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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022	L\$153.2201 /US\$1.00	L\$154.8648/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. 168 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 PRICE LD\$40.00

Diplomatic mess

-At Liberia's US Mission

P11

Amb. George Patten Mr. George Wisner

Cummings promises a government of merit system

-As CAF awards scholarships to nine Liberian students

P11

Mr. Cummings (Center), and others posed after the ceremony

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Continental News

Uganda's transplant revolution brings hope to thousands

next session."It has taken over my life," she says, looking defeated.

During dialysis a machine essentially performs the kidneys' function and cleans the blood of waste products and excess fluids.

Each session lasts about four

hours and she has to go to hospital twice a week. In between sessions she spends most of her time at home - a relative's house - helping out with chores where she can, and keeping an eye on a WhatsApp group she created through which

friends and well-wishers can donate money. "I was this ambitious girl. I wanted to go further with studies. I would probably be somebody's girlfriend or wife, so all that life is cut short. It took away all the dreams I had," she adds. A kidney transplant could bring them back.

But an operation abroad, currently the only option, comes with a price tag of about \$30,000 (£26,000) - and is out of reach of most.

Hundreds of Ugandans, who like Ms Twongyeirwe cannot afford this, live on dialysis for as long as possible. But even at the subsidised price of around \$100 a week for the treatment and drugs, that is more than five times the average total income in Uganda and so is only an option for a small fraction of the population.

The ward at Kiruddu National Referral Hospital on the edge of the capital, Kampala, is the only public health facility in the country that offers this service. Almost 200 patients attend the clinic regularly, many of them traveling long distances.

But they represent only a

fraction of those countrywide living with kidney failure and in need of specialised care.

"They leave their families and livelihoods behind to live close to the hospital. This is an unnatural situation," Dr Daniel Kiggundu, the only kidney specialist working at the unit, tells the BBC. The ward is a cacophony of beeping machines, as nurses weave through dialysis stations attending to patients. Some of those getting treatment seem extremely weak, drifting in and out of sleep, while others sit up and chat with their carers. The clinic runs two shifts each day, each of them taking in about 30 patients. It operates dangerously close to full capacity and there is

little spare time to prepare the patients for treatment.

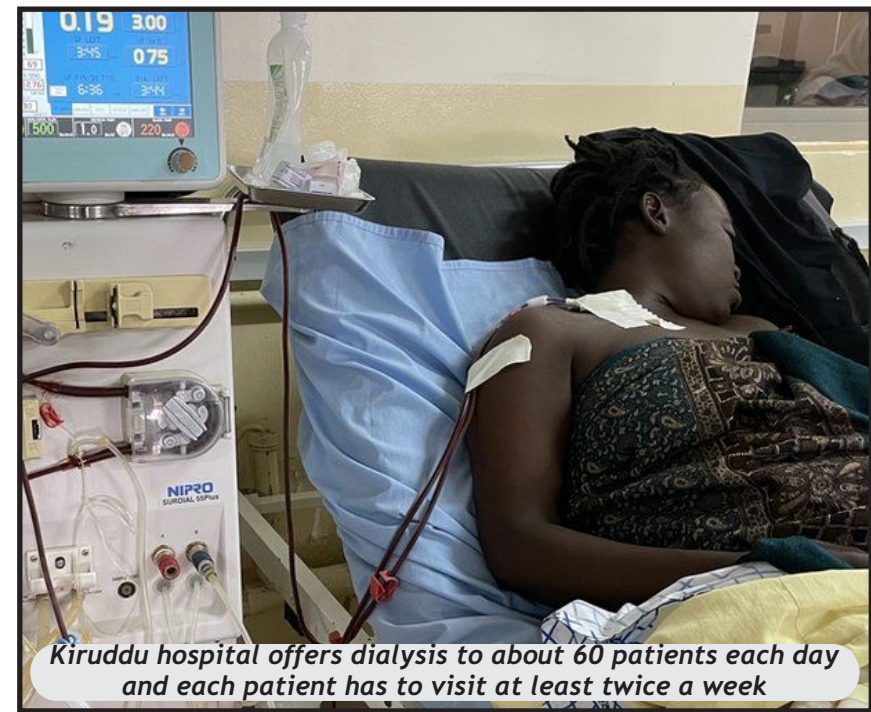
When Ms Twongyeirwe is due for a session, she spends the night at the hospital in order to be ready in time.

