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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
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022	L\$153.1715/US\$1.00	L\$154.8210/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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VOL. 12 NO. 164 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 PRICE LD\$40.00

President Weah's headache:

-who replaces McGill, Tweahway and Cllr. Cephus?

P11

Pres. Weah Cllr. Cephus Mr. McGill Mr. Tweahway

EDC to use cash violence in 2023

-Sen. Saah Joseph

P11

Sen. Joseph

MTN MoMo

MoMo WAYSAY-WASA! BIGGER & BETTER!!

Dial *156#

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Continental News

Kenya election 2022: William Ruto sworn in as president

with 50.5% of the vote, to Mr Odinga's 48.8%.

Mr Odinga has alleged that the result was rigged, but the Supreme Court has ruled the election was free and fair.

Mr Ruto - the former deputy president - was handed a copy of Kenya's constitution and a sword

heaven. I want to thank God because a village boy has become the president of Kenya," Mr Ruto said, referring to the fact that he grew up in rural Kenya. He also had conciliatory words for Mr Odinga, and all his opponents.

"Their supporters will be my constituents. I will work with all Kenyans irrespective of who they voted for," Mr Ruto said.

There was also a handshake between the outgoing Mr Kenyatta and Mr Ruto, his former deputy with whom he fell out during their second term in office. New Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said the Ruto administration marked "freedom" for Kenya, and the days when people were targeted because of their association with him "are over".

Earlier, at least eight people were reported to have been injured in a crush as they jostled to enter the stadium to witness the ceremony. But inside the crowd was in high-spirits, with frequent cheering, waving of the Kenyan flag, and groups of people proudly wearing yellow - the colour synonymous with Mr Ruto's

campaign. About 20 heads of state from across Africa attended the event.

Religion was a persistent theme throughout the swearing in ceremony, with leaders from the Christian and Islamic faiths offering prayers for the new president. Bishop Mark Kariuki said God had showcased his might by elevating Mr Ruto, who was once a road-side chicken seller, to the presidency. Mr Kenyatta has stepped down at the end of his two terms. He backed Mr Odinga in the election, saying Mr Ruto was unworthy to serve as president. Mr Kenyatta congratulated Mr Ruto on his win only a day before his inauguration.

Mr Kenyatta said he was committed to a peaceful

transition and urged the new president to serve all Kenyans. In a statement, Mr Odinga said he had received a call from Mr Ruto inviting him to the inauguration, but that he would not attend as he was abroad and he did not believe the election was free and fair.

This is despite the fact that the Supreme Court handed down a unanimous judgment, confirming Mr Ruto's victory and dismissing Mr Odinga's concerns that the election was marred by widespread irregularities.

Mr Ruto won after portraying himself as a "hustler" who was challenging an attempt by two dynasties - the Odingas and Kenyattas - to hang on to power. He promised a "bottoms-up" approach to the economy to tackle the high unemployment rate among young people, and to improve the lives of those less well off. BBC

Tens of thousands of people cheered as William Ruto was sworn in as Kenya's president at a ceremony in the capital Nairobi following his narrow election win last month. Mr Ruto hailed it as "a moment



like no other", adding that a "village boy" had become president.

Defeated candidate Raila Odinga did not attend. He said he had "serious concerns" about his opponent's victory.

Mr Ruto won the election

to represent the transfer of power from President Uhuru Kenyatta. With his hand on a Bible, the 55-year-old swore to preserve and protect the constitution.

"Standing here today is testimony that there is God in

Zambia chief prosecutor fears for her life

Zambia's chief state prosecutor says her life is in danger after the government withdrew all her security.

Lillian Siyunyi, who was appointed by the previous government, has fallen out with the new administration and is a subject of complaints against her professional conduct at the Judicial Complaints Commission (JCC).

She has refused to appear before the JCC arguing that her constitutional oath of secrecy first needed to be lifted by President Hakainde Hichilema before she could appear before the body.

As one of highest constitutional office holders in Zambia, the Director of Public Prosecutions swears an oath of secrecy which in part reads: "I will not directly or indirectly reveal or transmit any information or matter as shall be made known to me by reason of my office except as may be required in the discharge of my duties as such or with the authority of

the president."

Ms Siyunyi told the BBC that both the president and the attorney general had denied her request.

She complained that despite the waiver being denied, the JCC had proceeded with the hearing of the complaints against her.

Ms Siyunyi added that if she responded to any of the charges against her before the lifting of her oath of secrecy, she would be

breaking the constitution and committing a crime.

"I have had to escape from home on more than three occasions" after threats from known 'operatives'."

"I am not at all saying that I am above the law but that there must be total compliance with the provisions of the constitution of Zambia which we all must uphold if we are to uphold the rule of law and protect human rights for all," she said.



Ms Siyunyi says she has had to escape from her home three times following threats

Ex-Botswana president recalls Buckingham Palace mix-up



Ian Khama retired as president in 2018

You're a president visiting Buckingham Palace and you're about to meet the Queen... only for the military officer guarding the door to announce you as president of the wrong country.

That's what happened to Ian Khama, who was introduced to the Queen, with much fanfare, as the president of Zimbabwe instead of Botswana.

He told Africa Daily's Alan Kasujja about the slightly surreal experience: "I looked at him to see, why would he do that? Why would he say that? And then I immediately looked at the Queen to see what her reaction would be."

The Queen gave no reaction at all. But as Mr Khama sat down beside her, she told him not to worry about the mix-up and explained the officer was new and probably "overwhelmed by the occasion".

"She knew I wasn't the president of Zimbabwe, she knew who I was. She made a nice, pleasant excuse for him in case I'd taken offence.

"She was that kind of person. And when you hear how the prime minister goes and briefs her each week you might think: "Is he wasting his time? Is she really up to speed with domestic and world affairs? And I can tell you she is, and she was very much aware of what was going on." BBC

Presidential spokesperson, Anthony Bwalya, has since last week not responded to a BBC query on the matter.

On Monday, Information

Minister and Chief government Spokesperson, Chushi Kasanda, referred all questions to Justice Minister Mulambo Haimbe who was contacted by the BBC but has not yet responded. BBC

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 Antara Haldar

Black Women Justices Matter

CAMBRIDGE - In an October 2013 address at the University of Cambridge Faculty of Law lecture theater, I showed students a "class photo" of the United Kingdom's Supreme Court and challenged them to "spot the difference." It wasn't a case for Sherlock Holmes: of the 11 justices, all were white, and only one was a woman - the solitary, if indomitable, Baroness Hale.

A decade later, my colleagues across the Atlantic, thankfully, do not have to play this game with their students. Three sitting Supreme Court justices are women, two are non-white, and now the United States is on the cusp of another historic judicial appointment. On March 21, US Court of Appeals Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, President Joe Biden's nominee to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, will begin her confirmation process in the US Senate. If her appointment is successful, Biden will not only have fulfilled a major campaign promise by putting the first African-American woman on the Court; he also will have acknowledged a core truth about how legal institutions should work.

Far from being a tokenistic nod to left-wing identity politics (as right-wing critics inevitably will contend), Jackson's appointment would reinforce an essential but under-theorized feature of well-functioning legal systems: affective appeal. The makeup of a country's highest court should resemble the makeup of the country.

A critical mass of public buy-in is an indispensable ingredient in an effective legal system. Yet to the extent that the psychological dimensions of law have been considered at all, the focus has been on what social scientists call the "cognitive" side - law's appeal to participants' reason - rather than on law as an "affective institution" that is capable of appealing to participants' emotions. Following psychologist Daniel Kahneman's well-known schema, legal rules and institutions need to appeal to both System Two ("slow" analytical and theoretical thinking) as well as System One ("fast" instinctive and intuitional thinking).

The wiring of our brains is a legacy of humanity's origins in small tribes and kin networks, where trust was largely limited to one's in-group. As a result, we tend to have far more immediate affective (emotional) connections to people who look "like us." Under the right conditions, however, personal trust in an in-group member can spill over to impersonal trust in a larger institution.

As linguist George Lakoff of the University of California, Berkeley, and Mark

Johnson of the University of Oregon point out, we are all symbolic thinkers. We live by metaphors. Contemporary talk of inclusive institutions and institutional diversity is not just fashionable sloganeering. Rather, it addresses a central need in any complex society. We need institutional structures that can reflect the experiences of a broad cross-section of stakeholders. The reason the Supreme Court and other key institutions should look like the country they serve is not just a matter of politics. It is important for their own proper functioning.

In a highly divided country like the US, the legal legacy of slavery and racism is not some old scar. It is an open wound, visible in practices like red lining and voter disenfranchisement, and in tragedies like the police murder of George Floyd. Under these fraught circumstances, the appointment of an African-American woman to the highest court can help to confer the institution with legitimacy in the eyes of a key, long-alienated constituency.

Jackson brings just the right mix of objectivity and empathy to the job. It is to her credit that she has been deemed simultaneously elitist, by dint of her Harvard education, but also suspect, owing to a distant uncle's incarceration for a nonviolent drug offense. She also has a long track record as a public defender - a first for the Supreme Court.

As critical legal scholars have noted for generations, legal institutions have a mixed record (at best) of delivering justice for the disenfranchised. As such, they have no right to assume their own moral authority. Rather, they need to earn it, which requires constant reinvention.

Jackson is emphatic that she does not view all legal issues through the lens of race. Even so, her nomination raises an important issue of institutional design. By including a representative of the country's most legally neglected community in one of its most highly respected institutions, the US can set an example internationally.

As in television, cinema, and comedy, faithful representation makes for better storytelling. The mosaic of perspectives introduced into a university department, a marketing department, or a police department by more diverse hiring is not just an affirmative action cliché; it provides the basis for better performance. Similarly, Jackson's appointment to a seat on the US Supreme Court is not just good politics; it provides the basis for better jurisprudence.

Antara Haldar is University Lecturer in Empirical Legal Studies at the University of Cambridge.

O-PED

By Donald P. Kaberuka

Investing in Africa's Health

KIGALI - There was a time, not so long ago, when an HIV diagnosis was a death sentence. AIDS, together with tuberculosis and malaria, killed millions of people and overwhelmed health systems worldwide - especially in Africa. But the world came together and fought back. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, established in 2002, is an unparalleled success story. Cooperation between developed and developing countries, the private sector, civil society, and affected communities has saved 44 million lives, and the combined death rate from these three diseases has been reduced by more than half.

Saving this many lives has had a huge economic impact. The Global Fund estimates that an investment of \$1 through the health programs it supports will result in \$31 in health gains and economic returns over three years. And since most of its investments are in Africa, the benefits will spread across the continent.

But the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed this rapid progress. While the death rate on the continent has not been as catastrophic as many feared, the pandemic has had a profoundly negative impact on Africa's health systems and on the fight against AIDS, TB, and malaria. Testing, diagnosis, and treatment for these diseases have been severely affected, threatening the gains made in previous decades. Worldwide deaths from malaria, for example, increased by 13% in 2020, to a level not seen since 2012. Unless things change, the gap in health and economic outcomes between Africa and the rest of the world will widen.

Overseas aid remains vital. If we are to reverse the losses created by the pandemic and continue to do lifesaving work, the Global Fund needs to meet its fundraising target of \$18 billion over the next three years. The Fund's Replenishment Conference this month will bring together representatives from donor countries, the private sector, and civil-society groups seeking to renew commitments and ensure overarching support for the fight against AIDS, TB, and malaria.

But domestic investment is also crucial for securing health sustainability, especially given the impact of recent global shocks on both advanced and emerging economies. To this end, the Global Fund supports initiatives like the African Union's African Leadership Meeting (ALM), which advocates for increased domestic resources for health.

While the Global North can look forward to the post-COVID economic recovery, Africa is still lagging behind the rest of the world in vaccine access and uptake. The continent will need more time to recover fully from the pandemic. How, then, in the face of an uncertain economic outlook - with African GDP dropping, inflation rising, and food and energy costs soaring - can governments realistically increase health spending?

While there is no silver bullet, we have identified several actions that governments can take to promote investment in the health sector.

For starters, economic recovery is a virtuous circle: GDP growth enables greater investment in health, and a healthier population is more productive. The next few years could be challenging as the longer-term consequences of the pandemic and the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine adversely affect investment and trade. But fully implementing initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) could help reduce Africa's dependency on food and fuel imports.

Another way to prop up local health systems would be to increase tax revenues. Many African governments face a significant "tax gap" - the difference between what their tax laws should, in theory, deliver and what governments manage to collect. Removing loopholes and reinforcing the efficacy of tax administration are powerful ways to make more money available for health.

Governments should also allocate more funds to public health. Very few African countries currently devote 15% of their national budgets to the health sector - the target set by the 2001 Abuja Declaration. This, in turn, impedes their ability to ramp up efforts to eradicate AIDS, TB, malaria, and other epidemics, and thus reduces their chances of achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The private sector must do its part as well, whether through corporate taxes, employer-led health insurance, or workplace health schemes. Private companies benefit enormously from a healthier population and - as we have seen during the COVID-19 pandemic - can suffer dramatic losses when infectious diseases run wild.

Of course, it is also important to make health spending more efficient. This would involve coordination between finance and health ministries. Finance ministries can support planning, budgeting, and spending by providing a clear indication of available resources over the medium term and by being responsive to changing needs, including health emergencies. Meanwhile, health ministries can design more streamlined and cost-effective public programs.

Pulling these levers requires political leadership and sustained effort. The Global Fund directly supports African communities and governments as they work to strengthen local health systems. But only a combination of international aid and domestic financing can turbocharge the efforts to eliminate AIDS, TB, and malaria by 2030. And only by ending these epidemics can we propel Africa's economies, bolster the world's defenses against future outbreaks, and free millions from the burden of disease.

OPINION

By Kevin Watkins

Schoolchildren Deserve Free Lunch

LONDON - As children across Europe and the United States start a new school year, the world's governments are gearing up for their own big education moment. At the United Nations Transforming Education Summit (September 16-19), they have a chance to tackle a global learning crisis that has been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic and rising levels of child poverty and malnutrition.

They should start by mobilizing behind an old cause with an urgent new resonance: the provision of free school meals to children who would otherwise be left too hungry to learn.

Pandemic school closures deprived hundreds of millions of children of learning opportunities. Poorer countries closed their classrooms for longer than richer countries, with 1-2 entire school years lost across much of Africa, South Asia, and Latin America. And in rich and poor countries alike, opportunities for remote learning were heavily skewed toward children in wealthier households.

With schools reopening, the scale of the learning losses triggered by school closures is coming fully to light, along with evidence of widening inequalities. Data from poorer countries point to devastating declines from already-abysmal levels. The World Bank estimates that the share of ten-year-olds who are unable to read a simple story has risen from a pre-pandemic level of 57% to over 70%. One recent study in Malawi found that seven months of school closure led to a loss of more than two years' worth of foundational learning, with children forgetting concepts mastered before lockdown.

Millions of children are now returning to school carrying the triple burden of lost learning, increased poverty, and malnutrition. Hunger was rising even before Russia's invasion of Ukraine added another inflationary twist to the global food crisis. Applying the Food and Agriculture Organization's regional estimates to Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia suggests that 179 million school-age children were living with hunger in 2021 - an increase of 35 million from 2020. In Africa's case, almost one-quarter of school-age children were suffering undernutrition.

Nor is this crisis restricted to the Global South. In the US, the number of children living in households struggling to put food on the table has increased dramatically over pre-pandemic levels, from 12 million to 18 million. In the United Kingdom, the debate about the cost-of-living crisis has focused mostly on energy prices. But food-price inflation has also squeezed household incomes and left more children hungry. The proportion of children living in food-insecure homes in the UK rose from 12% to 17% in the first quarter of 2022 alone, according to Food Foundation surveys. As heating bills and food costs rise, the UK is now facing an Autumn child hunger crisis. For poor and rich countries alike, undernutrition now represents a formidable - and fast-rising - barrier to recovery in learning. As every parent and teacher understands, hungry children struggle to learn. They are more likely to drop out of school, less likely to realize their potential, and at greater risk of being trapped in lifelong cycles of deprivation.

There is an antidote, though. Well-designed and properly financed free school-meal programs can protect children against hunger, unlocking the benefits of education. There is overwhelming evidence that school feeding can increase attendance, reduce dropout rates, and improve learning outcomes, especially for the poorest children. An evaluation of Ghana's program found that it increased average learning across the board, with children living in extreme poverty making the greatest gains - the equivalent of nine months of schooling.

The benefits of effective school-meal programs extend beyond education and across generations. India's Midday Meal scheme - the world's largest school-feeding program - has raised learning levels, partly by creating incentives to keep girls in education. Recent evidence has shown that girls covered by the MDM also married and had children later, made greater use of health services, and had children who were less likely to be stunted.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, many developing countries were expanding school-meal programs, albeit from a low base. In Africa, where around one-quarter of children were covered by such programs, governments had adopted ambitious plans for expanding access. Unfortunately, many of these plans have now been shelved, as unsustainable debt, slower growth, and reduced revenues have shrunk governments' fiscal space, weakening support for children in a moment of desperate need.

Richer countries were able to use their school-meal programs to protect vulnerable children during the pandemic. For the first time in its 75-year history, the National School Lunch Program in the US was made available to all children without means testing. And in the UK, the soccer player Marcus Rashford cajoled a reluctant government into providing meal support during school holidays. Sadly, these concessions are now being diluted or withdrawn even as hunger increases.

What's needed now is a global movement for school meals. At this month's Transforming Education Summit, governments should commit themselves to the goal of universal provision of free school meals.

For the poorest countries, reaching that goal will require international support. The School Meals Coalition estimates that \$5.8 billion per year will be needed to restore programs disrupted by COVID-19 and to expand provision to an additional 73 million children. The summit provides an opportunity for governments, aid donors, the World Bank, and other multilateral development banks to specify how they will fill the financing gaps. They should start by backing former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown's proposal for a new education financing facility.

But this summit must also be for schoolchildren vulnerable to hunger in rich countries. The Children's Defense Fund has called on US President Joe Biden's administration to follow California's example and introduce universal free school meals - an opportunity that it squandered in the new Inflation Reduction Act. In the UK, neither of the candidates to replace Boris Johnson as prime minister has mentioned child hunger as a priority, let alone set an agenda for expanding school feeding. That's despite the fact that one-in-three British school-age children living in poverty - 800,000 kids - also lack access to free school meals.

Governments and NGOs attending the Transforming Education Summit have been encouraged to "reimagine education." In the absence of clear goals, a viable strategy, and a sense of collective purpose, that looks like an invitation to another talking shop. Attendees can "reimagine" all they want. What children need and have a right to expect is bold practical action and adequate financing to alleviate hunger and make learning possible. Delivering anything less would be a travesty.



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.



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 1 Hand Tools Assorted 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: _____
Head of Procuring Entity

Families arrange for burial

-after autopsy results



By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland county

Following a daylong meeting with local authorities in Maryland county, families of late Anthony Tiaka and little Levi's Koffa have unconditionally accepted autopsy reports recently released by government and begun arrangements for interment of their deceased.

The two deceased lifeless bodies were discovered under mysterious circumstances, leading to fear and protests by group of women in the county.

Speaking after the meeting with local authorities, Kenneth Koffa, a

discovered dead in his bedroom on July 3, 2022, with bruises and gashes on his forehead, penis pierced with a sharp instrument, and bled profusely from other parts of his body, while Little Levi's Koffa, who reportedly left his parents' home for school on Monday, July 18, 2022, in Harper City but never returned, lifeless body was discovered drowned in Lake Shepherd on Wednesday, July 20th.

The Tiaka was a senior student of the Williams V.S. Tubman University, while little Levi's Koffa was a student of an elementary school, all in Harper City.



relative of the late Levi's Koffa, said though the family is not happy with the autopsy result, they have accepted and asked the local authorities to turn their son's body over for burial, which has already taken place.

Mr. Koffa said though government pathologists said there was no foul play, the autopsy report leaves room for further argument.

According to him, the autopsy findings concluded that little Koffa died from drowning, but he argued that if this were so, the body would have decayed.

"Let me say this, we just have to accept the report and go ahead with burial because the report is still questionable and we just have to go ahead with burial for peace to remain", Mr. Koffa added.

Meanwhile, similar response came from family of the late Anthony Tiaka, who has set date for their son's burial for Saturday, September 17, 2022.

The late Anthony Tiaka was

On Tuesday, August 30, 2022, government pathologists released results of two separate autopsies conducted on the remains of the deceased following their suspicious deaths respectively in July 2022.

Pathologists attribute the death of the late Student Anthony Tiaka to natural causes, while eight-year-old Levi's Koffa reportedly died as a result of drowning, the results say.

The autopsy results were signed by chief pathologist Dr. Benedict Kolee and detailed that the pathological cause of death of the late Tiaka was a result of right pain lobar pneumonia and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

Dr. Kolee said based on available evidence, the manner of death of late Anthony Tiaka was natural, while Levi's Koffa pathological cause of death was consistent with drowning, maintaining that the available evidence shows the manner of the two deaths are natural and accidental. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah vows stronger measures against tax invaders

By Lincoln G. Peters

President George Manneh Weah has threatened to take stronger measures against employers who will attempt to invade payment of

warning when he made special remarks at the Ministry of Labor's Digitization of Work Permit commissioning program held at the Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf Ministerial Complex in Congo

Toyota vehicles, and several Yamaha motor bikes.

The program aims at upgrading from the manual to digital system while the logistical equipment will enable effective service.

It is a five - year project between the government and CETIS Graphic and Documentation.

It provides for an upfront delivery of over US\$5m of ultra-modern electronic equipment as well as pickups, jeeps, and 35 Yamaha motor bikes.

The contract also covered supply of fuel, maintenance and insurance of all equipment and vehicles as well as salary and daily alliance for the entire five year duration of the project.

During the program, President Weah urged that these policies must be adhered to without compromise while they seek to increase revenue for greater efficiency in the work permit regime.

He assured that the government will not compromise the rights of citizens in employment opportunities.

Additionally, President Weah said he wants to see gender equity in employment in both the public and private sector.



government taxes or infringe on Liberian workers' rights.

"We will not hesitate to take stronger measures against any employers who attempt to invade the payment of government taxes or who will try to infringe on the rights of workers," he said Tuesday, 13 September 2022.

President Weah gave the

Town.

He said as a responsible government, they also have the duty to ensure that investors are treated fairly in their relationship with the government and their employees.

The Ministry of Labor on Tuesday launched the digitization of Work Permits and commissioned over nine

Duala market women bless businessman Assad Fadel

The Progressive Market Women Association of Liberia has hailed the Chief Executive Officer of Mano Manufacturing Company (MANCO) Mr. Assad Fadel for what they termed his impactful contributions to the transformation of the business sector here.

Mano Manufacturing Company is involved in production of detergents and other products sold on the Liberian market.

The Chairlady of the Progressive Market Women Association, Madam Ada Oha said their decision to honor Mr. Adel is also based on his continued efforts to improve lives of Liberians.

The women's recognition of Mr. Assad Fadel, who is also coach for Might Barrolle Sports Association was triggered by the level of support his company has provided to market women in the country, especially on Bushrod Island, where the factory is located.

"We have called [Mr.] Fadel to appreciate him for the numerous contributions he has made to our nation

and individual lives," Madam Oha said.

She narrated that marketers are fully supporting their families through products produced by Mano Manufacturing Company that are on the Liberian market.

"We are all business people; we have always been seeking to see someone like you among us," she added.

The PMWA chairlady recounted that during the Ebola pandemic in 2013, the

company stood with the people of Liberia by keeping its products on the market.

At same time, she appealed to Mr. Fadel for support to complete an ongoing building project at the newly constructed Duala Market by President George Weah.

Mr. Fadel agreed to complete roofing of an annex to the market building that has an estimated cost over US\$5,000 (five thousand United States Dollars). *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



He said his government is committed to providing adequate employment for Liberians who are qualified, competent, and available to work.

He stressed that his government takes seriously the protection of workers' rights throughout the country.

"This government takes seriously the protection of workers' rights throughout Liberia and adequate employment for our people who are qualified, competent, and available to work," he noted.

"It's against this backdrop that I, as the president of Liberia, now have the distinguished honor to officially commission this project," he said.

He congratulated the CETIS Graphic and Documentation service, the Ministry of Labor and the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC) for the milestone achievement.

He committed his government's support to this project.

Also speaking, Labor Minister Cllr. Charles Gibson said the project was birthed out of the

need to first determine the status of Liberia's labor market.

Minister Gibson noted that in 2018, the government commissioned a study and discovered that the Work Permit could generate more money if it moves from manual to digital.

"We went through a lot of processes to get this done following the PPCC process and eventually we came out with these, CETIS for the labor work permit and another Contact Global for the immigration resident permit," he said.

He noted that Liberia is the only African country that is still using the manual work permit system.

According to Minister Gibson, the innovation will not only improve efficiency, but it will increase revenue and provide new employment opportunities and enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Labor to protect and defend the rights of workers in Liberia.

"This equipment will enable the Ministry of Labor's work permit regime of the government throughout the country," he said. *--Edited by Winston W. Parley*

CENTAL calls for more pressure on Weah government



By Lewis S. Teh

The Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia or CENTAL, has called on the United States government and the international community to mount more diplomatic pressure on the Weah administration to ensure the immediate prosecution of the three corrupt officials, who resigned on Monday, 12 September.

"CENTAL calls on the US Government and the International Community to mount the needed diplomatic pressure on the Weah-led Government to ensure the immediate prosecution of the sanctioned officials and all those recommended to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) in the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC)'s investigative report", the Center says.

Executive Director Anderson

Maimen made the call Tuesday, September 13, 2022 while addressing a news conference in Monrovia following the resignation of suspended officials Nathaniel Farlo McGill, Bill Tweahway and Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephas on Monday.

Mr. Maimen stressed that the LACC's investigative report covered different corruption scandals and incidences, largely involving high-ranking officials of the government, saying "We call on the Liberian people to stand up and demand accountability of their leaders, as this will help to give the international community the necessary motivation to continue supporting integrity building and anti-corruption efforts in the country."

The three suspended officials tendered in their letters of resignation from the various positions, after they were named and sanctioned by the U.S.

Français

Présidentielle 2023 : Lewis Brown promet son soutien à Cummings

L'ancien ministre libérien des Affaires étrangères et membre du Parti national patriotique (NPP), M. Lewis Brown, a officiellement apporté son soutien à la candidature de l'opposant M. Alexander Cummings, leader politique de la Collaboration des Partis Politiques (CPP), aux élections de 2023.

Il est le deuxième ancien fonctionnaire du régime d'Ellen Johnson Sirleaf à soutenir publiquement M. Cummings.

M. Brown, qui fut également ministre de l'Information et ambassadeur du Libéria auprès de l'ONU, a fait croire que la paix est sous pression et que les élections générales de 2023 seront un facteur déterminant quant à l'avenir proche du pays.

« Les décisions que nous prendrons en 2023 concernant celui qui nous dirigera décideront également, au moins pour une génération, si notre nation montera ou descendra ou si nous reculerons ou

avancerons », a déclaré M. Brown.

L'ancien ministre des Affaires étrangères sous le régime de Charles Taylor, Brown, a représenté le gouvernement libérien et a signé l'Accord de paix global d'Accra qui a vu l'installation d'un gouvernement intérimaire dirigé par feu Charles Gyude Bryant et mis officiellement fin aux 14 années de guerre civile brutale.

A l'ancien homme d'État d'avertir les Libériens que 2023

sera un tournant décisif pour le pays. « Nous serons sans aucune excuse si nous continuons de commettre l'erreur d'élire de mauvais dirigeants ».

« Qui nous choisissons pour nous diriger en 2023 décidera de l'état des hôpitaux, de la qualité du système éducatif, de nos sécurités personnelles, ainsi que des prix des denrées alimentaires, des salaires des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Le Sénat réexamine le projet de loi controversé sur les retraites

Le Sénat libérien a voté à l'unanimité pour réexaminer une proposition controversée de régime intégré de retraite et d'avantages sociaux pour certaines catégories d'agents d'État.

La semaine dernière, la Chambre des représentants a rejeté le régime controversé de retraite et d'avantages sociaux après son adoption par le Sénat libérien avec des

avantages lucratifs à vie pour les législateurs à la retraite et leurs familles.

La décision du Sénat a suscité un contrecoup public, beaucoup dénonçant une insensibilité de leurs législateurs à la situation difficile des gens ordinaires et les accusant de ne rechercher du plaisir de vivre que pour eux-mêmes pendant que la grande majorité de la population vit dans la pauvreté.

Sous la pression de l'opinion

publique, le Sénat a décidé de revoir également l'actuel régime de retraite des fonctionnaires.

Cela fait suite à un débat des membres du Sénat libérien sur l'action de leurs collègues de la Chambre des représentants qui ont rejeté le projet de loi sur le régime de retraite qu'ils avaient proposé.

Les membres du Sénat libérien se disent convaincus que le projet de loi rejeté allait créer une atmosphère qui permettrait au gouvernement de faire des économies dans le cadre des pensions de retraite des anciens législateurs.

La loi en vigueur exige que les législateurs à la retraite, qu'ils aient ou non exercé un mandat, doivent bénéficier de 50 % du salaire de législateur.

Le Sénat a déclaré que le projet de loi visait cependant à économiser plus d'argent pour le gouvernement en tant que législateurs à la retraite, qui ont servi deux

▶ 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.

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Français

Présidentielle 2023 : Lewis Brown

travailleurs et s'il y aura des emplois pour les milliers de Libériens au chômage », a déclaré M. Brown.

Il a en outre averti que les élections de 2023 ne seraient ni le moment ni le lieu de jouer avec la vie des Libériens et avec le sort de la nation. « C'est plutôt l'occasion d'une réflexion sobre pour sauver le Libéria et réinitialiser la façon dont nous devons vivre les uns avec les autres ».

L'ancien ambassadeur du Libéria à l'ONU a déclaré qu'après six ans de leadership du président Weah il n'y a eu aucun progrès. Ainsi appelle-t-il les Libériens à ne pas reléguer le progrès du pays au second plan.

Pour lui, M. Cummings a le caractère, le tempérament, l'intégrité et les qualités nécessaires d'un bon leader pour faire avancer le Libéria vers un avenir meilleur et radieux aussi bien pour la génération actuelle que pour les générations futures.

Selon M. Brown, le porte-drapeau de la CPP est une source d'inspiration pour un nouvel état d'esprit pour rejeter les torts. C'est aussi une force de motivation pour les Libériens qui veulent établir de nouvelles normes pour eux-mêmes, lesquelles normes visent à faire du Libéria un meilleur endroit pour tous.

« Je soutiens Cummings en raison de son audace de vision, de la fraîcheur de ses

idées, du courage de continuer à se battre, alors qu'il semble plus facile de se rendre, et de la qualité de l'expérience de leadership qu'il a acquise pour faire avancer les choses », a déclaré M. Brown.

Pour l'ancien ministre de l'Information, il est impératif que les Libériens s'engagent à changer le système de gouvernance dysfonctionnel et discrédité, en élisant un dirigeant à la présidence, plutôt que de réélire un président, qui, nous l'espérons, pourrait devenir un dirigeant en 2023 ».

M. Brown a décrit le pouvoir du président comme extrêmement influent pour déterminer comment le gouvernement fonctionne et ce qu'il est capable de devenir et de réaliser, notant qu'il est essentiel de savoir qui devient président, sénateurs et représentants en 2023.

Bien qu'il soit membre du NPP, qui fait partie de la coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir, M. Brown a porté son choix sur M. Cummings, ce, selon lui, dans l'intérêt suprême d'un véritable changement réel, que tous les Libériens doivent adopter pour la réalisation d'un Libéria meilleur.

M. Brown a supplié les Libériens de toutes obédiences, sans tenir compte de l'affiliation tribale, politique et religieuse, de se sacrifier individuellement et collectivement pour rejoindre les rangs et changer la direction du Libéria.

à la retraite.

Les sénateurs ont fait valoir que le but de la loi était d'harmoniser la loi de 2003 avec la proposition actuelle afin qu'elle soit compatible avec l'espace fiscal de la réalité actuelle dans le pays.

COMMENTAIRE

par Antara Haldar

Pourquoi obéissons-nous à la loi ?

CAMBRIDGE - L'approbation par le Sénat américain de la nomination de Ketanji Jackson au poste de juge à la Cour suprême américaine a été saluée comme une avancée pour les Américains noirs et les autres minorités, ainsi que pour les femmes et les mères, les avocats commis d'office, et même pour ceux qui ont fait leurs études à l'école publique. Néanmoins, le plus grand gagnant, c'est la Cour suprême elle-même.

Selon un sondage Gallup, une majorité d'Américains désapprouve la manière dont la Cour suprême s'acquitte de sa tâche. La confiance dans cette institution ayant chuté de 62% à 40% entre 2000 et 2021, les universitaires et les politistes alertent quant à une crise possible de sa légitimité. Cependant, l'opinion publique approuve à 66% la nomination de Ketanji Jackson - le taux le plus élevé depuis une décennie pour une nomination à la Cour suprême.

Même si l'on ne considère pas la Cour comme une institution "populaire", sa perception par l'opinion publique a toute son importance, car elle soulève une question accompagnée d'un mystère, une question et un mystère auxquels s'attaquent depuis des siècles les philosophes du droit : pourquoi obéit-on à la loi ? On pourrait encore formuler cette question autrement : à quoi tient l'autorité de la loi et des institutions juridiques ?

Dans la conception du droit naturel de Thomas d'Aquin, le droit était confondu avec la religion et tirait donc son autorité de la même source que les dogmes religieux : Dieu. Mais la question devient plus délicate dans un contexte laïc. Selon les positivistes du droit (la conception la plus largement partagée), c'est le "pedigree", l'origine institutionnelle de la loi, qui lui confère sa force et la place au-dessus des règles et des normes. Mais cet argument soulève un problème analogue à celui de la poule et de l'œuf, car reste la question de savoir d'où une institution tient son autorité juridique, si ce n'est de la loi.

Les positivistes du droit concèdent que leur explication nécessite un "point de vue interne". Ainsi, quelle que soit la théorie du droit à laquelle on adhère, un élément psychologique sous-tend toujours le fonctionnement d'un système juridique. Le fonctionnement d'une institution dans la durée repose sur le soutien d'un nombre suffisant de citoyens. La confiance de l'opinion publique - ou la popularité - s'avère donc être au cœur même de l'état de droit.

En théorie, la moralité (obéir à la loi est une obligation morale), la coercition (obéir à la loi par peur des conséquences si on ne le fait pas) ou le simple conformisme (se plier à la loi sans se poser de question, parce que c'est la norme) confortent le "point de vue interne" des positivistes. Mais comme l'affirme Tom R. Tyler de la faculté de droit de Yale, le respect de la loi et de ses institutions est une motivation bien plus forte que la peur de la punition. Tyler montre comment nous pouvons passer du simple respect de la loi (éviter de l'enfreindre, peut-être à contre-cœur) à une culture de coopération (dans laquelle les citoyens sont motivés pour participer à la société et reconnaissent ses institutions juridiques).

Pour remplir sa mission, une institution chargée de faire respecter l'état de droit ne peut faire abstraction du contexte dans lequel elle opère et des antécédents cognitifs de ses membres. Autrement dit, la Cour suprême doit s'adapter aux réalités sociales, politiques et démographiques

changeantes du pays et prendre en compte la diversité en constant remaniement des points de vue sur le monde et des vécus au sein de la population.

C'est pourquoi la nomination de Ketanji Jackson pourrait relancer la confiance déclinante à l'égard de la Cour suprême. Des études montrent qu'une meilleure représentation des Américains noirs au sein de cette institution accroît sa légitimité aux yeux de cette partie de la population.

La philosophe Martha C. Nussbaum explique que les émotions de nature politique sont essentielles à la cohésion d'une société. De même, le maintien de l'état de droit dépend des émotions de nature juridique - par exemple le sentiment que la lettre et l'esprit de la loi sont conformes à cet objectif.

La transformation Ruth Bader Ginsburg, de simple professeur de droit de l'université Rutgers en une célébrité (RBG) quand elle est devenue juge à la Cour suprême illustre cette idée. Sa popularité a accru la légitimité du système judiciaire américain aux yeux de nombreux citoyens qui sans cela seraient restés indifférents à la force contraignante de la loi.

Le but de la loi n'est pas de nous terroriser pour que nous obéissions, mais plutôt de nous inciter à devenir des citoyens engagés et actifs. Dans la mesure où elle a frappé l'imagination de l'opinion publique, l'arrivée de Ketanji Jackson à la Cour suprême pourrait renforcer le soutien des citoyens envers l'institution judiciaire - un facteur clé pour le respect de la loi.

Le saccage du Capitole américain le 6 janvier 2021 est le triste rappel de la fragilité intrinsèque des institutions et des normes. De l'autre côté de l'Atlantique, la violation flagrante de la réglementation sanitaire relative au COVID par le Premier ministre Boris Johnson (alors qu'elle a étouffé la vie des Britanniques) et la désinvolture dont il a fait preuve ont fragilisé le gouvernement britannique. Jusqu'à présent, l'indignation publique est dirigée contre Johnson - mais la colère pourrait facilement se transformer en désenchantement à l'égard de la loi elle-même.

Pour en revenir aux USA, ce n'est pas seulement le cirque politique qu'est devenu le processus d'approbation de ses membres qui a affaibli la Cour suprême, mais aussi ses propres décisions, de plus en plus partisans depuis quelques années. Les conservateurs américains clament fréquemment leur attachement à l'état de droit. Pourtant, avec seulement 3 sénateurs républicains qui ont approuvé la nomination de Ketanji Jackson malgré son extraordinaire popularité, les conservateurs savent une institution qu'ils disent tenir pour sacrée.

Ainsi que la juge Jackson l'a formulé après la confirmation de sa nomination, "Il a fallu attendre 232 ans et 115 nominations, pour qu'une femme noire soit nommée à la Cour suprême des USA, mais nous y sommes arrivés." Je dirais que le "nous" qu'elle utilise peut s'appliquer à l'ensemble de l'institution judiciaire américaine. Sa nomination n'est pas seulement une victoire méritée de longue date pour les minorités, elle symbolise aussi le début d'un changement de paradigme pour la majorité. Ketanji Jackson n'est pas seulement une femme noire qui a réussi un exploit. Elle est aussi une Américaine à 100% qui aurait dû être traitée comme telle depuis longtemps.

Certes, nous n'avons pas entièrement répondu à la question de savoir pourquoi nous obéissons à la loi. Néanmoins la nomination de Ketanji Jackson à la Cour suprême constitue une raison supplémentaire majeure pour respecter la loi.

Le Sénat réexamine le projet de

mandats pour bénéficier de 30% du salaire du législateur sortant et de 10% pour un mandat de législateur.

Le projet de loi ne prévoit pas de dispositions pour les législateurs qui ont été défaits aux élections car ils n'ont pas été honorablement

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Liberian Lawmakers are Eating the Country's Wealth

By S. Karweaye

Recently, the Liberian Senate passed the controversial pension and retirement bill for the legislature. Amid public outcry and condemnation that greeted the passage of the controversial pension and retirement bill, our Senators on September 8, 2022, made a dramatic U-turn to recall the instrument from the House of Representatives where it was sent for their concurrence as per legislative proceedings to reopen a new debate taking into account the existing pension and retirement scheme in force and the prevailing economic reality in the country.

The bill titled "An Act Adopting An Integrated Pension and Benefits Scheme for certain categories of officials of an annuity of the Government of Liberia and to repeal and or amend certain portions of Title 19, Legislative Act, Title 12, Executive Law of Liberia and Title 17, the Judiciary Law(1972) as amended 2003, was crafted to give bumper retirement and pension packages to top echelons in the three branches of government including members of the national legislature, and some other judges of selected categories of courts within the judiciary, etc. The bill proposed in clear terms what each of the top officials in the government will receive upon leaving public service and being in private life without any other form of employment will receive salaries and will continue to receive the benefits throughout their lives until death and in case of the death, their surviving spouses and or children will receive benefits until they are 21 years of age.

Why must taxpayers give the legislature and other bodies lifetime pensions? When public office holders enjoyed more than enough from the lean public purse. Readers of this article will agree that this is the most self-centred provision for people who have been benefiting from the public fund to continue now permanently to burden Liberia. This is at the expense of the deteriorating economy, lack of commensurate wages to hardworking Liberians, and also the expense of social services Liberians should be enjoying. These people should fear God and be fair to Liberia. Elective positions are meant to serve the people as seen in other countries, but in Liberia, it is seen as an avenue to milk Liberians dry.

This is unfair! Does our legislature know if this will increase the cost of governance? It will likely consume a huge amount of money and increase the cost of governance and an increase in the cost of governance will likely lead to deficit spending for the country. All of these are recurrent expenditures. If we look at the pension system in Liberia, some pensioners (teachers, health workers, police, immigration officers, military personnel, etc.) who have given a lot to public service and contributed a lot in terms of their pension are not able to get their pension when due. Yet, the lawmakers instead of coming to the aid of these people are pursuing life pensions for themselves. Liberia's democracy is not the government of the people for the people by the people. It is the government of the politician for the politician and by the politician.

In September 2019, a Liberian Senator, Darius

Dillion told a press conference on Capitol Hill that each senator makes a gross salary of US\$15,325 plus LD29,700 as basic salary with US\$3,175 for transportation reimbursement. Additionally, he said each senator makes US\$2,150 cash for gasoline, concluding that each of them walks away with about US\$12,000 after tax deductions. While a Liberian Senator earned US\$183,900 gross salary the American Senator, for instance, only earns 174,000 annually (including bonuses). The controversy that Dillion's disclosure generated only lasted a short while despite the clear absurdity surrounding the monetary compensation of lawmakers. Since it has gone unaddressed for a long time, many lawmakers are notorious for splashing these monies on political campaigns, which has become unhealthy in the country. It has given a convenient room for excess waste in government and deadly politics of interest. But until the procedures for electing lawmakers are changed, bad outcomes like electoral violence, corruption, and maladministration will continue to cripple Liberia's democracy.



oversight by the judiciary or executive on their financial activities. This is why they go to any length necessary to get elected. Imagine in the 2020/2021 national budget, the national legislature appropriated US\$44.6 million to themselves including US\$3.6 million for the so-called Legislative Engagement Fund with Senator and Representative taking home US\$30,000 each. In the 2022 budget, the legislature appropriated US\$64.3 million to include US\$3.6 million for the so-called Legislative Engagement and Public Accessibility, purchase of new official vehicles (US\$4.6 million), operational expenses (US\$18.7 million), gas for vehicles (US\$3.1), and legislative committee hearings (US\$729,000). The number of allowances received differs across ranks, with the Speaker (US\$2 million), Deputy Speaker (US\$1.5 million), Senate Pro Tempore (US\$2.1 million), etc.

But Liberia must make political offices less attractive in the first place. Cutting the allowances and salaries of these lawmakers by half should be the first step. It will not only deter future aspirants from spending heavily on elections since it will now be difficult to recoup any monies from the public treasury, but it is a way of saving the government some money, too. Despite the desperation to retain power at all costs, Liberian lawmakers have now entrusted their political ambitions with looting the national coffer through budgetary allocation, kickbacks on committees, etc., and using ill-gotten wealth during the election period to sway voters. The consequence of this, of course, is the massive looting of the public treasury after winning elections. This has created a chain of corruption that now seems unsolvable, especially as it is taking more dangerous roots in politics. This is why some are calling for an increment in registration fees for legislative and presidential candidates.

Campaign Spendings

Liberian politicians especially those in government spend heavily on political campaigns. Most—if not all of these campaigns—do not entail feasible manifestos that would address critical issues facing the electorates. Instead, they are fronts for slanderous shaming of opposition candidates and their parties. They go all out lavishing money on bribing local leaders and influential electorates and believe there will be enough resources for them to recoup when in office. For these politicians, it's a financial investment. Even as Article 8.3 of the NEC campaign Finance regulations (2016) states that "political parties and candidates shall not utilize public resources for campaign activities and shall not receive any contribution resulting from an abuse of state resources," Candidates in government or from the ruling party typically utilize public resources for campaign activities. There has not been appropriate sanctioning of violators and neither has the National Election Commission (NEC) created realistic measures to check this violation which is sharply linked to electoral violence.

The Inappropriate

Public Looting

When elected, these lawmakers do not only go home with fat paychecks, but they have glorious opportunities to embezzle national resources at different committee levels because of the lack of transparency with which the House of Senate and the House of Representatives operate. They focus on personal interests above the interest of their constituents, and there is often little to zero

Transparency Becomes Difficult

The Liberian Legislature has a lot of power to make laws to suit her personal interests. Where the executive does not cooperate according to Article 35(1), the Liberian constitution allows lawmakers to re-pass a bill rejected by the President and upon achieving a two-thirds majority, the House can pass such a bill into law. Despite calls to the National Legislature for more transparency, legislators have refused to allow any. If not for Senator Dillion's revelations, Liberians would only live in speculation of how much their elected representatives truly earn.

Honestly, Liberian legislators are less concerned with the cost they incur in public service even though about 2.3 million of the 5.3 million citizens live in extreme poverty. Monies that can be used to help fight economic hardship through infrastructural development, especially in education, health, housing, and agriculture, are squandered. Whereas, cutting the salaries of legislators could influence salary cuts for executive officeholders and civil servant level, too. If this happens, it will help Liberia fight corruption and the money saved from excessive pay can be diverted into infrastructure.

President Weah's headache:

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

President George Manneh Weah has a tough task at hand in naming replacements for three sanctioned officials, who resigned here on Monday, 12 September under pressure.

The trio include suspended Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel Falo McGill;

involvement in ongoing public corruption in Liberia. "These officials are designated pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13818, which builds upon and implements the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act and targets perpetrators of serious human rights abuse and corruption around the

Liberian officials to be designated by the U.S. government for corruption and other acts of impropriety, Nathaniel McGill, Bill Tweahway and Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephas presented their letters of resignation yesterday, leaving the President with the headache of naming new persons to those offices.

Among the three, ex-Minister McGill and Bill Tweahway are confidantes of President Weah, so much so that the former was dubbed as 'Prime Minister' of the government.

However, records have shown that nominations coming from the Executive Mansion do not meet public approval, including the Liberian Senate especially, with the President's choices for Justice Minister immediately after he came to power, his recent nominee to the Liberia Airport Authority and elsewhere, bordering on integrity and qualification issues.

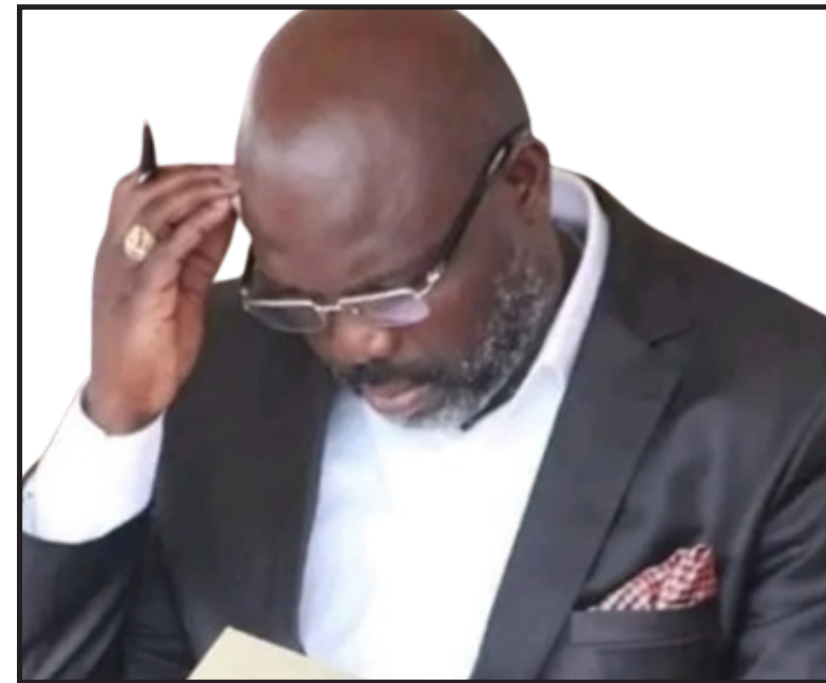
Since Monday, the social media has been flooded with names like current Maritime Commissioner, Lenn Eugene Nagbe, Special Presidential Envoy, Dr. Laurance K. Bropleh, and Commerce Minister Mawine Diggs, among others to replace McGill at the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs.

Another suggested name for

the prestigious office is current Foreign Minister Dee Maxwell Kemayah, but with the terrible diplomatic scandal surrounding the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he may automatically be out of the President's list of new nominees.

It is important that President Weah nominates somebody who will not limit his government's

influence internationally by commission or omission. In the early years of the government, Eugene Nagbe and two other famous ministers were on a famous picture which flooded the Internet and was interpreted as saying to all those in opposition to shut up and allow them catch their fun. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



suspended Managing Director of the National Port Authority (NPA) Bill Tweahway, and suspended Solicitor General Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephas.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated them in mid-August for their

world", a press release issued from Washington, DC, by the U.S. Treasury Department on August 15, 2022 said.

President Weah immediately suspended the three officials indefinitely amid public outcry for their dismissal.

But with hints of more

Starts from back page

Senate frowns on

Bong County says he is not in the know of the National Elections Commission awarding the contract to a Chinese company. He said as chairman of the committee, he has oversight responsibility over NEC and he should be in the know.

Senator Jonathan L. Kaipay of Grand Bassa County said that the issue is a critical one and it needs to be handled carefully.

Senator Kaipay then moved that though the Senate was to close on Tuesday, September 13,

they should extend to a day or two to invite NEC, political parties and other relevant authorities to discuss the matter.

In this light, the Senate has extended their closing to Friday September 15, and has cited the NEC and other authorities to appear before the Senate that will turn into a committee of a whole to thoroughly address concerns raised against the biometric voting system, the first in Liberia. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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CENTAL calls for more pressure

government through the department of treasury for ongoing public corruption in Liberia.

But reacting to the resignation, the CENTAL executive director said his institution wholeheartedly welcomes the decision of the suspended officials to resign and call on them to immediately declared their various assets, incomes and liabilities, as they exit government.

According to him, declaring of their assets, income and liabilities is in line with Part 10 of the code of conduct for public officials that requires them to declare their assets, income and liabilities prior to their entry into government, or being promoted and upon departing government.

"CENTAL is calling on the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission or LACC to legally

ensure that they fully comply with this provision of the code of conduct which is an important anti-corruption and accountability instrument."

Mr. Maimen pointed out that immediate investigation and prosecution of the officials will somehow signal a revival of the President's weak stance against corruption.

He said such actions will also boost different efforts being exerted by stakeholders and the international community, including the United States Government in the anti-corruption space and give the needed push for full compliance and adherence to the rule of law and the principles of democracy and good governance, including integrity, accountability, transparency, and justice, among others. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

CDC to use cash violence in 2023

By Lincoln G. Peters

Ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Senator Saah H. Joseph has suggested that the ruling CDC will use cash violence to win the 2023 presidential election. He claims the party has deposited huge amounts of money for a one - round victory in 2023.

"We should be able to use money for [the] second round to do development. We are trying our ... best to make the difference," said Senator Joseph on the Spoon Midnight Show Monday, 12 September 2022.

On the CDC ticket, incumbent President George Manneh Weah is expected to battle opposition leaders in next year's elections in his quest to secure a second six years presidential term.

Saah Joseph, the CDC's Senator for Montserrado County, did not say where the ruling party has allegedly deposited the 'huge cash,' neither did he say how much is the money deposited so far for the campaign.

He told the Spoon Mid Night Conversation that he is leading the one round victory

for the re-election of President Weah.

The Montserrado Senator said they will make sure that the CDC - led government gets re-elected.

He said there are lots of finances going toward this second round, and his responsibility as Senator of Montserrado County is to generate the votes by talking to the people and making them understand the reality on the ground.

According to him, they are not just going for a victory in 2023, but they are going for a one round

victory.

Meanwhile, Senator Joseph has termed Amb. Lewis G. Brown's endorsement of Mr. Alexander B. Cummings' presidential bid as nonessential. He claimed that Amb. Brown is a political non-force. Joseph alleged that Amb. Brown, a former Foreign Minister, former Information Minister and former Liberian Ambassador to the United Nations, does not have any constituents.

Amb. Brown's choice for the presidency for 2023, Mr. Cummings, heads the opposition Alternative



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National Congress (ANC) and the relaunched Collaborating Political Parties (CPP).

"Mr. Brown is an individual and so for him to just come out and endorse Mr. Cummings, the people will judge," said Mr. Joseph. "Mr. Brown has served in several positions in government from former President Charles Taylor to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. What different he had made even at the UN when he was serving?" Mr. Joseph question's Amb. Brown.

"Which impact he made in the lives of the people, because there were lots of opportunities for him to give to the people?" Senator Joseph continued.

The Montserrado County lawmaker explained that the CDC is not moved by Amb.

Brown's endorsement of Mr. Cummings because he is of no force. He said the ruling party remains focused on the deliverable of the Liberia people, looking at the bread-and-butter issues, and the challenges that Liberians are facing.

"As we go to election, people will endorse but you're endorsing as an individual, which impact it will have on the election? That's what we look at," Joseph argued. He contended that if you say for example Senator Joseph endorses this person, you will take it seriously.

"It's that kind of endorsement we are talking about, but not Amb. Brown' endorsement. What impact will that make to us?" Senator Joseph concluded.

Senate frowns on biometric voting

-invites NEC and others for clarification



reveals that there is chaos in Sierra Leone because of the process.

"I think it's important for NEC to educate the citizens on what they intend to do. One version of NEC says, they will do biometric registration and manual voting. We do not have internet connectivity for such process. The money is too much and NEC needs to tell us how they intend to carry on the process for next year's election." He emphasizes.

By Ethel A Tweh
Members of the Liberian Senates have frowned on the National Elections Commission for its attempt to introduce biometric voting system in the 2023 Presidential and General Elections.

card reader. He said there were places without network, amongst others so Nigeria had to revert to manual voting.

Senator Snowe also notes that Sierra Leone used US\$ 8 Million on the process with a population of about 8 million people, but the NEC is requesting US\$11 million in Liberia with a population of 4.5 million, adding that Togo as well did the same biometric voting system that failed them.

Bomi County Senator Edwin M. Snowe, who is a member of the ECOWAS Parliament, recalled that in 2017, he headed the ECOWAS Mission to Nigeria to observe elections where biometric voting system was introduced, but it failed on polling day due to lack of

Snowe, who head the ECOWAS Parliamentary committee on security,

River Gee County Senator Jonathan Boycharles Sogbie said the National Elections Commission has awarded contract for the biometric system to a Chinese company.

However, he said the process should pass through the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission for bidding and Liberian-owned companies should be part the process.

The chairperson of the senate committee on Autonomous Agency, Senator Henrique Togba of

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