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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022	L\$153.1607/US\$1.00	L\$154.8102/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

French Version Inside

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P11



Lewis Brown draws the line

-Endorses Cummings



P11



Senate reviews controversial pension bill

MTN MoMo

MoMo
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Dial *156#





Continental News

Cameroon Says Thousands of Homes Destroyed by Floods

Cameroon officials describe Mokolo, which is also the capital of the Mayo Tsanaga administrative unit, as the breadbasket of Cameroon's northern border with Chad and Nigeria.

Haman Adama is the spokesperson for people

plantations in Mayo Tsanaga and neighboring Mayo Danay, Mayo Sava and Diamare administrative units.

She says the impacts of the ongoing floods will be felt up to March 2023, if heavy rains continue to make it impossible for farmers to return to their plantations for the new planting season that begins in October.

Adama said several thousand civilians are seeking refuge in schools, hospitals, churches and mosques in towns and villages not threatened by floods.

Aid groups and humanitarian agencies are providing food and medical supplies to civilians who have lost their houses, plantations and animals to the flooding. But aid workers say they are unable to meet the growing needs of displaced civilians.

The government says the heavy floods are in part caused by seasonal rains and waters from the nearby Lakes Chad and Maga.

Cameroon says a regional approach with Chad and Nigeria is needed to reduce the damage caused by floods.

Christophe Bring is the head of department for studies and projects at

Cameroon's environment ministry.

Bring says during Africa Climate Week in Libreville, Gabon from August 29 to September 2 African nations, the African Union and the United Nations made commitments to foster a common African regional climate action. Bring spoke via the messaging app WhatsApp from Cameroon's capital Yaounde.

Bring says during the climate week, African states identified causes of changes in regional climate patterns, proposed sustainable responses and prepared a common strategy to reduce the effects of climate change. He says Africa's position will be presented to

the world during the United Nations climate change conference known as COP 27 that will be taking place in Egypt in November.

Bring said the ongoing floods in northern Cameroon are caused by heavy rainfall resulting from tropical weather disruptions, deforestation and improper agricultural practices. He said thousands of families have gone homeless because they constructed houses and settlements in flood plains.

Cameroon officials say the northern border area with Chad and Nigeria hosts about 550,000 IDPs and about 70,000 Nigerian refugees. Some of the displaced persons include civilians who fled conflicts over water between cattle ranchers and fishermen. VOA

MOKOLO, CAMEROON — In Cameroon, officials say weeks of flooding along its northern borders with Chad and Nigeria have swept away entire villages, leaving thousands of people



People make their way through a flooded street after heavy rains in Douala

homeless. Aid efforts are underway with many schools, mosques and churches providing temporary shelter.

Heavy rains fall in Mokolo, a business and agricultural district on Cameroon's northern border with Nigeria.

displaced by floods in Mayo Tsanaga administrative unit in Cameroon's northern border with Chad and Nigeria. He says hunger looms in Cameroon's northern border with Chad and Nigeria after floods in August and September destroyed sorghum

Row as Kenya local TVs barred from Ruto inauguration



William Ruto will be sworn in on Tuesday as Kenya's fifth president

The team of Kenya's President-elect has barred local media from covering the presidential inauguration, offering exclusive broadcast rights to Multichoice Kenya Ltd, an affiliate of South African pay-TV group.

Kenyan national broadcaster, KBC, has a minority shareholding at Multichoice Kenya Ltd.

Local broadcasters will receive the contractor's live feed. Details of the contract haven't been made public, but previous presidential inaugurations have been covered jointly by local media at no cost to the government.

The announcement has been met by protests by local journalists and media organisations, with the leading Daily Nation newspaper accusing the president-elect of wasting "opportunities to rise to statesmanship".

"The optics of giving a foreign broadcaster the sole responsibility to cover a state function are cringeworthy," it wrote in Monday's editorial. Mr Ruto's communications team has defended the decision, saying the contractor will "provide a channel for the rest of Africa". They have also accused local media of bias against Mr Ruto, pointing out to critical coverage of his campaigns and his Kenya Kwanza (Kenya First) coalition. BBC

Ethiopia's Tigray Forces Call for Truce, Accept AU-Led Peace Process

ADDIS ABABA — Ethiopia's Tigrayan forces called for an immediate cease-fire Sunday and said they would join an African Union-led peace process after three weeks of renewed fighting ended a fragile truce.

Tigrayan forces from Ethiopia's northern region have said they are prepared to participate in an "immediate" cessation of hostilities followed by peace talks mediated by the African Union.

In a statement to mark the beginning of the Ethiopian new year, the Tigray region's leadership called for a "comprehensive negotiated" cease-fire and said they had established a negotiating team that is "ready to be deployed without delay."

"[T]he Government of Tigray is prepared to participate in a robust peace process under the auspices of the African Union," the statement said. The statement came as heavy

fighting was reported along Tigray's northern, eastern and southern borders.

The latest round of hostilities erupted on 24 August, bringing an end to a cease-fire agreed by the parties in late March. Each side blamed the other for starting the fighting.

Thousands have been killed and millions displaced since the conflict first broke out in November 2020.

The Tigray forces have previously rejected the African Union as a mediator, claiming its peace envoy, former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, is too sympathetic to Ethiopia's federal government and expressing a preference for talks in Nairobi overseen by Kenya and the U.S.

Their call for a cease-fire was welcomed by the AU, the



A young man walks past a destroyed tank near Debre Tabor, Ethiopia

European Union and the United Nations.

On Thursday, the U.N. said the fighting has halted much needed aid deliveries to Tigray and war-affected parts of the neighboring region of Amhara. The AU chairperson described the cease-fire call as "a unique opportunity towards the restoration of peace in the Federal Democratic Republic

of Ethiopia," while EU foreign affairs head Josep Borrell said the EU was "ready to support" talks.

Ethiopia's federal government has not yet responded to the statement from the Tigray region's leadership, but it has previously said it is ready to participate in AU-led talks "anytime, anywhere" while also questioning Tigray forces' commitment to resolving the conflict through dialogue. VOA

EDITORIAL

Pure madness on Capitol Hill

MEMBERS OF the Liberian Senate seemed to have lost their right frame of mind when they endorsed and passed the Act Adopting an Integrated Pension and Benefit Scheme for Certain Categories of Officials of the Government of the Republic of Liberia, allotting onto themselves half of their current salary for retirement.

THE ACT is cited as the Integrated Pension and Benefits of 2022. They want said benefit for themselves and their immediate families, as long as they are out of job.

SENATORS WHO signed such wicked Act are nothing but selfish and inhumane. By their decision, they have clearly demonstrated that they lack the mark of leadership.

SUCH WICKED Act did not deserve to see daylight, because for all purposes, it was never in the interest of the greater majority except senators, their wives and children.

MIND YOU, senators, who behaved in such inhumane manner, are lining up to go to their people for re-election next year. What a shame!

THEY CARE very less for the people but seek their votes to perpetuate themselves in power. Some are already completing two nine-year terms, and are on bended knees, asking for a third term.

THEY DRAFTED and passed the law for themselves, ignoring plights of doctors, teachers and nurses, who are making enormous sacrifices across the country with very little incentives, if any at all.

ARE 30 senators on Capitol Hill more Liberians than the rest of the over 4 million citizens who lack the privileges they enjoy as elected officials? Absolutely not. The electorate elected them to seek their interest and serve their wellbeing.

BUT THEY are not doing so. Instead, greed and selfishness have blinded their eyes and turned their focus away from the people. All they want and seek is for themselves.

WHERE IS the leadership and service to the people? Is it all about themselves and nothing for the people? Anything that would serve their insatiable desires except the people, they go for it albeit how unpleasant.

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COMMENTARY

By Daron Acemoglu

The End of Real Social Networks

CAMBRIDGE - Not only are billions of people around the world glued to their mobile phones, but the information they consume has changed dramatically - and not for the better. On dominant social-media platforms like Facebook, researchers have documented that falsehoods spread faster and more widely than similar content that includes accurate information. Though users are not demanding misinformation, the algorithms that determine what people see tend to favor sensational, inaccurate, and misleading content, because that is what generates "engagement" and thus advertising revenue.

As the internet activist Eli Pariser noted in 2011, Facebook also creates filter bubbles, whereby individuals are more likely to be presented with content that reinforces their own ideological leanings and confirms their own biases. And more recent research has demonstrated that this process has a major influence on the type of information users see.

Even leaving aside Facebook's algorithmic choices, the broader social-media ecosystem allows people to find subcommunities that align with their interests. This is not necessarily a bad thing. If you are the only person in your community with an interest in ornithology, you no longer have to be alone, because you can now connect with ornithology enthusiasts from around the world. But, of course, the same applies to the lone extremist who can now use the same platforms to access or propagate hate speech and conspiracy theories.

No one disputes that social-media platforms have been a major conduit for hate speech, disinformation, and propaganda. Reddit and YouTube are breeding grounds for right-wing extremism. The Oath Keepers used Facebook, especially, to organize their role in the January 6, 2021, attack on the United States Capitol. Former US President Donald Trump's anti-Muslim tweets were found to have fueled violence against minorities in the US.