She first realised she was unwell when her entire body began to swell in 2018 and she spent 18 months going from clinic to clinic before she got the right diagnosis. Her life was turned upside-down.

She had to drop out of university where she was studying law and she lost her job. She also moved from her family home in western Uganda to Kampala, to live close to the hospital.

At home, the soft-spoken woman goes about washing dishes with such grace that, save for the plaster on her arm, it is hard to tell that she has just returned from a dialysis session. BBC

Uganda's parliament is scrutinising a proposed law that would enable organ transplants to happen in the country for the first time, transforming the lives of thousands hoping for



Kiruddu hospital offers dialysis to about 60 patients each day and each patient has to visit at least twice a week

operations. Annita Twongyeirwe had pictured a different future for herself.

But since being diagnosed with kidney failure three years ago, the 28-year-old is preoccupied either by having dialysis or thinking about the

hours and she has to go to hospital twice a week. In between sessions she spends most of her time at home - a relative's house - helping out with chores where she can, and keeping an eye on a WhatsApp group she created through which

Ukraine troops leave DR Congo peacekeeping mission Monusco

The 250 Ukrainian troops with the UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo have returned home to help fight Russian forces.

When the withdrawal of Ukraine's aviation unit was announced in March, diplomats warned it could leave the UN mission seriously short of helicopters.

These are vital in the fight against the various rebel groups based in the thick forests of eastern DR Congo.

The eight Ukrainian helicopters made up about a third of the UN fleet.

Since the Russian invasion in February, Ukraine had already pulled out its troops from the other UN peacekeeping mission where they had been deployed.

Jacques Ndjoli, who serves on DR Congo's parliamentary defence committee, told the BBC the withdrawal was relatively serious, however he pointed out that bringing peace to the country was primarily the responsibility of the

Congolese army. As the Ukrainians left DR Congo, the Brazilian commander of the UN force, Gen Marcos da Costa, said "their 10 years of immense contribution" was greatly appreciated.

The UN mission in DR Congo, Monusco, is already under pressure in the country.

It is widely criticised for failing to do enough to restore peace in the east, where numerous armed groups have operated for three decades, killing, raping and looting the

region's rich minerals resources such as gold and diamonds. In July, 36 people, including four UN peacekeepers, died when protesters ransacked UN buildings in cities in eastern DR Congo.

After 22 years in the country, the mission is supposed to be winding down but no date has been set for its operations to end.

It is one of the largest and most expensive of the UN's 12 peacekeeping missions. BBC



These were the last Ukrainian troops in a UN peacekeeping mission

Somali Militia Beheads Islamist Insurgents After Battle, Witnesses Say



MOGADISHU — A government-allied Somali militia killed at least 45 al-Shabab fighters and beheaded some of them, three witnesses said on Sunday, as citizens in central regions of the country increasingly take up arms against the insurgents.

The beheadings on Saturday followed a battle in the Hiran region of Hirshabelle State, where there has been significant fighting this month between al-Shabab and newly expanded militias allied with the federal government.

Al-Shabab, an al-Qaida-linked Islamist group, has been fighting Somalia's weak central government since 2006. It wants to implement a strict interpretation of sharia law.

Al-Shabab has increasingly burned houses, destroyed wells, and beheaded civilians in the Hiran region, residents

saying; that, combined with its demands for taxes amidst the worst drought in 40 years, has pushed more residents to take up arms.

"Al-Shabab is not strong, it just burns people, beheads people and put their heads in the streets just to terrorize," said Ahmed Abdulle, a Hiran elder.

"Now, we are doing the same: we have ordered the beheading of al-Shabab fighters," he told Reuters.

Videos widely shared on Telegram showed at least two beheaded alleged al-Shabab fighters and dozens more dead bodies in fatigues and red-and-white checked scarves. Some of the dead appeared to have died in battle.

Reuters was not independently able to verify the authenticity of the videos, but three witnesses to the beheadings said they were real. Seven other residents, including Abdulle, said family members had been present and confirmed the deaths to them.

EDITORIAL

LISGIS corruption swept under the carpet

IT HAS become obvious that the corruption indictment against several senior officials of the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Service (LISGIS) is being swept under the carpet, as the Institute announces its preparedness to conduct census albeit amid lingering accountability and transparency questions.

THE LIBERIA Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) had indicted several senior officials of LISGIS, including director Francis F. Wreh, Mr. Lawrence George, Mr. Wilmot Smith and Mr. Dominic Paye for corruption before President George Manneh Weah thru the 54th Legislature dissolved the anti-graft commission.

THURSDAY LAST week, the Deputy Director General for information and coordination at the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-information Services (LISGIS) Wilmot Smith announced the Institute is ready to conduct the fifth national population and housing census for the country.

BUT THE former LACC had documented thru an Investigative Report that Mr. Francis F. Wreh, Mr. Lawrence George and Mr. Dominic Paye in the discharge of their duties as director general, deputy director general for administration, deputy director general for information and coordination, and comptroller respectively knowingly and willfully authorized the withdrawal and spending of cumulatively US\$70,000 of the census fund in June this year.

THE EXECUTIVE Mansion thru President Weah challenged the report on grounds that the accused were never given due process. The President then hastily moved along with the Legislature and announced the dissolution of the entire LACC and its officials, effectively trashing the indictment.

AS WE write, the Liberian public does not know how much money was received from foreign governments and partners for the census neither does the public know the actual amount being put in conducting the census.

AND THEY may never know because the entire exercise is characterized by secrecy and a clear lack of transparency.

“THAT, MR. Francis F. Wreh, Mr. Lawrence George, Mr. Wilmot Smith, and Mr. Dominic Paye, in the discharge of their duties as Director General, Deputy Director General for Administration, Deputy Director General for Information and Coordination, and Comptroller of LISGIS, having knowingly and willfully withdrawn and expanded the amounts of US\$4,700; US\$1,500, and US\$2,640 (US\$8,840.00) out of the Census account and paying to themselves and other staff extra compensation for performing tasks for which they were hired to do by Law, and for which they are being duly paid through monthly salary payment by the Government of Liberia(GoL), violated the following controlling Liberian laws: Subchapter D of the Penal Code Titled Bribery and Intimidation”, the LACC had documented in black and white.

THE REPORT was swept under the carpet by this administration, and it is business as usual at LISGIS where misappropriation of public funds has been deemed as acceptable norms.

WE CAN but only bring these issues to public attention as a reminder that the way our current governing process is proceeding leaves much to be desired, as transparency and accountability has been intentionally thrown out of the window.

New Dawn
DAILY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Josep Borrell and
Werner Hoyer

Decarbonization Is Now a Strategic Imperative

BRUSSELS - Russia's invasion of Ukraine has forced the European Union to accelerate the pace of our energy and climate policy. Since the Kremlin has increasingly used energy as a tool for political influence, we must deprive it of its leverage by radically reducing our dependence on fossil-fuel imports from Russia.

The geopolitical rationale for doing so overlaps with the imperative to tackle climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's latest report on mitigation underscores the urgency of that task. Total greenhouse-gas emissions must peak by 2025 if we are to avoid a catastrophic increase in global temperatures. Moreover, the economy-wide shift to clean energy must be managed carefully to account for the inevitable social and economic consequences; it must be a “just transition.”

The EU and the European Investment Bank have a vital role to play in this transition. Investments in renewables, energy efficiency, and innovative technologies such as green hydrogen are important tools for dealing with Russia's aggression and helping to save the planet from dependence on fossil fuels. Every euro we spend on the energy transition at home is a euro we keep out of the hands of an authoritarian power that wages aggressive war. Every euro we spend on clean energy enhances our freedom to make our own decisions. Every euro we spend helping our international partners accelerate their own decarbonization strategies is an investment in resilience and in the fight against climate change.

Since Russia's invasion on February 24, the EU has been accelerating its energy transition plans to help end Europe's reliance on Russian fossil-fuel imports as soon as possible. Although this will not happen overnight, the incentives to do so are now greater than ever. We can achieve energy independence by improving efficiency, diversifying supplies, and ramping up renewables. This process requires a mobilization at all levels - from supranational bodies down to households and individuals.

There are two important caveats to consider. First, the search for alternative suppliers of natural gas - critical as it is in the short term - must not lock us into a new long-term dependence that requires heavy investments in fossil-fuel infrastructure. That would be costly, catastrophic for the planet, and ultimately unnecessary, given the more climate-conscious options that are available.

Second, we must not trade one bottleneck for another by swapping our over-dependence on fossil fuels for over-dependency on raw materials needed for the green transition. These resources are heavily concentrated in just a handful of countries,

not all of which hold the same values and interests as the EU. Strengthening the EU's strategic autonomy and resilience must remain a key objective of the transition.

Europe cannot do this alone. Winning the battle against climate change and standing up to Russian aggression are global challenges that demand a global response. Russian President Vladimir Putin's war has strengthened the strategic rationale for all countries to reduce their fossil-fuel imports and invest more in climate-friendly energy solutions.

That is why the EU is actively engaged in climate diplomacy. We want to encourage others to raise their climate ambitions, and we have committed considerable resources to working with partner countries so that they, too, can move to a resilient net-zero-emissions economy. Through the European Green Deal and the EU's new Global Gateway initiative, EU institutions and member states are mobilizing up to €300 billion (\$325 billion) of investment in green and digital infrastructure to address the climate, biodiversity, and energy crises.

Moreover, the EIB has pledged to support €1 trillion of investment in climate action and environmental sustainability by 2030. Through its new development arm, EIB Global, the bank is working with partners around the world to mobilize finance for energy efficiency, renewables, and electricity grid projects.

Working as part of the EU's joint effort under Team Europe, the EIB's support for a clean-energy future ranges from investing in solar power in Senegal to financing more energy-efficient kindergartens in Armenia. The bank has also helped forge a Just Energy Transition Partnership with South Africa; provided backing for the India-based International Solar Alliance, which supports solar power development across 105 tropical countries; and signed on to an integrated water management and flood prevention scheme in Argentina.

The EU stands ready to support the global community in ending its dependency on fossil fuels. Russia's war on Ukraine is not a reason to delay investments in climate action. On the contrary, more green investment will give us more strategic autonomy. Decarbonization has become a geopolitical imperative. We call on our global partners in government and across international financial institutions to join us in accelerating finance for clean energy. By pursuing climate neutrality, we can also achieve energy security.

Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, is Vice President of the European Commission for a Stronger Europe in the World. Werner Hoyer is President of the European Investment Bank.



By Leonardo Garnier

Transforming Education Means Fighting Poverty Traps

SAN JOSÉ - The COVID-19 pandemic caused the most significant global disruption in education in modern history. With nine out of ten children around the world affected, two decades of progress on educational access and attainment are at risk. In response to this crisis, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres convened the Transforming Education Summit in New York this month. But the summit is about more than regaining lost ground. The goal is to mobilize a global movement that can bring education to the forefront of the political agenda and push policymakers to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goal for education (SDG4): "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."

It is not hard to see why education needs to be transformed. Even before the pandemic, the state of education worldwide was far from ideal. With 300 million children out of school, an estimated 57% of ten-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries cannot even comprehend a simple text.

To give every child the best chance to succeed, we must aim higher. Making education more inclusive and equitable means addressing glaring inequalities in opportunities and investment. It also means eradicating the self-reinforcing mechanisms, also known as poverty traps, that perpetuate existing disparities.

For starters, education must allow all students to develop their capacity for learning by starting with the building blocks of knowledge and critical thinking: literacy, numeracy, and scientific reasoning. Doing so would help students distinguish fact-based arguments from fake or unsubstantiated claims. Education should also enhance the capacity for lifelong learning and re-learning - a crucial skill in today's rapidly changing job market.

But at a time of growing political polarization, education should go beyond academic skills and develop students' capacity to live together. This would require education systems that emphasize civic responsibility, democratic governance, respect for human diversity, and an active commitment to sustainable development.

For education to be transformed for the better, schools themselves need to change. For example, in developing countries, an estimated 90% of children with disabilities still don't attend school. All schools need to become safe and healthy learning spaces where every child or young person feels accepted and protected.

Educators are the most critical factor for education, and we need more of them - 69 million, to be exact - in order to achieve the UN goal of ensuring universal basic education by 2030. But to transform education, teachers must also transform themselves, shifting from merely transmitting content to developing their students' problem-solving skills, and from reciting preconceived answers to posing challenging questions. The problem is that teachers are under-trained, undervalued, and underpaid. The only way to have more and better teachers is by strengthening their training, showing them more trust and respect, and ensuring that they receive higher pay.

The pandemic has demonstrated the promise and the peril of digital learning. In the midst of lockdowns, digital technology allowed many schools and teachers to reach otherwise-isolated students. Yet, in low- and middle-income countries, many children still lack access to necessary equipment and reliable connectivity. Worldwide, two-thirds of children and young people below the age of 25 still have no home internet connection.

The digital revolution has the power to expand access and enrich learning. But if left to the market alone, it may exacerbate existing inequalities. Educational teaching and learning resources should be considered public goods, free and open to all.

But it would take more than access to digital resources to reduce disparities in investment and educational opportunities. According to recent data from the Global Education Monitoring Report, rich countries invest an average of \$8,500 per year on each school-age person. Upper-middle-income countries invest about \$1,000 per student, lower-middle-income just \$275, and the poorest countries less than \$50.

It is not just inequality between countries that is a source of concern. Within-country gaps between children from higher-income households with better-educated parents and children born to lower-income and less-educated families are no less disturbing - particularly in the developing world, where less than half of children have access to pre-primary education, compared with 91% in high-income countries.

Closing these gaps requires treating the financing of public education as an efficient and socially responsible investment: we need to invest more in education, and to invest more equitably and efficiently. A growing body of research has shown that education has the highest rate of return - particularly early-childhood education, which yields \$17 in value for every \$1 invested.

The problem is that investment in education is context-dependent. A country that suffers from high inequality and an abundance of cheap labor attracts unsophisticated investments that create low-productivity jobs. Without the need for a skilled labor force, governments have little incentive to invest in education. As Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson have shown, institutional frameworks tend to be weaker in such countries. Economic and political power is typically concentrated in the hands of the wealthy, who oppose the progressive tax increases necessary to finance universal quality education. The result is a poverty trap.

It is often said that education plays an essential role in promoting sustainable economic growth. But environmentally destructive and economically inefficient poverty traps are the opposite of sustainable. Achieving the UN's SDGs would necessarily require eradicating them. Only with a more equitable model can we successfully enshrine education as a human right.



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

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia Maritime Authority announces prosecution in stowaway incident

The Liberia Maritime Authority says it is exerting all efforts in making sure that the captain and crew members of the Panama -flagged vessel, MV Ophelia, that allegedly cast overboard more than a dozen people are apprehended and prosecuted in accordance with Liberian and international laws.

The incident is said to have involved about 12 stowaways claiming to be Nigerians who were found hidden on the ship. Two of

According to a release issued by LiMA, while the investigation remains ongoing, LiMA has taken several actions in line with various national and international maritime standards.

LiMA says it has transmitted a formal communication to the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization informing him of the incident.

It indicated that the communication is also

international instruments on the vessel, including the International Convention for the Facilitation of Maritime Trade.

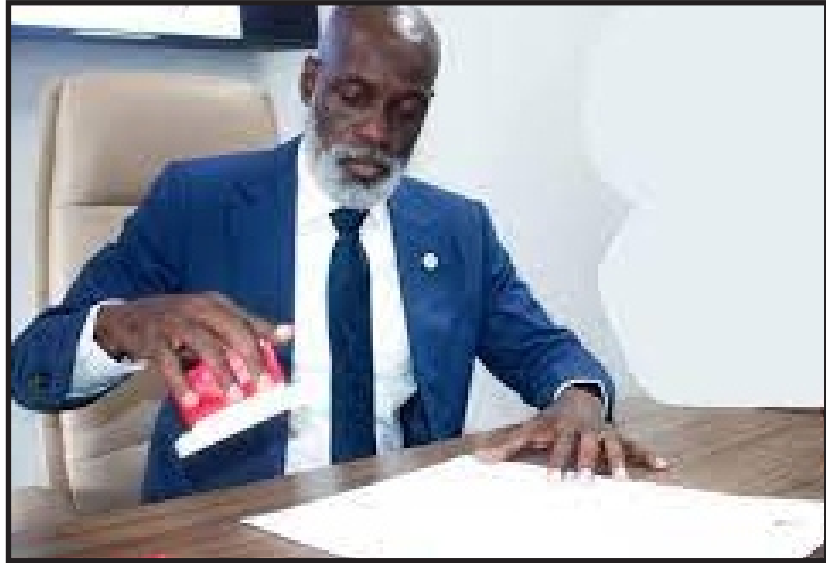
The communication is also intended to request representation from the Panamanian authorities during the investigation and the processes leading to the repatriation of the stowaways.

The statement said another measure taken so far is that authorities have communicated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Liberia for a Note Verbale to be sent to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria near Monrovia informing the Nigerian government officially through its Embassy of the incident. Nigeria is both the state of embarkation and the state of claimed nationality of the stowaways.

It said at the same that communication with other regional bodies including the Abuja MOU on Port State Control to assist in apprehending the vessel has been made.

In addition, it has also communicated with the ship-owner and the agent to make representation and participate in discussions regarding arranging and financing the maintenance and repatriation of the stowaways.

On Monday, September 12, local fishermen off the Coast of Grand Kru in southeastern Liberia rescued the men. Preliminary investigation showed that they were stowaways aboard the Panama flagged vessel with IMO Number 9228083.



them are reported to have died in the process.

Maritime Commissioner Lenn Eugene Nagbe has said LiMA has initiated a full investigation of the incident and ensure everyone involved is made to account.

He said the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) and other agencies of the Government of Liberia, including the Liberia Immigration Service, are currently conducting a full-scale investigation.

soliciting the cooperation and support of the IMO in the investigative process; informed the Panamanian government through available diplomatic channels including a transmittal from Liberia IMO Permanent Representative Moses Owen Browne to his Panamanian counterpart.

LiMA notes that being the flag state of the vessel, Panama has the responsibility to ensure the enforcement of relevant

Devils to cleanup Sanniquellie Market

By Thomas Domah/
Nimba County

Several Country Devils or traditional bush masters are expected to carry out massive cleanup campaign at the Sanniquellie General Market and the historical man-made Lake Telah in Sanniquellie City, Nimba county.

Authorities of the traditional bush society have reportedly informed marketers in Sanniquellie to suspend normal business activities on Wednesday and Thursday this week, to allow the Bush Masters cleanup the market.

This is the first of its kind for traditional masked dances, commonly called Country Devils to want to undertake a civil duty.

The Superintendent of the Sanniquellie General Market,

Rebecca Teage, disclosed that traditional chiefs in Sanniquellie have informed marketers to stay away from the market ground on the stipulated days as only men will converge there in huge number to execute the cleanup exercise.

Madam Teage said marketers in the provincial city have welcomed the decision by traditional leaders to give the market ground a facelift, including the historical Lake Telah. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Gbarpolu citizens in U.S. condemn raping of three kids

The Gbarpolu County Association in the Americas (GCAA) says it has received with utmost dismay and consternation, news that two adult males have been apprehended by the authorities in the county for two separate horrific crimes.

According to a dispatch, one of the acts involved the raping of a 2-year-old toddler, and another involving the raping of two young sisters both under the age of seven.

“We condemn in the strongest term and despise the perpetrators of these horrific crimes outright as an initial reaction, and only because of our

associated with rape and other social crimes in culturally sensitive places like Gbarpolu, the GCAA stands willing and ready to lend whatever level of support within its means to alleviate the scourge associated with this incident for these children and other recent cases of this nature in the county,” GCAA said in the dispatch.

It then assured the families and the victims as well as “our people in Gbarpolu and yea Liberia at large that this will not be business as usual. We would like to work with the National Government of Liberia to put measures in place that will end this sickening and devilish act



humanity and respect for the rule of law we ourselves espouse,’ the association said in the dispatch.

GCAA, however applauded the initial steps taken by the local authorities in the county by swiftly arresting and incarcerating the alleges perpetrators, thus isolating them from amongst the general population, “lest they prey on any number of unsuspecting children in the county again.”

Moreover, the association said it is especially gratifying that the victims are reportedly receiving basic healthcare and support under the circumstances.

“Fully cognizant of the post-traumatic stress and psychosocial burdens often

once and for all. The doers of these devilish act must face the full weight of the law.”

The statement: “It must be understood that women and children in our County also have the right under the laws to live in safe and free environment as any other citizen. Women and children must be protected by the National G63 Government.

On the contrary, it’s very saddened to find that women and children are mostly unprotected and hardly free to live without some form of abuse. This must stop and needs to stop now.”

Concluding, GCAA asked National Government to do a speedy investigation and bring the perpetrators to justice.

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-22-000016
2. **ISSUANCE DATE:** September 16, 2022
3. **CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** September 30 2022, 11:59 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia
4. **POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
5. **POSITION TITLE:** Project Management Specialist (Public Sector)
6. **MARKET VALUE:** \$51,630 – \$82,612 FSN- 12
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 with possible travel as stated in the statement of duties.
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 Public Sector Specialist will serve as a program manager to the Mission, providing expertise and analysis on public sector and civil service reforms, including fiscal, administrative and political decentralization; public financial management; concessions management; tax policy and administration; rule of law; anti-corruption; and land reform issues in Liberia. He/she will also be a key liaison between USAID and Liberian government and civil society representatives, including but not limited to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Governance Commission, Liberia Revenue Authority, Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, and Liberia National Bar Association, among others. The selected candidate will play a key role within the Office of Democracy, Rights and Governance (DRG), serving as Team Lead for the Good Governance Team and supervising between one and two team members with responsibilities for overseeing a multi-million dollar governance portfolio and other activities as assigned. The position will be under the supervision of the DRG Office Director or his/her designate.

Major Duties and Responsibilities

- A. Program Management, Technical Oversight** 50%
 1. Serves as Good Governance Team Lead, responsible for providing oversight and setting direction for the entire portfolio of Good Governance activities. Serves as the primary point of contact for DRG Office and Mission management, in addition to partner government, civil society and donor counterparts on USAID/Liberia's high profile programs, partnerships and budgets related to domestic resource mobilization, decentralization, public administration, rule of law, anti-corruption, land governance, and other components of government effectiveness. Provides input into Mission-wide reporting and documentation, including annual Operational Plan (OP), Performance Plan and Report (PPR), and others.
 2. Serves as the Contract/Agreement Officer's Representative (C/AOR) or Alternate C/AOR for DRG activities as assigned by the DRG Office Director. As C/AOR, s/he is responsible for all technical and administrative aspects of all activities managed, including activity design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and learning. This includes: actively managing activities by monitoring performance through periodic site visits; identifying challenges or enablers to performance; ensuring Mission cross-cutting priorities are incorporated into programming; coordinating closely with partners to adapt activities and plans, as necessary, in light of changing circumstances; answering a broad range of implementation questions; and preparing and receiving official communications with assigned partners. S/he maintains up-to-date knowledge of USAID policies, procedures, and best practices and activity management, and reports to the DRG Office Director, advising on progress and challenges.
- B. Reporting and Analysis** 30%
 1. Identifies and analyzes democratic and economic governance developments related to public sector reform that are of strategic importance and with implications for US Government interests in Liberia. Maintains expert knowledge on best practices in public sector reform and on USAID policy and guidance on DRG broadly and economic governance in particular.
 2. Prepares relevant informational materials for use by the DRG team, the Mission, and the wider Embassy, and provides written or oral reports to the DRG Director, other USAID offices, or Mission or Embassy leadership as requested on developments in the sector, emphasizing the policy implications for DRG program implementation and any overlapping implications for other sector programs, including Economic Growth.
 3. Tracks developments in key GOL ministries, agencies, and commissions, public corporations, local government, civil society/media, and regional organizations, and the private sector, as relevant to issues of public sector reform, and provides analysis and recommendations for DRG actions and technical assistance. Provides technical guidance and expert advice to Mission officers on implications of public sector reform on design and implementation of activities.
 4. Represents the DRG Office and Mission in engagements with host-country officials, civil society organizations, private sector representatives, and bilateral and multilateral donors on USAID priorities, activities and progress in the sector.
 5. Liaises with other bilateral donor governments and international organizations to exchange information on shared priorities and coordinate efforts related to DRG programs and activities.
- C. Supervision** 20%

Serves as Good Governance Team Lead with responsibility for providing guidance and direct supervision to one to two team members serving as C/AOR or Alternate C/AOR for DRG programs. Provides feedback to team members on all aspects of performance, including delivery of assignments, written and oral communication, teamwork, etc and completes formal annual evaluations for each supervised staff member.

Supervision Controls: Supervises one to two members of the Good Governance Team.

Supervisory Relationship: Position supervised by the DRG Team Leader and/or her/his designee.

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

1. **Education:** Minimum of master's degree in public administration, public policy, Development Studies, Economics, Political Science, Law, or other relevant social science is required.
2. **Prior Work Experience:** Minimum of five (5) years of experience in public sector reform, such as civil service reform, public financial management, land governance or administration, concessions management, or fiscal and political decentralization is required. At least four (4) years of experience in public sector governance related project design, management and evaluation in Liberia, including the design and implementation of public sector capacity building training programs is required.
3. **Work/Residency Permits:** Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia.
4. **Language Proficiency:** Level IV (fluent) spoken and written English proficiency is required. Excellent English language communication skills, both written and oral, including public speaking skills are essential, as is demonstrated ability to communicate effectively through oral presentations and briefings, written reporting and analysis, and information technology tools.

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

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

FACTOR #1: Experience in good governance and related programming.

In 500 words or less, describe your experience in project management or contract administration for USAID or other donor-funded programming in public sector and civil service reforms, including fiscal, administrative and political decentralization; public financial management; concessions management; tax policy and administration; rule of law; anti-corruption; and/or land reform issues in Liberia. Experience can include providing input into project design and implementation; work planning; monitoring performance; coordinating with partners to adapt activities and plans in light of changing circumstances; communicating with partners to answer implementation questions; or tracking events and changes in the operating context that might impact implementation or results.

FACTOR #2: Relationship Management and Donor Coordination

In 500 words or less, describe your experience in developing and maintaining contacts with government and/or donor-community counterparts in good governance related programming. Experience should include knowledge sharing and coordination of activities.

3. 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

Factor #1 20 points
Factor #2 20 points

Interview Performance 60 points

Interview questions will revolve around the candidate's ability to:

- Describe their experience, knowledge, and qualifications related to public sector and civil service reforms, including fiscal, administrative and political decentralization; public financial management; concessions management; tax policy and administration; rule of law; anti-corruption; and land reform issues in Liberia

- Communicate Effectively

Total Possible Points 100 points

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line **VA-669-22-000016–Project Management Specialist (Public Sector)** 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.



I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-22-000017
2. **ISSUANCE DATE:** September 16, 2022
3. **CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** September 30, 2022, 11:59 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia
4. **POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
5. **POSITION TITLE:** Project Management Specialist (Economic Governance)
6. **MARKET VALUE:** USD \$35,104 – \$56,160 FSN- 10
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 with possible travel as stated in the statement of duties.
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 USAID Project Management Specialist (Economic Governance) will serve as a technical program analyst and program manager to the Mission, providing expertise and analysis on good governance, public financial management, tax policy and administration, concessions management, economic policy and regulatory reform, and civil service reform in Liberia. He/she will be a member of the Good Governance Team within the Democracy, Rights, and Governance (DRG) Office and play a key role helping to manage and administer good governance programming. The Specialist will also engage with key Government of Liberia (GOL), civil society, donor, and implementing partner stakeholders and provide technical, managerial, and oversight input into activity-level and strategic planning processes. Supervised by the Good Governance Team Lead, he/she will be well-versed in the political and economic complexities of governance reforms in post-conflict and fragile states, and have a high degree of understanding of the development issues affecting Liberia, in particular. The Specialist will provide high quality and timely analysis, both written and oral, for input into programming and policy decisions. He/she may also function as the Agreement or Contracting Officer's representative for parts of the governance portfolio.

Major Duties and Responsibilities

A. