité d'un super échangeur et du projet de construction de la route qui relie Japan Freeway et Sinkor.

"Une équipe d'ingénieurs chinois devrait venir mener l'étude de faisabilité du projet Somalia [Drive]-Sinkor", a affirmé l'ambassadeur Ren récemment.

"Les deux gouvernements travaillent en étroite collaboration sur la mise en œuvre d'une nouvelle phase de coopération économique et technique", a-t-il ajouté.

Il a fait savoir que les nouveaux projets dont deux échangeurs sur le boulevard Tubman, le laboratoire national de diagnostic clinique et de traitement de l'hôpital militaire 14, le laboratoire de comparaison des empreintes digitales et la mise à niveau et l'expansion du LBS (Liberia Broadcasting System) sont en phase d'appel

d'offres et d'approvisionnement.

« Ces dernières années, dans le cadre de l'initiative "la Ceinture et la Route" (BRI) prônée par le président Xi Jinping et de "l'Agenda en faveur des pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement" (PAPD) prôné par le président George Manneh Weah, la coopération sino-libérienne a atteint des résultats fructueux grâce à cette initiative », a-t-il révélé.

Dans les domaines de l'économie et du commerce, des soins de santé, de la construction d'infrastructures, de la sécurité

alimentaire et du développement des ressources humaines, le Libéria et la Chine ont obtenu des résultats fructueux.

Parlant des contributions de la Chine en matière d'infrastructures de développement au Libéria, M. Ren a cité les projets soutenus par la Chine dont le complexe ministériel, les deux annexes du bâtiment du parlement et l'aéroport international Roberts grâce à un prêt

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Les législateurs de Sinoe s'accusent mutuellement d'avoir falsifié leurs diplômes universitaires

**L**e sénateur J. Milton Teahjay du comté de Sinoe a accusé son collègue le représentant Crayton Duncan du comté d'avoir orchestré une campagne visant à discréditer sa réussite scolaire, répandant de fausses informations selon lesquelles il n'a jamais été diplômé de l'Université Howard, comme il le prétend.

« L'allégation n'est rien d'autre que le produit des

malfaiteurs susceptibles de fomenter des distractions », a dit le sénateur Teahjay, pointant directement du doigt le représentant du district n° 1 du comté de Sinoe, Crayton Duncan.

« Il s'agit d'une tentative de ruiner ma personnalité, un moyen de me rabaisser avant les élections présidentielle et générales de 2023 », a dit le sénateur.

En représailles donc, M Teahjay a traité le représentant Duncan d'une personne qui n'a

jamais mis les pieds à l'université.

Les documents dont a eu possession le NEW DAWN indiquent que le représentant Crayton Duncan a obtenu un diplôme en arts associés du North Hennepin Community College, aux États-Unis en 2002, un baccalauréat ès arts de l'Université du Minnesota et une maîtrise en administration publique de l'Université Strayer.

Mais pour Teahjay, ces diplômes sont "faux", alléguant que le représentant Crayton Duncan n'est jamais entré dans une université depuis qu'il a obtenu son diplôme d'études secondaires.

Il a ainsi lancé un défi ouvert à Crayton de le contredire en publiant ses diplômes universitaires ou s'il existe une université aux États-Unis d'Amérique qui peut prouver qu'en effet, le représentant Crayton Duncan a obtenu son diplôme ou a fréquenté une université en Amérique. « S'il arrive déjà prouver cela, je m'excuserai

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Choisissez le chemin de la repentance

Le ministre d'État suspendu Nathaniel F. McGill demande l'intervention de Dieu suite aux accusations de corruption portées contre lui et deux autres responsables de l'administration Weah par le Trésor américain.

Le département du Trésor des États-Unis a imposé des sanctions contre M. McGill, Me Sayma Syrenius Cephus, solliciteur général du Libéria, et M. Bill Twehway, directeur général de l'Autorité portuaire nationale, pour corruption et autres comportements criminels au Libéria.

Le trio continue certes de clamer leur innocence, mais McGill est plus bruyant et riposte avec véhémence, cherchant toutes les occasions pour blanchir son nom des accusations portées contre lui par le gouvernement des États-Unis. Il avait même écrit au président George Manneh Weah, demandant une occasion de raconter sa version des faits.

En effet, dans une interview d'Aljazeera au cours du week-end, le ministre d'État suspendu est allé un peu plus loin dans un désespoir apparent pour se présenter comme un homme propre en disant : « J'attends l'intervention de Dieu. Mes avocats y travaillent.

Nous nous empressons d'ajouter ici que les expériences de la Sainte Bible indiquent clairement que Dieu n'intervient que lorsque nous exprimons sincèrement des remords et que nous nous repentons de nos torts.

Dans le livre de Luc 19 : 1-10 ( le Nouveau Testament), le collecteur d'impôts corrompu Zachée, qui avait volé le peuple, a rencontré le Seigneur Jésus-Christ qui a changé toute sa vie. En fait, Jésus a mangé et dormi chez lui. Mais Zachée a rendu tout l'argent qu'il avait gagné par des moyens corrompus et a vraiment demandé pardon du fond de son cœur.

C'est alors que Dieu est intervenu et lui a donné une nouvelle vie, car "les choses anciennes sont passées et toutes choses sont devenues nouvelles". Nous ne pouvons pas adopter une posture de défi et de défense dans notre force et nous attendre à ce que Dieu intervienne.

McGill a déclaré publiquement que même s'il prenait des fonds publics et construisait des propriétés privées à travers le Libéria, c'est juste parce que ceux qui pourraient être affectés par le détournement de ces fonds seraient heureux quand ils verraient ses beaux bâtiments.

Dieu est pour les forts et les faibles. Il n'est pas un Dieu de partialité. Il écoute les cris de ceux qui se repentent sincèrement et demandent miséricorde. Il vient au secours des sans défense. Il est la voix des sans-voix. Et Il est un Dieu de Justice !

McGill et les autres qui veulent que Dieu intervienne dans la situation actuelle qu'ils ont eux-mêmes provoquée, doivent d'abord être disposés à lâcher prise ; ils devraient être disposés à changer et à s'abandonner totalement comme Zachée, et Dieu regardera leur chemin et leur donnera une nouvelle vie qu'ils désirent maintenant ardemment.



# Français

## Des ingénieurs chinois sont attendus

concessionnel. Ces réalisations sont devenues, selon lui, de nouveaux monuments à Monrovia.

Quant à l'assistance technique pour le complexe sportif SKD et le LBS, les travaux sont en cours.

Il a indiqué que le 20e Congrès national du Parti communiste chinois (PCC) se tiendrait le 16 octobre à Pékin et que la nouvelle direction du comité central du PCC sera

élue pour conduire le peuple chinois à marcher vers l'objectif du deuxième centenaire.

Selon l'ambassadeur de Chine, la nouvelle direction fera de la Chine un grand pays socialiste moderne, prospère, démocratique, culturellement avancé, harmonieux et beau d'ici le milieu de ce siècle.

Au milieu du siècle, a-t-il dit, la Chine célébrera le 100e anniversaire de la fondation du pays.

## Les législateurs de sinoe s'accusent mutuellement

ouvertement », a-t-il dit.

Cependant, le sénateur Teahjay lui-même a dû faire face à une longue lutte pour défendre son affirmation selon laquelle il est diplômé de Howard.

Selon le sénateur du comté de Sinoe, il est titulaire d'une maîtrise ès arts (MA) en administration publique et politique publique (promotion 1990) de l'Université Howard à Washington, D.C., où il a obtenu son diplôme avec distinction.

"J'ai une confiance absolue dans la qualité de mes diplômes et mes diplômes sont parmi les meilleurs que vous puissiez trouver au Libéria. Je suis fier d'être diplômé de l'Université Howard en 1990", a affirmé le sénateur Teejay.

Lors d'une enquête du NEW DAWN concernant le mouvement ( Campaigner for Academic Crimes Court (CACC)) dirigé par l'activiste Martin Kollie, qui affirme que le sénateur J. Milton Teejay n'a jamais obtenu de maîtrise ès arts en administration publique et politique publique en 1990, le sénateur Teejay a précisé qu'en raison de sa soif pour l'éducation, il a obtenu avec succès sa maîtrise ès arts de l'Université Howard à Washington, DC en 1990, après avoir obtenu un deuxième baccalauréat en politique du Congrès et en théologie de la libération en 1987 de la Kent State University dans l'Ohio, États-Unis, ajoutant qu'il est diplômé avec Cumlaude de Harvard.

Cependant, il a admis qu'il n'a jamais pu récupérer le diplôme de l'Université Howard, simplement parce qu'il avait des obligations financières avec l'Université.

Il avait, selon lui, bénéficié d'une bourse d'études du gouvernement du Libéria (GOL) pour étudier à

l'Université Howard, mais le gouvernement aurait manqué à ses obligations financières envers l'université en raison de la guerre. Il n'a donc pas pu recevoir son diplôme.

« À l'Université Howard. J'ai bénéficié de l'assistance de Dr Nicolas Oriowo Taiwo qui était chef de ce département. Il m'aidait beaucoup, mais au moment de la remise de mon diplôme, la base de soutien n'a pas continué », a dit le Sénateur Teahjay.

« Ainsi, à l'époque, j'ai contacté le Dr Eugenia A. Wordsworth Stevenson, ambassadrice du Libéria au Royaume-Uni (Royaume-Uni) pour lui demander de l'aide. Et en mon nom, elle a lancé un appel à l'Université, en utilisant le gouvernement du Libéria (GOL) comme garanti, afin qu'on me remette mon diplôme, promettant que plus tard si le pays sort de sa guerre, le gouvernement payerait. Mais l'Université, à l'époque, m'a seulement permis de prendre part à la cérémonie de remise de diplôme, comme quoi je ne recevrais le papier que lorsque mon pays aura payé les frais d'Études.

Il a dit merci au gouvernement du Libéria de lui avoir donné l'occasion d'aller à l'Université de Harvard, applaudissant tout particulièrement l'ancien ministre de l'Éducation du régime du président assassiné Samuel Doe, le Dr George S. Boley, qui lui a donné l'occasion d'étudier à l'étranger.

Cet article n'a pas encore confirmé de manière indépendante auprès de l'Université Howard si Teahjay a fait des études dans cette institution. Mais le sénateur du comté de Sinoe a publié ce qui est censé être un annuaire de ceux qui ont terminé en 1990. Cela contient son nom et sa photographie. On le voit assis parmi des étudiants diplômés de l'Université cette année-là.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Anuja Malhotra  
et Abi Vanak

## La restauration des écosystèmes, c'est bon pour la santé !

**N**EW DELHI - L'humanité fait face aujourd'hui à de multiples crises existentielles interconnectées. Les conséquences catastrophiques du changement climatique, de la dégradation écologique et de la perte de biodiversité ont des répercussions en cascade sur la santé et le bien-être humain. Comme l'illustre la pandémie de COVID-19, les dégâts causés aux écosystèmes peuvent contribuer de manière significative à une urgence mondiale de santé publique. Mais les scientifiques s'aperçoivent également de plus en plus que la restauration écologique, en inversant les menaces qui pèsent sur le sol, la biodiversité, l'eau et d'autres services écosystémiques, peut apporter des avantages majeurs en matière de santé.

On a tenté à maintes reprises de comprendre le lien entre la dégradation écologique et la santé humaine. Une étude récente menée sur plus de 6 800 écosystèmes et sur six continents a fourni des preuves supplémentaires que la déforestation et l'extinction des espèces vont faire augmenter le risque de futures pandémies. Les dégâts causés sur les écosystèmes conduisent également à la contamination de l'eau, créant ainsi des zones de reproduction pour les maladies infectieuses. De même, la dégradation des sols réduit non seulement la productivité agricole, mais est également liée à la maladie et à l'augmentation de la mortalité.

L'émergence et la propagation de zoonoses comme la COVID-19 sont étroitement associées à la santé des écosystèmes. Par exemple, 75 % des maladies infectieuses émergentes sont des zoonoses, causées par une utilisation non durable des ressources naturelles, l'élevage d'animaux en usine et d'autres facteurs anthropiques à l'échelle industrielle.

Le déclin des écosystèmes a également contribué au cours des dernières décennies à réduire la résilience immunologique et à augmenter les maladies allergiques chez les humains. Les effets ne se limitent pas à la santé physique, mais comprennent également des problèmes de santé mentale comme une augmentation de l'éco-anxiété, ou la crainte de dégâts environnementaux dus à la dégradation continue des écosystèmes.

À l'inverse, la restauration des écosystèmes naturels pourrait permettre d'inverser certains effets du changement climatique et de soulager le fardeau mondial des maladies chroniques, en améliorant ainsi la santé et le bien-être humains. Une étude récente a montré que la restauration des sols et la réintroduction d'espèces végétales indigènes ont entraîné une réduction des impacts physiques et psychologiques de certaines maladies. Dans un autre cas, la restauration écologique d'une rivière urbaine dans le nord-ouest de l'Angleterre était liée à des avantages psychologiques pour les communautés environnantes.

Il existe également des preuves que la restauration écologique peut protéger les gens contre les événements climatiques extrêmes et les crises de santé publique qui en découlent. Enfin, il a été démontré que l'utilisation de combustibles de cuisson alternatifs comme le biogaz dans des cuisinières de meilleure qualité, en réduisant ainsi le besoin de bois comme combustible, qui aident à prévenir la dégradation des forêts, améliore la santé respiratoire et les régimes alimentaires domestiques.

Les arguments économiques en faveur de la restauration écologique sont convaincants. La hausse des coûts de santé publique et l'importante charge de morbidité - aggravée par la pandémie - noircissent encore le tableau. L'Organisation mondiale de la santé estime que les dépenses mondiales de santé ont augmenté de façon continue entre 2000 et 2018, à 8,3 mille milliards de dollars, soit 10 % du PIB mondial.

Des efforts internationaux importants pour récolter les bénéfices de la restauration écologique sur la santé planétaire et humaine sont déjà en cours. La Décennie des Nations Unies pour la restauration des écosystèmes, qui doit avoir lieu de 2021 à 2030 et le programme de neutralité en matière de dégradation des terres de la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification encouragent les pays signataires à reconnaître l'importance capitale de la restauration écologique. De même, l'initiative #HealthyRecovery, signée par plus de 4 500 professionnels de santé de 90 pays, a exhorté les dirigeants du G20 à financer des projets qui permettent la restauration écologique dans le cadre de leurs plans de relance en cas de pandémie.

Au cours des dernières décennies, les chercheurs ont développé divers modèles - dont le Mandala de la santé, la Roue des besoins humains fondamentaux, et plus récemment, l'approche One Health - pour saisir la relation interconnectée entre l'homme et la nature. Le défi consiste à présent à développer un cadre unificateur pour maximiser la synergie entre la restauration écologique et la santé humaine. Les politiques conçues pour traiter l'une ne doivent pas exclure l'autre.

Nous devons donc redéfinir la dégradation écologique, comprendre ses effets de grande envergure sur la santé humaine et reconnaître que ces effets ne peuvent être pleinement traités sans des plans de restauration écologique structurés et spécifiques au contexte. Pour y parvenir, il faudra institutionnaliser et intégrer la collaboration intersectorielle entre les scientifiques et les praticiens des domaines écologique, médical et du développement durable.

Des alliances et un sentiment d'appartenance seront essentiels entre les structures de gouvernance de base de la santé publique et de la restauration des écosystèmes. En Inde, par exemple, un effort pionnier visant à intégrer des initiatives interdisciplinaires réunit le gouvernement, les scientifiques, les partenaires locaux et les praticiens dans le but d'améliorer la lutte contre les zoonoses. Un cadre de ce genre peut générer des connaissances et des idées précieuses pour des initiatives de collaboration similaires dans d'autres endroits du monde.

La restauration écologique est un moyen clair et identifiable de s'attaquer au fardeau mondial des maladies et d'améliorer la santé publique. Alors que commence la Décennie pour la restauration des écosystèmes des Nations Unies, les décideurs politiques doivent encourager une action collective visant à promouvoir des activités inclusives et interdisciplinaires qui démontrent les avantages mondiaux positifs de la restauration pour la santé sociale, physique et mentale. Nous nous devons à nous-mêmes ainsi qu'à la planète d'atténuer au moins certaines des menaces que nous avons créées.

*Anuja Malhotra, analyste de politiques au Centre for Policy Design, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & the Environment (ATREE). Abi Vanak, professeur honoraire à l'Université du KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, membre senior du Centre pour la biodiversité et la conservation, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & the Environment (ATREE).*

## LIBERIANS

## DEBATE

**Topic: Diplomacy****By Naneka Hoffman**

Former Finance Minister Amara Konneh blames the imposition of sanctions on three officials of the Weah administration by the American Treasury on weakness of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah to proactively keep an eye on Washington, and accordingly advise President Weah before such actions are taken his government.

The NEW DAWN asked several residents in Monrovia whether the ex-Finance Minister's characterization of Minister Kemayah is correct. Read their responses below.

**James Naplakpososo Fallah**

"I want to agree with Liberia's former Finance Minister Amara Konneh, and kindly disagreed with the choice of words he used. Amara described the Foreign Minister as being weak. In my mind, the Foreign Minister is not just weak, but is dead. Minister Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah lacks all that it takes to be a foreign minister.

Kemayah is practically dead. If you get to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, you will see what former Minister Konneh is saying. The only area of that ministry that is actually functioning is the passport department. All other sections at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs are down. In fact, you can't have a foreign minister that even his face can't allow our country to be sold outside. He himself can't even travel to the United States of America. This is a man who is nepotistic with the little opportunity he has. He has employed his relatives to the Foreign Mission; you don't do that. I don't know what President Weah is still keep him at the Foreign Ministry. The only reason you see the passport section actually moving is because people want to travel. You know the country is deeply in abject poverty. The Foreign Minister should be there to lobby. This man can't lobby for the country outside there. The Foreign Ministry is a specific area. It is not his area."

"I may practically differ with that so fear. How possible could that be? The Foreign Minister lived properly in America and has his personal establishments and personal solidarity with people within the various sectors of America except for the issue of character. But how could anybody's function interfere with another person's function. It sounds low and makes no sense to me. The fact remains that in as much as the American government has problem with Kemayah, it is the power of the President to make sure that this man is out of the picture and bring in another person that has a good character. Kemayah is

**Deacon Stephen M. Harmon**

weak because he doesn't have good relationship with America and the America government. These are the people we look up to for assistance. Everyone (government) to me must have prior knowledge of being friendly with the American government, and if they don't have good relationship with the U.S., it is unfortunate for you. Let's take for example, today with the kind of character and information we have heard about him, that means since he became foreign minister he can't go to America."

**Emmett Thogar**

"I stand with Amara Konneh 100%. If you look at Kemayah's performance at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, you will realize that his performance is very poor. Nowadays if it were in the States, you will see a lot of public outcries on the President to take action to dismiss

Kemayah. How will you get a Foreign Minister that can't go to the United States? And he has alleged rape issue around him. I think the President needs to take action against him, moving forward to the 2023 presidential election. President Weah needs to appoint a new foreign minister that will go out there to promote the government's agenda and strengthen our bilateral ties with other great nations around the world especially, the United States that has been our democratic ally from the foundation of Liberia."

"You know it's something that we have been saying so many times. Since the CDC-led government came to power, there are many mistakes the president has made when it comes to appointment. The Foreign Minister is the foreign policy analyst of the country. He is the working between country and country to see how best we can have good bilateral relations. I think Amara Konneh was right when he said that because we have a Foreign Minister whose wife was sent down from America, and by you looking at America, which is our father, biologically, we take America to be our father. I will tell you that he is very weak and

**Life Wazerd**

we even getting information that he can't even go to America. How can we maintain a Foreign Minister who can't go to America? So, if there were bilateral talks between Liberia and America, how can it work? Amara Konneh is right."

"Well firstly, I will want to disagreed with Mr. Konneh and in some instance, agree with him because you can't have a Foreign Minister who can't travel to the United States on behalf of the country. So, maybe it is from that background Amara is saying that due to the inability of the foreign minister is what led to the sanctions on three government officials. Let's come to the issue, to say you will sanction three government officials, which of course everyone around the world respects white. But for us, we are not totally convinced. We feel that the sanctions have a political undertone. So, for you

**Abu Sheriff**

to just sanction these three men and just leave it like that, for us we think that the American should go beyond all reasonable doubts to set up an investigative panel where these three government officials will be investigated, and if proved guilty then yes indeed, they are corrupt."

# House investigates NEC

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives is investigating the National Elections Commission (NEC) over its announcement of the biometric voter registration (BVR) process.

The House took the decision following the

lawmakers said the NEC boss' presentation on the biometric system was not convincing and they needed to carry out an investigation on the process.

The NEC faced several questions from lawmakers to address concerns on the usage of the biometric system in the rural parts of the country where there is

Lawmakers said in as much as biometric registration is a good thing, they believe that the country's electoral system is not yet prepared to absorb it.

Some lawmakers said the biometric system has never been tested at the community level or during any of the county's recent by-elections.

As such, they fear that it may not be prudent to use it to determine the outcome of the presidential & legislative election results.

The NEC on 31 August this year said transitioning from manual Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) system to Biometric Technology for registration of voters has been emphasized in its preliminary plans for 2023.

Ahead of the 2023 presidential and legislative elections, Madam Brown - Lansanah told a press conference in Monrovia last month that prevention of multiple registration and the promotion of accuracy of the information collected for each registered voter are some advantages of the Biometric Voters Registration (BVR).

She cited other advantages as the creation of unique lifetime voter identification for each registered voter and eradication of voter impersonation.

Further, she said the advantages include removal of duplicated records from the

no network.

Many of the questions asked by lawmakers to the NEC Boss were left unanswered.

That led to a motion filed by Montserrado County Electoral District #16 Representative Dixon Seboe forwarding the matter to the Committees on Elections & Inauguration and Contracts & Monopoly to further investigate NEC.



appearance of NEC Chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne - Lansanah during its special session on Wednesday, 7 September 2022.

During her appearance, Madam Brown - Lansanah was asked to provide information regarding concerns raised over the scheduled biometric voter registration process.

After her presentation,

# Legislature wants LISGIS investigated

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives' committee on the 2022 National Population and Housing Census wants the current corruption saga at the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-information Service (LISGIS) urgently addressed, so that it cannot have a spill-over effect on the integrity of the entire country.

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission indictment four key officials of LISGIS, including director general Professor for corruption after several withdrawals from the census account.

The committee recommends that the House plenary should call on the Chairman of the Board of LISGIS, Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah, to promptly address current leadership crisis at the Institute since such could have deleterious impact on the smooth running of the

census activities.

The committee made the call at plenary on Tuesday, 6 September after the House of Representatives concurred with the Liberian Senate for the Population and Housing Census to be conducted in October.

The House of Representatives had earlier

received a resolution from the Liberian Senate, setting October 24 to November 7, 2022 as the new date for the census.

The resolution was read and forwarded to the committee on Good Governance to report to full plenary.

According to the body, a meeting was held with the



Voters Registration System; and eradication of issues related to unintentional errors during the data entry process.

Madam Browne - Lansanah explained that the methodology for planned BVR exercise will begin on December 15, 2022 and end on March 17 2023.

He said during the voters registration exercise, portable tablets with scanners will be used.

The NEC boss noted that the data entry process, which will be performed by use of a customized software, will capture each applicant's particulars, including facial image.

She detailed that fingerprint scanners will be used to capture the thumbprints of each applicant.

An initial de-duplication will be performed at each registration center, and voter registration cards (with special features) will be printed and issued to voters on the spot at the registration center.

According to Madam Browne - Lansanah, the Commission has decided that the Biometric Voter Registration will be done in three phases on a regional basis, and the registration teams will be stationed at each registration center.

This means that when the registration teams are deployed in a region, all registration centers in that region will be opened for registration for a period of three weeks and thereafter, the teams will move to the next region, she said.

Starts from back page

# NPA, APM Terminals Liberia

companies globally. As part of the agreement, APM Terminals Liberia will execute the preliminary engineering studies, procure, contract and execute the dredging program. Also, APM Terminals Liberia will pre-fund the entire value of the program through interest-

free financing and recover the cost over the next 36 months through deductions in concession fees paid to the NPA.

Managing Director of APM Terminals Liberia Jonathan Graham commented, "This historic agreement is driven by the notable partnership that has been developed between the various Ministries and Government agencies over the periods. This agreement will better allow both NPA and APM Terminals Liberia to provide a higher level of service and efficiency for the stakeholders of Freeport. We are pleased we were able to work with the various government agencies to ensure all compliance requirements were completed for the NPA Board of Directors to

resolve to move forward on our proposal to implement a more sustainable dredging program in Freeport. I would like to especially thank Chairman Gueh and NPA Board Member Samuel Tweah for their partnership and drive to move our proposal from a concept to reality."

The dredging program has already begun with the preliminary requirements and mobilization processes and is expected to commence civil works by the start of October and the full program to be completed by the year's end.

Also, because of the deeper understanding of the sedimentation process driving the reoccurring need for maintenance dredging, the dredging program will be executed both with a more sustained result and with the benefit of beach restoration north of the Freeport through the ocean sand disposal process and using the natural currents to spread the sand along the coastline.

Starts from page 5

# Costa draws Saah Joseph

are affecting the lives of the Liberian people greatly and they are also allegedly responsible for their deaths.

Costa has provided no evidence for his claim.

According to him, the people of Montserrado County have resolved that they need a flow fighter who will fight in the Liberian Senate for the rights and entitlement.

He said Liberians will pick a Senator who will also use the function of the Legislature and his office to advocate in a way

that has a trickle down effect on the Liberian people in general, instead of a few.

Costa alleged that since Senator Abraham Darius Dillon was elected in 2019 and 2020 respective, he (Costa) has been engaged by the people of Montserrado County to contest for the senatorial seat of Montserrado County too.

"I, Henry Pedro Costa, shall be a candidate in the upcoming senatorial election in Montserrado County in 2023," he said.

LISGIS and development partners represented by UNFPA Resident Representative to Liberia and her team.

It reports that during the meeting, it was agreed that given the significance of the census to national development, coupled with

assurance from partners to work with the Liberian government to ensure that the census is held before December 2022, it is good that the House of Representatives concur with the Liberian Senate to have the census before elections in 2023.

## NPA, APM Terminals Liberia reach Historic Dredging Partnership Agreement



The National Port Authority and APM Terminals Liberia have executed a Dredging Project Financing & Execution Agreement under the mandate of the NPA Board of Directors, following extensive discussions and alignment on the need for dredging and widening the port channels of the Freeport of Monrovia.

The agreement, which was signed on August 30, 2022 results in the Freeport being able to restore the draft and beam of the harbor channel and approach to the original design levels of 2011. The restoration of the draft covers the removal of sand sedimentation up to

1,000,000 (One Million) cubic meters.

This will restore the original beam or width of vessels to return to 32 meters and a draft of 12 meters as against the recently reduced allowable beam and a draft of 28m and 9.5 meters respectively. This draft and beam increase is important as it will allow for larger vessels to enter the Freeport, a condition that will lead to larger import parcel sizes. This will directly provide benefits to importers as it will provide a significant offset to the ever-rising cost of vessel leasing per parcel size and ultimately provide inflation reduction to the Liberian consumers.

Upon the NPA Board of Directors approving the program on the 18th of August 2022 and the final agreement being put into place, the NPA Chairman of the Board, Matthew Gueh commented, "Upon reviewing the proposal from APM Terminals Liberia and surveying the situation in the harbor, it was clear something needed to be done urgently. After consultations with Board Directors and the Honorable Ministers serving on the Board, a decision was made to move forward with the APM Terminals Liberia proposal. The execution of the agreement will not only immediately remedy the current restrictions in the Freeport but also allow for the Freeport to increase the benefit to the business community and all Liberia consumers."

The momentous agreement is valued at up to USD 6,000,000 and includes the use of global expertise in marine engineering, tidal and ocean current engineers, and one of the leading dredging

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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