True, some find such observations alarmist, noting that large players like Facebook and YouTube (which is owned by Google/Alphabet) do much more to police hate speech and misinformation than their smaller rivals do, especially now that better moderation practices have been developed. Moreover, other researchers have challenged the finding that falsehoods spread faster on Facebook and Twitter, at least when compared to other media.

Still others argue that even if the current social-media environment is treacherous, the problem is transitory. After all, novel communication tools have always been misused. Martin Luther used the printing press to promote not just Protestantism but also virulent anti-Semitism. Radio proved to be a powerful tool in the hands of demagogues like Father Charles Coughlin in the US and the Nazis in Germany. Both print and broadcast outlets remain full of misinformation to this day, but society has adjusted to these media and managed to contain their negative effects.

This argument implies that a combination of stronger regulation and other new technologies can overcome the challenges posed by social media. For example, platforms could provide better information about the provenance of articles; or the same platforms could be discouraged from algorithmically boosting items that might be incendiary or contain misinformation.

But such measures fail to address the depth of the problem. Social media is not only creating echo chambers, propagating falsehoods, and facilitating the circulation of extremist ideas. It also may be shaking the very foundations of human communication and social cohesion, by substituting artificial social networks for real ones.

We are distinguished from other animals mostly by our advanced ability to learn from our community, and to accumulate expertise by observing others. Our most profound ideas and cherished notions come not in isolation or from reading books, but by being embedded in a social milieu and interacting through argumentation, education, performance, and so forth. Trusted sources play an indispensable role in this process, which is why leaders and those with bully pulpits can have such outsize effects. Earlier media innovations capitalized on this, yet none of them modified the very nature of human networks the way that social media have.

What happens when platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, or Reddit start manipulating what we perceive as our social network? The worrying truth is that nobody knows. And though we could eventually adapt to this change and find ways to neutralize its most pernicious effects, that isn't an outcome that we should count on, given the direction the industry has been heading.

Social media's most corrosive effects are starting to look exactly like what the cultural critic Neil Postman anticipated almost four decades ago in his landmark book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. "Americans no longer talk to each other, they entertain each other," he observed. "They do not exchange ideas, they exchange images. They do not argue with propositions; they argue with good looks, celebrities, and commercials."

Comparing George Orwell's 1984 to Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, Postman then added that, "What Orwell feared were those who would ban books. What Huxley feared was that there would be no reason to ban a book, for there would be no one who wanted to read one. Orwell feared those who would deprive us of information. Huxley feared those who would give us so much that we would be reduced to passivity and egoism. Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared that the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance."

Whereas Postman was worried more about a Huxleyan future than an Orwellian one, social media have been ushering in both at the same time. While governments acquire the means both to manipulate our perceptions of reality and to reduce us to passivity and egoism, our virtual "friends" are increasingly policing our thoughts. One now must continuously signal one's virtue and call out people who deviate from prevailing orthodoxy. But "virtue" is whatever one's artificial online social circle says it is; and in many cases, it is based entirely on lies.

Hannah Arendt, another prescient twentieth-century thinker, warned about where this can lead. "If everybody always lies to you, the consequence is not that you believe the lies, but rather that nobody believes anything any longer." At that point, social and political life become impossible.

Daron Acemoglu, Professor of Economics at MIT, is co-author (with James A. Robinson) of *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty (Profile, 2019)* and *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty (Penguin, 2020)*.



By Laura Tyson and Lenny Mendonca

Progressive Federalism to Combat Judicial Extremism

BERKELEY - During its last term, the US Supreme Court's conservative majority openly acted against the American people's interests and preferences on abortion rights, gun control, and climate change. And the Court's majority is now threatening further action - again in defiance of public opinion - to restrict contraception, same-sex marriage, and voting rights. Politics and theocracy have replaced legal restraint and precedent in the Court's decision-making process.

Ultimately, Congress will need to pass new legislation to restore the rights that the Court has rescinded. But with deep ideological and political divisions in both congressional chambers and procedural rules (the filibuster) requiring a 60% vote in the Senate, any such action is likely to come slowly. All is not lost, however, because US states can aggressively leverage their own constitutional powers to preserve Americans' liberties. The Tenth Amendment holds that, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

Consistent with this principle, states and even cities often cooperate with the federal government to implement national policies or to enact their own measures bolstering them. But the tenth amendment also provides the constitutional basis for states and cities to challenge or resist federal policies. Thus, in recent years, states like California and New York, and cities like San Francisco and Austin, Texas, have used "resistant federalism" to pursue policies and protect rights supported by the majority of their citizens.

On abortion, California Governor Gavin Newsom's administration has signed multi-state pacts to defend access to reproductive care, extended health-care funding to all residents (including the undocumented), eliminated co-pays for abortions, and introduced a constitutional amendment codifying the right to abortion. Similarly, Michigan citizens turned in more than 750,000 signatures in record time to put a "Reproductive Freedom for All" constitutional amendment on the November ballot, and citizens in Vermont will be voting on a similar provision.

Polling suggests that these measures command roughly 70% support and will likely pass. And voter turnout is likely to be high in many other states with contentious elections. In Kansas, a Republican-leaning state, 59% of citizens in a high-turnout vote recently rejected a proposed constitutional amendment stating that there is no right to abortion. Moreover, an analysis by Nate Cohn of the New York Times suggests that voters in "more than 40 of the 50 states" would vote the same way as the Kansas majority if given the chance (the exceptions are a few southern states, Utah, and Wyoming).

Voters are signaling that they will not tolerate the kind of theocratic extremism that Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas intends to pursue through additional new restrictions on reproductive and marriage rights. And, thanks to resistant federalism, women will be able to access abortions and reproductive-health services by traveling to states that continue to uphold these rights. Indeed, many businesses have already announced that they will cover the costs of travel for their employees from the 22 states that are committed to banning abortion.

But the availability of these services in progressive states may not help many low-income women who rely on Medicaid in their states of residence. Medicaid pays for 42% of all births in the US. Because it is a partnership between the federal government and the states, however, Medicaid depends on state as well as federal funding. Of the 12 states that have not adopted the Medicaid expansion offered under the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), all have limited post-birth maternal and childcare coverage, and seven have abortion bans.

The Supreme Court's latest ruling limiting gun-safety laws will have equally life-threatening consequences. This year alone, there have already been more than 300 mass shootings, shattering lives around the country.

Again, California has been leading on sensible gun-control measures to limit some of the damage. For more than 20 years - except for two years during the pandemic - its rate of firearm violence has fallen consistently, giving the state one of the lowest firearm mortality rates in the country. People are less likely to die from a gunshot in California than almost anywhere else in the country, and they are 25% less likely to die in a mass shooting. These figures are the direct result of legislation - including assault-weapons bans, red-flag laws, long waiting periods for gun purchases, universal background checks, mental-health reporting, and age limits - that have halved gun deaths since the early 1990s.

Even in states like Texas, many of these measures command majority support. On this issue, as on reproductive rights, the Court has shown itself to be out of step with the majority of American citizens. The answer is to leverage the underused powers that the Constitution gives to states and citizens, as a new movement of grassroots progressive federalism is already doing.

The first Progressive Era occurred in the early twentieth century and produced a host of political and economic reforms that made government at all levels more honest, more democratic, and more effective at providing opportunities for all citizens. Its overarching goals were to strengthen American democratic institutions and to spread the gains of economic progress more broadly. The same goals resonate with most Americans today, even those who distrust the federal government but continue to trust state and local officials to serve their interests.

The Supreme Court has left Americans with no alternative. In state after state, a new era of progressive federalism is now at hand.

Laura Tyson, a former chair of the President's Council of Economic Advisers during the Clinton administration, is a professor at the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, and a member of the Board of Advisers at Angeleno Group. Lenny Mendonca, Senior Partner Emeritus at McKinsey & Company, is a former chief economic and business adviser to Governor Gavin Newsom of California and chair of the California High-Speed Rail Authority.



MINISTRY OF PUBLICWORKS
ANNOUNCEMENT



The Ministry of Public Works with support from the National Road Fund Office of Liberia has received fundings from the Government of Liberia and intend to apply some towards the Supply and Delivery of hand Tools as stated below:

Item no>Description Quantity 1Hand ToolsAssorted Please find detail list and quantities in the Bidding document

The Ministry therefore invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified vendors for the supply and delivery of Hand Tools. The Ministry will apply the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures approved by the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC) as specified in the Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA)) to procure the goods which is opened to all qualified bidders meeting criteria set in the Bidding Documents.

All interested bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Unit of the Ministry Of Public Works through the following contact: : 0778-779161/0886523926/0776590486

Email: tmaxsr@yahoo.com / wolo.edward@yahoo.com.

Qualification requirements include:

Detailed qualification requirements are stipulated in the bidding documents.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Fifty United States Dollars (USD 150.00) to the Ministry of Public Works Project Account (account specified below) and can be obtained from the Ministry Of Public Works Procurement Unit.

Account Name: Ministry of Public Works Project Account

Account No: 00121322285801

Bank Name: LBDI

Bids must be delivered in a sealed envelope to the address below on or before Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 12:00 noon.

Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person on Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 12:05 noon.

All bids MUST be accompanied by the following:

- Current Liberia Business Registration Certificate
- Current Tax Clearance
- PPCC Vendor's Registration Receipt
- Articles of Incorporation
- Bid Security as specified in the Bidding Document

The address referred to above is: Max T. Jardiah

Director
Procurement Unit
Ministry of Public Works
South Lynch Street
Monrovia, Liberia
0778779161
tmaxsr@yahoo.com

Signed: _____
Head of Procurement Unit

Approved:

Starts from back page

McGill is credibly accused of involvement in a wide range of other corrupt schemes including soliciting bribes from government office seekers and misappropriating government assets for his personal gain. The U.S. indicated that McGill has used government funds allocated to other Liberian government institutions to run his own projects, made off-the-books payments in cash to senior government leaders, and organized warlords to threaten political rivals.

McGill has received an unjustified stipend from various Liberian government institutions and used his position to prevent his misappropriation from being discovered, the U.S. said.

It noted that he regularly distributes thousands of dollars in undocumented cash to other government officials for government and non-government activities. "McGill is being designated for being a foreign person who is a current government official who is responsible for or complicit in, or who has directly or indirectly engaged in, corruption, including the misappropriation of state assets, the expropriation of private assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, or bribery," the U.S. said. As for Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephus, the U.S. detailed that he has developed close relationships with suspects of criminal investigations and has received bribes from individuals in exchange for having their cases dropped. Cephus has worked behind the scenes to establish arrangements with subjects of money laundering investigations to cease investigations to personally benefit financially. According to the U.S., Cephus shields money

Sanctioned officials resign

launderers and helps clear them through the court system and has intimidated other prosecutors to quash investigations. It said Cephus has also utilized his position to hinder investigations and block the prosecution of corruption cases involving members of the government. Additionally, the U.S. said Cephus has been accused of tampering with and purposefully withholding evidence in cases involving members of opposition political parties to ensure conviction. Cephus is being designated for being a foreign person who is a current government official who is responsible for or complicit in, or who has directly or indirectly engaged in, corruption, including the misappropriation of state assets, the expropriation of private assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, or bribery. Bill Twehway on the other hand, is designated for being a foreign person who is a current government official who is responsible for or complicit in, or has directly or indirectly engaged in, corruption, including the misappropriation of state assets, the expropriation of private assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, or bribery.

The U.S. noted that Twehway orchestrated the diversion of \$1.5 million in vessel storage fee funds from the National Port Authority (NPA) into a private account. Twehway secretly formed a private company to which, through his position at the NPA, he later unilaterally awarded a contract for loading and unloading cargo at the Port of Buchanan, the U.S. stated.



Ministry of Public Works
South Lynch Street
Monrovia, Liberia



**Invitation for Bids (IFB)
International Competitive Bidding (ICB)
Roads Rehabilitation and Maintenance**

The Ministry of Public Works with support from the National Road Fund Office of Liberia has received funding from the Government of Liberia and intends to secure the services of qualified Construction Companies/ Contractors to carry out Rehabilitation and Maintenance works on various roads and Spot Repairs and Construction of Bridges throughout the country.

Rehabilitation/Maintenance of Urban Communities Roads (IFB No. MPW/NRF/W/ICB/001/22)

No.	Contract Package	Detailed Project Description	KM	Lot#	County
1.	Full Rehabilitation of Urban Road Using Low-Cost Pavement Methods	ELWA Community Road	5.0	1	Montserrado County
		Gbengbar Town Road			
		Bernards Beach Road			
		Christian Community Road (VOA)			
		Thinker's Village (Kpelle Town to Duport Road (Turing Point)	6.6	2	Montserrado County
		White House Community Road			
		1108 Bassa Town Community Road			
		Rehab Rockhole Road	6.13	3	Margibi County
		Holy City Road			
		R2 Community			
		Boyes Town Avenue Road			

		Ben's Town Estate Road	4.37	4	Montserrado County
		Boys' Town - Riverview Road			
		Wawuzu Road			
		Brewerville Community			
		Point Four Junction to New Kru Town to Tweh Farm Junction			
		Ministerial Complex Back Road to Old Road Junction (Kailando Side)	4.10	5	Montserrado County
		Shoe Factory Road			
		Topo Village Road	6.78	6	Montserrado County
		Chocolate City Junction			
		Snow Hill - Supermarket			
		LOIC Road	5.5	7	Montserrado County
		Gaye Town Road			
		New Matadi Drives & Lakpazee Zoo Roads			
		RIA to Charlesville Road	8.32	8	Montserrado County

Periodic Maintenance of Laterites Roads (Primary, Secondary, Feeder and Urban) (IFB No. MPW/NRF/W/ICB/002/22)

No.	Contract Package	Detailed Project Description	KM	Lot#	County			
2.	Periodic Maintenance of Laterite Roads	Chebokoh - Sherriken Road	65	2	Rivergee County			
		Yegboken - Nyenebo						
		Wleyaken, Wleboken - Getu - Yagbaken						
		Garquellah - Marbollenta				21	3	Bong County
		Sudan Road				20	4	Rivercess County
		Zoweinta to Dahnyee - St. John River				11	5	Bong County
		Mile 48 - Peloken				12	6	Sinoe County
		Harper Stadium Road				1.2	7	Maryland County
		Maimu - Topaikolu				24.49	8	Bong County
Tobaccota - Gbaota								
		River Gbeh - Glaro Youbo	21	9	Rivergee County			

Spots Repair/Bridge Maintenance (IFB No. MPW/NRF/W/ICB/004/22)

No.	Contract Package	Detailed Project Description	Length/depth	Lot#	County
4.	Spot Repairs / Bridge Construction	This Contract Package is to hire construction companies for spots repairs and the construction of reinforced concrete bridges:			
		Spot Repair: - Greenville Port		1	Sinoe County
		J.J. W. Johns (spot repair phase-1)		2	Sinoe County
		Gabriel Tucker & Youth Camp Bridge (spot repair)		3	Montserrado County
		Rehabilitation: - Kpayakoh Bridge & Foe River Bridge		4	Bong County

	Rehabilitation: - Joquiken Bridge	200ft	5	River Gee County
	Rehabilitation: Galayah /Mano River & Bonowalahun Bridges	170ft	6	Lofa County
	Rehabilitation: Nyedan River Bridge	62ft	7	Lofa County
	Rehabilitation: Dweyee River & Gbogh River Bridge	85ft	8	Nimba County
	Rehabilitation: Kpawekwelleh Bridge		9	Gbarpolu & Bong Counties

Installation of Street Lights (IFB No. MPW/NRF/W/ICB/005/22)

No.	Contract Package	Detailed Project Description	KM	Lot#	County
5.	Installation of Street Lights	This Contract Package is to hire construction companies for the installation of Street Lights in Communities around Monrovia and its environs			
		Old Road - Joe Bar Community, Airfield - Matadi Fiamah Road, Soul Clinic Road (new road under construction) Duport Road - Parker Paint and Parker Paint - Needzoe Road		1	Monrovia County
		Logan town - Momboe Town Road, Banjour Community Road, Logan Town Broad Street - Jamaica Road Junction and Barnerville Estate - New Georgia Road		2	Monrovia County
		Barnerville Road, Pipeline Road and Cldwell Road		3	Montserrado County
		Congo Town back road, Arch Bishop Michael Francis Road, Jallah Town Road, UN Drive - Mamba Point - Zolu Duma Bridge and Clara Town Road		4	Montserrado County

The Ministry therefore invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the implementation of the above projects. The Ministry will apply the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures approved by the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC) as specified in the Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA) to procure the works which is opened to all qualified bidders meeting criteria set in the Bidding Documents.

All interested bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Unit of the Ministry of Public Works starting September 14, 2022. **Detailed qualification requirements are stipulated in the bidding documents.**

A complete set of Bidding Document in English may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fees in the following Categories:

1. Three Hundred United States Dollars (US\$300) for Rehabilitation/Maintenance of Urban Communities Roads (IFB No. MPW/NRF/W/ICB/001/22)
2. Two Hundred United States Dollars (US\$200) Periodic Maintenance of Laterites Roads (Primary, Secondary, Feeder and Urban) (IFB No. MPW/NRF/W/ICB/002/22)
3. Two Hundred United States Dollars (\$200) Spots Repair/Bridge Maintenance (IFB No. MPW/NRF/W/ICB/004/22)
4. Two Hundred United States Dollars (\$200) Installation of Street Lights (IFB No. MPW/NRF/W/ICB/005/22)

The amounts for bidding documents can be deposited at LBDI (A/C# 00121322285801USD) in the Ministry of Public Works Project Account

Bids must be delivered in a sealed envelope to the address below on or before **Monday, October 24, 2022 at 11:00 AM in the Procurement Unit of the Ministry**. Electronic bidding **will not be permitted**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person on **Monday, October 26, 2022 at 11:15 AM**.

All bids **MUST** be accompanied by the following:

- Current Business Registration Certificate (Where applicable)
- Current Tax Clearance (Where applicable)
- PPCC Vendor's Registration Receipt (where applicable)
- Signed and notarized listing of both the legal and beneficial owners of the company
- Articles of Incorporation
- Bid Security
- CCCS (where applicable)

The address referred to above is: Max T. Jardiah, Sr.

Director
Procurement Unit
Ministry of Public Works
South Lynch Street
Monrovia, Liberia
0778779161
tmaxsr@yahoo.com

Signed: _____

Head of Procurement Unit

Approved: _____
Head of Procuring Entity



I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **SOLICITATION NO: VA-669-22-000015**
2. **ISSUANCE DATE:** Sep 9, 2022
3. **CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** September 30, 2022, 5:00 PM Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia
4. **POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
5. **POSITION TITLE:** Human Resources Assistant
6. **MARKET VALUE:** USD 24,064 - 38,498 FSN- 8
In accordance with **AIDAR Appendix J** and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value. Note that all U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff are expected to observe and fulfill all tax obligations imposed by the Government of Liberia and you will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before employment.
7. **PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** This contract will be for up to five years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.
8. **PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia.
9. **ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.
10. **SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility Access
11. **STATEMENT OF DUTIES**

Basic Function of Position

The Human Resources (HR) Assistant is a member of the Executive Office (EXO) HR team and is responsible for providing Human Resource Management support to the USAID Mission.

The HR Assistant provides clerical, administrative, and technical support for the Mission to all levels of USDH (U.S. Direct Hires), Cooperating Country National Personal Services Contractors (CCNPSC), Offshore and Resident-Hire U.S. Personal Services Contractors (USPSC) and Third Country Nationals Personal Services Contractors (TCNPSC). The job holder's responsibilities will include preparing position classification, recruitment, contract management, new employee orientation, and official personnel/contract files management. In addition, the jobholder will be expected to regularly update the position and personnel data in the Mission personnel management system etc., coordinating and managing USAID incentive and On-the-Spot Award Programs, and supporting the arrival, travel, visa and accreditation, and departure processes. The job holder prepares and submits periodic staffing patterns and staffing numbers to the U.S. Embassy and USAID Mission management as needed. The Human Resources Assistant reports to the HR Specialist (or the Executive Officer in lieu of HR Specialist) and serves as a backup for other HR staff, as needed.

Major Duties and Responsibilities

Position Classification, Recruitment, and Contract Administration

Position Classification. The HR Assistant performs the initial review of position descriptions, drafts edits, and provides feedback to stakeholders. The job holder may review position classification packages for accuracy and up to date documents. Facilitates preparation of job discussion help sheets, collects, and prepares classification package documentation for further review and submission for classification action.

Recruitment. The job holder administers segments of the recruitment process for locally and internationally-hired contract employees to include the following: a) drafts solicitations/vacancy announcements based on the most current approved and classified Position Descriptions, specifies evaluation and selection criteria, and ensures appropriate publication of solicitations and prompt distribution within USG Mission community and outside of the Mission; b) collects and reviews applications received, screens them for meeting the publicized minimum qualifications, and shortlists applications for review by the appropriate Mission Technical Evaluation Committees; c) arranges interviews and may serve as the HR representative on TEC panels; d) drafts all correspondence required under the hiring process and communicates with applicants regarding selection matters) corresponds with the selected candidate under the direction of the supervisor.

Personnel and Contract Administration: Prepares budgets, submits requisitions, drafts, and issues solicitations. Facilitates recruitment processes and advises hiring managers of contracting policies and procedures. Prepares and processes personnel and contracting actions. Monitors contract obligations, prepares funding actions, tracks periods of performance, and processes termination, closeout, and renewal actions.

Performance Management, Awards Activities, and Benefits

Performance Management: The HR Assistant ensures the performance evaluations of all CCNs are checked for completion and accomplished in a timely basis; s/he is responsible for maintaining accurate and current performance evaluation files and tracking when evaluations or reviews are due; follows through with employees and supervisors to ensure that evaluations are submitted on or before due dates, and that narratives are consistent with the official duties and responsibilities of the respective position, and ensures that annual performance evaluations for CCNs as well as work objectives for the next rating cycle are completed and submitted to the HR Office within the timeframe set by the EXO. Regularly checks the list of departing rating officers and requests interim reports, as appropriate. Responds to general questions and provides information to assist employees and/or supervisors in completing reports. Reviews completed reports to ensure accurate and thorough completion, requests/explains necessary modifications, processes completed reports and updates the database system accordingly.

Incentive Award Programs: The HR Assistant tracks the administration of nominations when submissions are requested for the Interagency Mission Award Program (IMAP), On-the-Spot, Special Act, or the USAID Incentive Awards Program. The HR Assistant provides guidance, collects award nominations; is responsible to review nominations to ensure eligibility and nomination completeness for all types of awards within the assigned portfolios and in accordance with policy, in coordination with the nominee's supervisor and nominator. The HR Assistant ensures funding availability for all nominations and submits the completed and approved nominations to the interagency awards committee or to the Bureau/Office of Administrative Management Services (AMS), as appropriate. Once awards are approved, the Assistant informs the nominee and submits the approved awards to the appropriate payroll office to facilitate cash payment processing.

Benefits Administration: Assists in the administration of compensation and benefit programs. Advises employees on applicable salary plans, allowances, benefits, entitlements, and other relevant program elements based on the employment mechanism. Tracks policy changes and implements updates to procedures accordingly.

Reporting, HR Files, Information and Data Management

Staffing and Organizational Reporting: Regularly updates the staffing reports on Human Resources Information Systems prepares and submits periodic staffing patterns, personnel numbers, and other ad-hoc HR reports for USAID Mission or Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Embassy.

Personnel Records Management: Maintains, organizes, updates, and performs close-out of Official Personnel Files (OPFs) for PSC staff and ensures their completeness, accuracy and compliance with HR and contracting content requirements and organization. Maintains, organizes, and updates a variety of other HR files and records, including subject files, chronological and historical files to ensure the maintenance of complete and accurate records. Searches files and records to extract data and/or assemble information required for various documents and/or reports or to provide information. Maintains and updates the personnel record in Agency Secure Image and Storage Tracking (ASIST) System.

Personnel Entry and Exit Support: Prepares the check-in and check-out forms for new and separating American and CCNPSC employees and TDY staff, and reviews completed actions to ensure accuracy and thoroughness, collects all necessary related documents and processes for signature by the Executive Officer and files documents accordingly. Maintains and updates the Mission's welcome orientation packets for all USDH and all offshore and locally recruited contract employees and assists with new employee orientation. Drafts and processes arrival/departure notice cables for all USDH staff.

Employee Engagement and Labor Relations (EELR)

Employment Lifecycle Management: Facilitates the full range of personnel management activities over the course of an employee's tenure, inclusive of onboarding, facilitation of employee wellness and support programs, exit interviews and out-processing actions.

Equal Employment Opportunity, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I), and Local Labor Law Compliance: Advises and serves as a resource to equal employment liaisons (EELs) and counselors (EEOCs) on relevant policies and regulations. Provides guidance and support on DE&I programs and concerns. Provides information on local labor law, practices and ensures compliance in human resource administration activities.

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

Education: Completion of Secondary Schooling and an additional two years of post-secondary studies in Human Resources, Business Administration, Management, Public Administration, or related degree is required.

Prior Work Experience: A minimum of three years of administrative, human resources, personnel assistance, public administration, or customer service-related experience is required.

Work/Residency Permit: Applicant must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia

Language Proficiency: Level IV (fluent) English language

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 interviewed. 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

Applicants who meet the minimum education and experience qualifications will be evaluated based on the content of their application as well as on the applicant's writing, presentation, and communication skills. Applicants should include their name and the announcement number at the top of each additional page. Failure to specifically address the Evaluation Factors will result in the applicant not receiving full credit for pertinent experience.

Factor #1:

In 250 words or less, outline how you have demonstrated your knowledge in Human Resources Management and Administration. Provide examples of your success in one or more of the position's responsibilities detailed above: classification, recruitment, personnel and contract administration, performance management, staffing and organization reporting, employee relations, etc.

Basis of Rating

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

Evaluation Factors 40 points

Interview Performance 60 points

Interview questions will focus on the candidate's ability to describe their experience, qualifications, accomplishments related to human resources management and personnel administration.

Total Possible Points 100 points

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line **VA-669-22-000015** Human Resources Assistant LiberiaHR@usaid.gov

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

VP Howard-Taylor wants separate AfCFTA Secretariat for Gender Mainstreaming of Women and Youth

Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor has called for the creation of the AfCFTA Secretariat for Gender Mainstreaming of women and youth, which will focus

Speaking at the conference's opening session, Madam Vice President emphasized the compelling need for a hands-on approach and collaboration necessary to

through the intra-Africa trade. She further argued that the success of AfCFTA will not be solely assessed on its impact on trade, but also, on how it has improved the development trajectory of the African continent relative to the empowerment of its women and youth.

Vice President Howard-Taylor further intimated that the provision of affordable and accessible credit to women and youth, the removal of general stereotypes to engender micro-credit facilities, and the free movement of goods and persons across Africa are amongst the most critical issues required in drawing up the final resolution for the implementation of AfCFTA as it relates to women and youth.

Madam Vice President also commended the adoption of AfCFTA which is the largest trade pact to take effect since the establishment of the World Trade Organization, covering more than a billion people across the African continent.

While in Dar Es Salaam, Vice President Howard-Taylor held discussions with His Excellency Wamkele Mene, Secretary

General of the AfCFTA Secretariat. The meeting was centered on exploring the possibilities of establishing an AfCFTA Secretariat in Liberia and the promotion of intra-Africa trade.

The Vice President therefore committed to ensuring that the Liberian Legislature ratifies the AfCFTA. Madam Vice President concluded her engagements with a meeting with Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The two leaders agreed on

the need to strengthen bilateral relations between both Nations and peoples. The meeting also captured discussions on collaboration in the areas of mining, agriculture, and tourism.

The United Republic of Tanzania gained independence in 1961. It is the largest country in East Africa and hosts the Headquarters of the Eastern Africa Community (EAC).

The Country's economy is mainly dependent on agriculture, mining, and tourism. -Dispatch



on the formulation of specific policies to enhance the empowerment of women and youth.

Madam Howard-Taylor made the call when she addressed the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) conference on women and youth scheduled in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

ensure the actualization and subsequent transformation of the lives of the largest segment of Africa's population, the women and youth.

The Liberian Vice President then commended the visionary decision of African leaders to collaborate and diversify economic acceleration

Gbarpolu elders, chiefs pledges support to CPP

A 20-member elders and Chiefs delegation from Gbarpolu County on Monday, September 10, paid a courtesy visit to the Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander B. Cummings at his office in Monrovia.

The visit was organized by Gbarpolu County Senator Daniel Naatehn, who is also Chairman of the Alternative National Congress (ANC).

The spokesperson for the Chiefs and Elders, Mr. Yarkpawolo Clan expressed gratitude to Mr. Cummings for the warmth reception accorded them and his strong desires for real change in Liberia.

Elder Clan said Liberia is at a critical junction, requiring the collective efforts of both the best qualified and competent leaders and all well-meaning citizens to restore its lost dignity, and relief thousands of Liberians going through the agonies of suffering and extreme poverty.

He said considering Mr. Cummings' vast leadership credentials and experiences and his sincere commitment to help make Liberia better,

the Chiefs, Elders and citizens of Bokomu and Gonwulala districts in Gbarpolu, pledged their support to his Presidential bid in 2023.

Responding, the CPP Standard Bearer, Mr. Alexander Cummings extended thanks and appreciations to the Elders and Chiefs for the visit and pledged of support and loyalty to his Presidential bid in 2023.

Mr. Cummings reaffirmed his sincere commitment to his agenda for change, which he said will certainly

restore the hopes of Liberians for a better and prosperous nation.

The CPP Standard Bearer said corruption and abuse of public office by President George Weah's administration has robbed the country of economic prosperity and subjected the vast majority to mass suffering and poverty.

He assured that a CPP administration will commit to correcting the past wrongs and reset a new agenda of inclusions of all Liberians aimed at achieving economic prosperity and national development.



ARTICLE

How New York Lt. Gov. Brian Benjamin's resignation offers a lesson for Liberia's public office holders

By S. Karweaye



At the beginning of April 2022, the last part of the issues that have dominated the discourse on the global stage is the resignation of Brian Benjamin as Lt. Governor of New York. Benjamin resigned on April 13, 2022, after a federal court announced charges of one count of federal program bribery, one count of honest services wire fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit those offenses, and two counts of falsification of records on April 12, 2022.

Benjamin surrendered to the FBI the same day. His case is being handled by the Southern District Court of New York. "I have accepted Brian Benjamin's resignation effective immediately," New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said on Twitter. "While the legal process plays out, it is clear to both of us that he cannot continue to serve as Lieutenant Governor." In the last few days, Benjamin, a Democrat, has come under serious pressure, while facing an investigation from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York. The Lt. Governor has come under severe criticisms from leaders of his party with many of them urging him to resign his position.

Meanwhile, Benjamin's resignation is a sharp contrast to the situation here in Liberia where public office holders, irrespective of the allegations against them, often find it difficult to resign from their positions. In Liberia, there is disregard and a glaring lack of concern about public opinion by public office holders, elected and appointed. Political watchers say that the situation has perhaps been fuelled by the refusal of the government to prosecute those who have been found wanting to serve as a deterrent. However, the situation exposes the political will to fight corruption and Liberia's weak institutional structure where impunity reigns and public officers see themselves as above the law.

Evidence bound across Liberia where several government officials enmeshed in fraud and misappropriation of public funds still occupying key offices or walking freely without prosecution. Senator Prince Johnson of Nimba County, Senator Varney Sherman of Grand Cape Mount County; Ministers of Agriculture Jeannie M. Cooper; Mrs. Davidetta Browne Lansanah as Chairman of the National Elections Commission (NEC); Kanio Bai Gbala, Vice Chairman of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC); Moseray Momoh; Deputy Director for Administration at the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC), etc.

Former President of the Liberia National Bar Association and renowned human right lawyer and presidential aspirant, a man who has helped in drafting legislation for civil service reform, local government reform, forestry reform law, jury reform, anti-press laws, code of conduct for public officials, land authority act, whistle-blower and witness protection act, Tiawan Saye Gongloe in an interview recently with Al Jazeera said corruption in Liberia is the main problem for lack of human progress and development

Français

Cummings met les Libériens en garde contre le pouvoir actuel

Le peuple a le pouvoir d'arrêter leurs souffrances massives et d'atténuer l'extrême pauvreté par la décision qu'ils prendront en choisissant des dirigeants compétents et qualifiés qui se soucient de leurs bien-être, estime le porte-drapeau de la collaboration des partis politiques (CPP), M. Alexander Cummings.

« Les fonctionnaires corrompus ont trop volé les fonds publics du peuple libérien, des fonds qui étaient normalement destinés à réparer les routes, à fournir de l'électricité fiable et de l'eau potable, à améliorer les services de santé et à assurer d'autres services sociaux essentiels qui pourraient améliorer les conditions de vie de la grande majorité », a-t-il dit.

« Pour sortir le Libéria de son triste état de dépression indésirable actuel et parvenir à la prospérité économique, les Libériens doivent voter contre le leadership du président George Weah dont le gouvernement est le plus

corrompu, selon la communauté internationale », a-t-il dit.

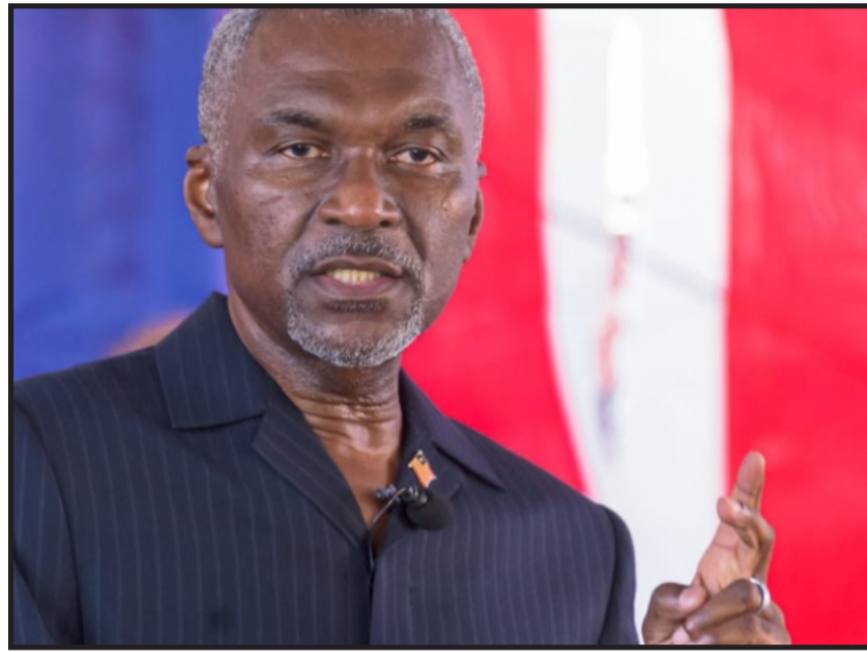
Le leader politique de la CPP a fait cette déclaration lors d'une rencontre et interaction communautaires avec des citoyens de Mount Barclay, dans le district n° 2 du comté de Montserrado, le vendredi 9 septembre 2022.

La rencontre organisée par Lofa United Women et à laquelle ont participé des centaines d'habitants de la communauté a été l'occasion de discuter et de demander des réponses à M.

Cummings sur des questions nationales critiques et son programme politique et ses programmes pour un changement réel au Libéria.

Les femmes ont parlé des difficultés économiques extrêmes, de la hausse du coût de la vie, du manque d'électricité, d'emplois et d'opportunités commerciales, ainsi que des installations médicales. Elles ont aussi parlé des routes déplorables et du défi économique

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



La Chine exhorte le Libéria à privilégier l'égalité des sexes

L'ambassadeur chinois accrédité au Libéria, REN Yisheng, a décrit l'égalité des sexes non seulement comme un droit humain fondamental, mais aussi comme un lien important pour faire jouer pleinement le potentiel humain, promouvoir le développement durable et finalement parvenir à une société pacifique.

L'ambassadeur Ren a en outre souligné que l'égalité des sexes est un lien plus

important pour parvenir à un développement inclusif et à la paix dans n'importe quel pays, ajoutant que les femmes sont des personnes au grand potentiel.

« L'esprit tel qu'il a été déclaré lors de la Conférence mondiale sur les femmes qui s'est tenue à Pékin en 1995 a entraîné des changements positifs dans le monde. Le consensus de tous les pays dans la poursuite de l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes et l'autonomisation des femmes et des filles a été de plus

en plus renforcée, les actions visant à promouvoir le développement des femmes se sont diversifiées et l'environnement de subsistance et de développement des femmes a été constamment optimisé" a expliqué le diplomate chinois à la faculté spécialisée de recherche et d'études sur le genre de l'Université du Libéria pendant le week-end.

Le vendredi 9 septembre 2022, la faculté de recherche et d'études sur le genre de l'Université du Libéria, basée sur le campus Fendell à l'extérieur de Monrovia, a organisé un événement annuel pour les parties prenantes et une journée portes ouvertes.

Le programme a été organisé sous le thème : « Développer des partenariats durables pour atteindre des objectifs stratégiques communs est extrêmement important ».

Il a réuni des étudiants du département des études de genre, des responsables gouvernementaux et des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Pure folie au parlement

Les membres du Sénat libérien semblaient avoir perdu leur bon sens en approuvant et adoptant un projet de loi portant adoption d'un régime intégré de pensions et d'avantages sociaux pour certaines catégories d'élus de la République du Libéria, s'attribuant la moitié de leur salaire actuel comme pension de re-traité.

Le projet de loi est intitulé pension et avantages sociaux intégrés de 2022. Ils veulent cet avantage pour eux-mêmes et leurs familles immédiates, tant qu'ils sont sans emploi.

Les sénateurs qui ont adopté un projet de loi aussi méchant ne sont rien d'autre que des égoïstes et des inhumains. Par leur décision, ils ont clairement démontré qu'ils ne sont dotés d'aucune qualité de leadership.

Un tel projet de loi méchant ne méritait pas de voir le jour, car à toutes fins utiles, il n'était jamais dans l'intérêt de la grande majorité, sauf des sénateurs, de leurs femmes et de leurs enfants.

Remarquez, les sénateurs, qui se sont comportés de manière si inhumaine, font la queue pour se présenter à leur peuple pour être réélus l'année prochaine. C'est dommage!

Ils se soucient très peu du peuple mais cherchent leurs votes pour se perpétuer au pouvoir. Certains terminent déjà deux mandats de neuf ans et sont à genoux pour demander un troisième mandat.

Ils ont rédigé et adopté le projet de loi pour eux-mêmes, ignorant le sort des médecins, des enseignants et des infirmières, qui font d'énormes sacrifices à travers le pays avec très peu d'incitations, voire pas du tout.

Les 30 sénateurs de Capitol Hill sont-ils plus libériens que le reste des plus de 4 millions de citoyens qui n'ont pas les privilèges dont ils jouissent en tant qu'élus ? Absolument pas. L'électorat les a élus pour rechercher leur intérêt et servir leur bien-être.

Mais ils ne le font pas. Au lieu de cela, la cupidité et l'égoïsme ont aveuglé leurs yeux et détourné leur attention. Tout ce qu'ils veulent et cherchent, c'est pour eux-mêmes.

Où sont le leadership et le service qu'ils ont promis de rendre au peuple ? Est-ce tout pour eux-mêmes et rien pour le peuple ? Tout ce qui servirait leurs désirs insatiables, sauf les gens, ils y vont, même si c'est désagréable.

Watch out for our classified Advert page

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Français

Cummings met les Libériens en

auquel elles sont confrontées pour envoyer et maintenir leurs enfants à l'école.

Cummings a attribué ces conditions économiques défavorables et le mauvais état des choses, à l'incompétence du président Weah et son manque de connaissances sur la gouvernance, affirmant que le travail de président est trop grand pour M. Weah.

Pour Cummings, le gouvernement CDC du président Weah a lamentablement échoué et c'est la pire administration, l'administration la plus incompétente et la plus corrompue de l'histoire du Libéria.

M. Cummings a promis que s'il est élu, le gouvernement de la CPP donnera la priorité au bien-être de ses citoyens en mettant fin à la corruption et en investissant massivement dans le développement de l'agriculture et des infrastructures, notamment la construction de routes améliorées, la fourniture d'électricité, d'eau potable et de meilleurs services de santé et de système scolaire.

« Le Libéria dispose d'énormes ressources qui, si elles sont gérées correctement et efficacement, peuvent garantir une vie meilleure et prospère à chaque Libérien,

sur la base de nos capacités et compétences individuelles », a-t-il dit.

Répondant aux questions sur ses contributions à l'édification de la nation, Cummings a déclaré que le Libéria est et restera toujours en tête de son agenda.

Il a évoqué ses programmes de bourses d'études et d'aide à l'éducation pour les étudiants, les fournitures médicales et l'équipement des établissements de santé en particulier lors des épidémies d'Ebola et de COVID-19, la Fondation Cummings Africa impliquée dans divers secteurs de projets de développement socio-économique d'une valeur de plusieurs millions de dollars américains.

Cummings a dit être l'un des plus grands contributeurs financiers privés pour stimuler le développement humain et national au Libéria, citant également ses nombreuses recommandations et conseils qu'il donne au gouvernement national pour assurer un fonctionnement sain de la société au Libéria.

Plus tôt, les anciens et les dirigeants communautaires de Mount Barclay, district 2, comté de Montser-rado, au nom des centaines d'habitants, ont promis leur soutien et leur engagement envers la CPP et la candidature de son porte-drapeau à la présidentielle de 2023.

La Chine exhorte le Libéria à

membres du corps diplomatique. S'exprimant sur les relations sino-libériennes, l'ambassadeur Ren a dit que les relations sino-libériennes sont présentées avec des opportunités historiques sans précédent pour une amélioration supplémentaire, ajoutant que la Chine continuera à défendre le principe de sincérité, de résultats pratiques, d'affinité et de bonne foi ainsi que la bonne approche à un plus grand bien et à des intérêts communs.

« La Chine intégrera profondément son développement à celui de l'Afrique et du Libéria en intégrant étroitement la BRI, la GDI et la GSI à l'Agenda 2063 de l'UA et à « l'Agenda en faveur des pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement » (PAPD). La Chine mettra vigoureusement en œuvre les "neuf programmes" de la huitième Conférence ministérielle du Forum sur la coopération sino-africaine", a-t-il encore assuré.

Le diplomate chinois a souligné que la Chine continuerait à renforcer la

coopération avec le Libéria dans différents domaines, notamment l'éducation et les échanges entre les peuples, à intégrer la perspective de genre et à construire ensemble une communauté de destin partagé pour les peuples des deux pays.

Il a déclaré que la Chine continuerait à soutenir les infrastructures, la recherche et le développement des ressources humaines des universités, collèges et écoles professionnelles libériennes, à renforcer la capacité de l'enseignement supérieur et professionnel du Libéria et à promouvoir les relations bilatérales amicales et la prospérité.

Citant la Chine comme exemple pour motiver le Libéria, le diplomate chinois a révélé qu'au cours de la dernière décennie, la force économique nationale de la Chine a atteint un nouveau niveau, expliquant que le volume économique total de Hhina est passé de 53,86 billions de yuans en 2012 à 114,37 billions de yuans en 2021, et que sa part dans l'économie mondiale a augmenté de 11,3 % à plus de 18 %, tandis que le PIB par habitant est passé de 6 300 USD à plus de 12 000 USD.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Daron Acemoglu

La fin des véritables réseaux sociaux

CAMBRIDGE - Non seulement plusieurs milliards d'individus à travers le monde vivent chaque jour les yeux rivés sur leur smartphone, mais les informations qu'ils consomment ont également évolué radicalement - malheureusement pas dans la bonne direction. Sur les principaux réseaux sociaux tels que Facebook, plusieurs chercheurs ont démontré que les contre-vérités se répandaient plus rapidement et plus largement que les contenus comparables formulant des informations avérées. Bien que les utilisateurs ne soient pas en demande de fausses informations, les algorithmes qui déterminent ce qu'ils visualisent ont tendance à favoriser les contenus sensationnels, inexacts et trompeurs, qui génèrent en effet de l'engagement », et par conséquent des recettes publicitaires.

Comme l'observait dès 2011 le militant d'Internet Eli Pariser, Facebook crée également des bulles de filtres, qui aboutissent à une plus grande probabilité pour les utilisateurs de se voir présenter des contenus qui renforcent leurs propres penchants idéologiques, et qui confirment leurs propres préjugés. Plusieurs études plus récentes démontrent également que ce processus exerce une influence majeure sur le type d'informations qui leur sont présentées.

Même sans tenir compte des choix algorithmiques de Facebook, l'écosystème des réseaux sociaux dans son ensemble conduit l'utilisateur à découvrir des sous-communautés qui partagent ses centres d'intérêt. Ce n'est pas nécessairement une mauvaise chose. Si vous êtes seul dans votre entourage à vous intéresser à l'ornithologie, cette solitude n'est plus un problème, car vous pouvez désormais échanger avec des amateurs d'ornithologie dans le monde entier. Le même principe s'applique évidemment aux extrémistes isolés, qui peuvent désormais utiliser les mêmes plateformes pour propager ou accéder à des discours de haine et théories du complot.

Plus personne ne le conteste, les réseaux sociaux sont devenus un canal de transmission majeur de la haine, de la désinformation et de la propagande. Reddit et YouTube sont aujourd'hui de véritables terres de l'extrémisme de droite. La milice Oath Keepers a ainsi utilisé notamment Facebook pour organiser son action le 6 janvier 2021, date de l'assaut contre le Capitole des États-Unis. De même, il a été démontré que les tweets antimusulmans de l'ancien président américain Donald Trump avaient alimenté les violences contre les minorités aux États-Unis.

Certains considèrent ces observations comme alarmistes, estimant que les acteurs majeurs tels que Facebook et YouTube (qui est détenue par Google/Alphabet) accomplissent bien davantage que leurs concurrents de moindre envergure dans la lutte contre les discours de haine et la désinformation, notamment depuis que de meilleures pratiques de modération ont été mises en place. D'autres chercheurs contestent également les conclusions selon lesquelles les contre-vérités se propageraient plus rapidement sur Facebook et Twitter par rapport à d'autres plateformes.

D'autres encore considèrent que même si l'actuel environnement des réseaux sociaux s'avère dangereux, le problème n'est que transitoire, les nouveaux outils de communication ayant toujours été dans un premier temps utilisés à mauvais escient au cours de l'histoire. Le théologien allemand Martin Luther utilisa en effet l'imprimerie pour promouvoir le protestantisme, mais également un antisémitisme virulent. De même, la radio constitua un puissant outil entre les mains de démagogues tels que le père Charles Coughlin aux États-Unis, ou entre celles des nazis en Allemagne. La presse et les organes de radiodiffusion demeurent aujourd'hui vecteurs de nombreuses contre-vérités, mais la société s'est ajustée face à ces médias, et elle est parvenue à en contenir les effets négatifs, estiment-ils.

Cet argument implique qu'en alliant renforcement des réglementations et autres technologies nouvelles, il serait possible de surmonter les difficultés que soulèvent les réseaux sociaux. Les plateformes

pourraient par exemple fournir davantage d'informations sur la provenance des articles, ou être dissuadées de booster algorithmiquement les contenus susceptibles de se révéler incendiaires ou de contenir de la désinformation.

En réalité, ces mesures échouent à appréhender la profondeur du problème. Les réseaux sociaux ne font pas que créer des caisses de résonance, propager des contre-vérités, et faciliter la circulation d'idées extrémistes. Ils risquent également de bouleverser les fondements mêmes de la communication humaine et de la cohésion sociale, en remplaçant les véritables réseaux sociaux par des réseaux sociaux artificiels.

Nous nous distinguons principalement des autres espèces animales par notre capacité avancée à apprendre de notre communauté, à accumuler un savoir en observant les autres. Nos convictions les plus profondes et nos principes les plus chers ne naissent pas de l'isolement ou de la lecture d'ouvrages, mais bien de notre appartenance à un milieu social et de nos interactions au travers de l'argumentation, de l'éducation, de l'excellence, etc. Les sources de confiance jouent un rôle indispensable dans ce processus, ce qui explique que les dirigeants politiques et tous ceux qui disposent d'une tribune puissent exercer une influence aussi considérable. Les innovations liées aux médias ont toujours capitalisé sur cela. En revanche, jamais une innovation n'avait aussi profondément modifié la nature même des réseaux humains que les réseaux sociaux actuels.

Qu'advient-il lorsque des plateformes telles que Facebook, Twitter ou Reddit commenceront à manipuler ce que nous percevons comme notre réseau social ? L'inquiétante vérité, c'est que personne ne le sait. Et même s'il est possible que nous finissions par nous adapter à ce changement, par trouver les moyens d'en neutraliser les effets les plus pernicieux, il ne semble pas que nous puissions compter sur cette évolution, sachant la direction dans laquelle s'oriente le secteur.

Les effets les plus corrosifs des réseaux sociaux commencent à ressembler précisément à ce que le critique culturel Neil Postman avait anticipé il y a près de 40 ans dans son ouvrage phare intitulé *Se distraire à en mourir*. « Les Américains ne se parlent plus les uns aux autres, ils se divertissent les uns les autres », observait-il. « Il n'échangent plus d'idées, ils échangent des images. Ils n'argumentent plus en émettant des propositions, ils argumentent au travers de l'apparence, des célébrités et des publicités. »

Comparant 1984 de George Orwell avec *Le Meilleur des mondes* d'Aldous Huxley, Postman ajoute : « Orwell craignait ceux qui interdiraient les livres. Huxley redoutait qu'il n'y ait même plus besoin d'interdire les livres, car plus personne n'aurait envie d'en lire. Orwell craignait ceux qui nous priveraient de l'information. Huxley redoutait que nous en devenions abreuvés au point d'être réduits à la passivité et à l'égoïsme. Orwell craignait que la vérité ne nous soit cachée. Huxley redoutait que la vérité ne devienne noyée dans un océan d'insouciance. »

Postman s'inquiétait davantage d'un avenir huxleyen que d'un futur orwellien. Les réseaux sociaux ont simultanément fait naître les deux. Si les gouvernements acquièrent les moyens à la fois de manipuler notre perception de la réalité et de nous réduire à la passivité ainsi qu'à l'égoïsme, nos « amis » virtuels assurent de plus en plus la police de notre pensée. Il s'agit désormais de saluer la vertu de l'un, et de condamner l'autre lorsqu'il dévie de l'orthodoxie dominante. Or, la « vertu » n'est que ce que détermine l'artificiel cercle social en ligne d'un individu, et elle est bien souvent fondée entièrement sur des mensonges.

Hannah Arendt, autre figure clairvoyante dans la pensée du XXe siècle, nous avertit sur l'issue qui risque d'en résulter. « Lorsque tout le monde vous ment en permanence, la conséquence n'est pas que vous croyez aux mensonges, mais que plus personne ne croit plus à rien. » Dès lors, toute vie sociale et politique devient impossible.

Traduit de l'anglais par Martin Morel

Daron Acemoglu, professeur d'économie au MIT, est coauteur (avec James A. Robinson) des ouvrages intitulés *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty (Profile, 2019)* et *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty (Penguin, 2020)*.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Politics

By Naneka Hoffman

It is no secret that former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai and current standard bearer of the Unity Party encountered difficulty in 2017 in naming a running mate. He eventually took the decision at the 11th hour before the poll when he named then Speaker Emmanuel Nuquay as his running mate. We are now hearing from the grapevine that the UP standard bearer is considering a female, Senator Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence as his running mate in the 2023 elections. Senator Kangar Lawrence is the suspended political leader of the divided Liberty Party.

The New Dawn asked several residents of Monrovia whether Senator Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence could be a suitable running mate for former Vice President Boakai in his tireless quest to win the nation's highest office in 2023.



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Boimah J. Clarke

"I will say no; she can't be a good candidate [running mate] and when I started hearing this in the corridor, I started feeling bad because I really thought that the former Vice President will find a suitable running mate that he will be able to win the next election. Now the issue is that Senator Nyonblee has character problem; she once wasted hot tea on Senator Saah

Joseph and besides, we understand that she doesn't control her temper. Secondly, in her stronghold, she is not really strong. Looking at the gone election, the margin between her and her contender former Minister of Foreign Affairs Gbehzohngar M. Findley, it was little bit slim, so becoming a vice standard bearer for somebody like Joseph Boakia if we will need this coming election means that the person's popularity needs to be strong when it comes to population. I want to believe that she doesn't have that kind of population to be able to make the ticket for Boakia, comes 2023."

"Senator Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence can't be a good candidate [running mate] to Ambassador Boakia, because she has given [demonstrated] some attitudes towards her colleagues at the senate. If she will be behaving like the way she behaves to her colleagues in the senate for example, wasting hot tea on Senator Saah Joseph. When there are lots of political issues, you should be mature and have a strong skin to escape some of those things or to avoid some of those questions that will come to you. But for you to be a Vice President over a country in this critical Liberia that we are in now, you should have a strong skin and it is not everything that you pay listening ears to so, I think Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence will be dumping the 'Papay' in her capacity to become a Vice President in the



Christopher W. Tarpeh

Republic of Liberia comes 2023. She will not be able to handle that position. It will be like falling apart because if Nyonblee were to become vice standard bearer to Ambassador Boakia and if they won, Senator Dillion will be having influence over her, and you see Dillion and Nyonblee's relationship is very strong; both of them are always together. So, Dillion will have his rhetorical mind put into Nyonblee and Nyonblee will manifest that through the Pa [Boakai] and get the Pa out then Dillion now will become the first man or Dillion will become the Vice President over Nyonblee, because Nyonblee and Dillion are not different. Both of them are in the same political party and their relationship is strong. So, she will not be a good candidate [running mate] in the Unity Party (UP)."

"I think to some extent she could be a good candidate [running mate] to Joseph N. Boakia, judging from the fact that she controls a vote-rich county like Grand Bassa, like portion of Margibi county where she has people who are from her ethnic background and like Rivercess. I think the female solidarity is another factor, considering that fact, but what I think could hamper her chances for that ticket is the disunity from the collaboration. Both of them could be a good pair; they could make a different, but I'm looking at the division currently among the opposition, which could hinder their chances of



Eric Palop Collins

winning. But Nyonblee is not a bad candidate when it comes to the political landscape of our country. She has the number; she has influence and the female sentiment is also important in the political process."

"For me, Senator Nyonblee can become the best running mate to Boakia. That is how I look at it. Right now, he can't take any candidate because if you look at the political arena when it comes to politics in Liberia, Nyonblee has the strengthen and she has been a very strong female advocate in the Senate over the years. She has popularity and influence in the political arena when it comes to politics in Liberia. And where she hails from, her



Delicious Asilton

county [Grand Bassa] has the number and she also has influence over her people. Secondly, she knows how to lobby so, both of them will be well suited."

Lewis Brown draws the line

Liberia's former Foreign Minister and an Executive of the National Patriotic Party (NPP), Mr. Lewis Brown has officially endorsed the Presidential bid of Mr. Alexander Cummings of the Collaborating Political Parties ahead of the 2023 elections.

country will retrogress into its dark days or progress as a nation.

"The decisions we make in 2023 about who will lead us, will also decide, at least for a generation, if our nation will rise or fall or if we will move backward or forward," Mr. Brown stated.

A former foreign minister

Liberians that 2023 will be a critical turning point in the country's 175 years, "with absolutely no excuses for our mistakes, if we elect the wrong leaders."

"Who we choose to lead us in 2023, will decide the condition of the hospitals, the quality of the educational system, our personal securities, as well as decide the prices of food, salaries of workers, and whether there will be jobs for the thousands of unemployed Liberians," Mr. Brown said.

He further warned that 2023 elections will not be the time or place to gamble the lives of Liberians and fate of the nation, but rather required sober reflection to rescue Liberia and reset how we must live with each other.

The former Liberian Ambassador to the UN said after six years of President Weah's leadership without progress, Liberians cannot afford to put the country's progress, our lives and that of our children on standby and false hopes.

The NPP Executive said he endorses Mr. Cummings, because he has the right character, temperament, integrity, and leadership credentials to move Liberia into the future we all seek and desired for ourselves and children.

According to Mr. Brown, the CPP Standard Bearer, Mr.

Cummings is an inspiration for a new mindset to reject wrongs, and motivational force for Liberians to set new standards for ourselves, aimed at making Liberia a better place for all.

"I stand with Cummings because of his boldness of vision, freshness of ideas, the courage to continue fighting, when it seems easier to surrender and the quality of leadership experience he has achieved to get things done," Mr Brown said.

The former Information Minister said its imperative that Liberians commit to changing the dysfunctional and discredited system of governance, by electing a leader to be President, rather than to re-elect a President, we hope might become a leader in 2023.

Mr. Brown described the

power of the President as extremely impactful in determining how the government performs and what it's capable of becoming and achieving, noting that it's critical as to who becomes President, Senators and Representatives in 2023. Although, he said as a member of the NPP, which is part of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change, his choice for Mr. Cummings is in the supreme interest of genuine real change, which all Liberians must embrace for the realization of the better Liberia we all seek.

Mr. Brown pleaded with Liberians of all persuasions, disregarding tribal, political and religious affiliation, to sacrifice individually and collectively to join ranks and change the direction of Liberia.



He is the second former government official from the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf regime to publicly endorse Mr. Cummings.

Mr. Brown who also served as Information Minister and Liberia's Ambassador to the UN noted cherished peace is under stress, and that the 2023 general elections will be a critical determining factor as to whether the

under the Charles Taylor's regime, Brown represented the Liberian Government and signed the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement which ushered in the interim Government headed by the late Charles Gyude Bryant ending the 14 years of brutal civil conflict here 19 years ago.

Thus, the former statesman cautioned

Starts from page 7 **How New York Lt. Gov. Brian Benjamin's resignation** in Liberia.

Gongloe had said people who steal public money are on the streets walking free and have not been prosecuted. Gongloe has unveiled a 10-point plan for "A Better Liberia Agenda" and a 12-point strategy to fight corruption in Liberia, which is chief among his plans. He believes fighting corruption in Liberia will be his biggest challenge due to the characters that he wants to purge.

Despite promises by President George Weah during his inauguration speech to make the fight against graft the priority of his administration, across Liberia there is growing discontent that the President is not doing enough to fulfill these promises amid allegations of corruption by top officials in the administration. For example, in 2021, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs and Chief of Staff to President George Weah, Nathaniel McGill. According to OFAC, "During his tenure in government, McGill has bribed business owners, received bribes from potential investors, and accepted kickbacks for steering contracts to companies in which he has an interest. McGill has manipulated public procurement processes in order to award multi-million-dollar contracts to companies in which he has ownership, including by abusing emergency procurement processes to rig contract bids. McGill is credibly accused of involvement in a wide range of other corrupt schemes including soliciting bribes from government office seekers and misappropriation of government assets for his personal gain. He has used government funds allocated to other Liberian government institutions to run his own projects, made off-the-books payments in cash to senior government leaders, and organized warlords to threaten political rivals. McGill has received an unjustified stipend from various Liberian government institutions and used his position to prevent his misappropriation from being discovered. McGill regularly distributes thousands of dollars in undocumented cash to other government officials for government and non-government activities." Those sanctioned by OFAC also include Sayma Cephus, Liberia's solicitor general and chief prosecutor, and Bill Twehway, managing director of Liberia's National Port Authority. Despite the public outcry and persecution, President Weah turned a blind eye and refused to act. Liberia should learn from the United States, our primary external partner, and respect public opinion and the rule of law. When we talk about politics & representation, the United States does better. It is, therefore, not wrong if we try as Liberians to learn from those who have gotten it right by following paths to that end. The resignation of the New York LT. Governor over allegations of bribery and wire fraud is just one of the numerous examples of people & climes who respect public opinion and fear anarchy.

It is disheartening to observe the momentum of power acquisition and the sit-tight governance system in Liberia even when there is popular dissatisfaction with the regime and clear evidence for their alleged offenses. Many public officers in Liberia, at several points, have been accused of one offense or the other, but continue their tenure or in some cases, even vied for another public position. No serious President or leader will only suspend those involved in ongoing public corruption in Liberia and wait for a month for his top officials on US sanction listing to resign. The president should have fired those officials or forced them to resign effective immediately and forward their cases to the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) and the Ministry of Justice for prosecution through due process. Neither to say no serious country will accept two current senators sanctioned under the US Global Magnitsky Act, which authorizes the U.S. government to sanction those it sees as human rights offenders, freeze their assets, and ban them from entering the United States. If We mean business, the legislative branch should have started an impeachment inquiry and impeached them since those two brought public ridicule to the national legislature locally and internationally. .

Continue Next Edition

Senate reviews controversial pension bill

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberian Senate has unanimously voted to take a second look at a controversial proposed Integrated Pension and Benefits Scheme for certain categories of Government Officials. Last week the House of Representatives rejected the controversial pension and benefit scheme after it was passed by the Liberian Senate with lucrative lifetime benefits appropriated for retired lawmakers and their families.

The Senate's move drew a public backlash especially for what many thought is their lawmaker's insensitivity to the plights of the ordinary people in seeking lifetime enjoyment for themselves while the vast majority of the population lives in poverty.

Under public pressure, the Senate says it will also review the current Pension Scheme for Civil Servants.

This follows a debate by members of the Liberian Senate on the action of their colleagues at the House of Representatives rejecting

the pension scheme.

Members of the Liberian Senate say they still believe that the rejected proposed bill crafted by the Senate has created the atmosphere to save more money for the government in the provision of pension benefits for former lawmakers than the current existing Pension Law of 2003.

The existing law requires that retired lawmakers, whether or not they have served for a term, are to benefit 50% of lawmakers' salary. The Senate said the proposed law however seeks

to save more money for the government as retired lawmakers, who served two terms to benefit 30% of the salary of the Incumbent Lawmaker and 10% for one term serving lawmakers.

The proposed legislation does not make provision for retired Lawmakers who were defeated in elections as they were not honorably retired. The Senators argued that the purpose of the law was to harmonize the 2003 Law with the current proposal consistent with the fiscal space of the current day reality in the country.



Sanctioned officials resign



Mr. McGill Cllr. Cephus Mr. Twehway

Two of the three sanctioned Liberian officials, Mr. Nathaniel F. McGill and Mr. Bill Twehway have resigned their respective positions from President George Manneh Weah's government, nearly a month after the U.S. Government sanctioned them. The Executive Mansion in Monrovia says President Weah has accepted the resignations of McGill and Twehway, but local radio stations are also reporting that the third sanction official, Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus, has also resigned.

Assets Control (OFAC) designated them for their involvement in ongoing public corruption. McGill was working as President Weah's Chief of Office Staff or Minister of State for Presidential Affairs; Twehway as Managing Director of the National Port Authority; and Cephus as Liberia's Solicitor General when the trio were sanctioned by the U.S. Government. They have claimed innocence of any acts of corruption and vowed to exonerate themselves.

Country. Announcing the sanctions last month, the U.S. Government explained that McGill during his tenure in government, bribed business owners. It said McGill received bribes from potential investors, and accepted kickbacks for steering contracts to companies in which he has an interest. The U.S. detailed that McGill has manipulated public procurement processes in order to award multi-million dollar contracts to companies in which he has ownership, including by abusing emergency procurement processes to rig contract bids. It noted that

In their letters of resignation dated September 12, 2022, the Executive Mansion says McGill and Twehway thanked President Weah for the opportunity to serve in the Government and

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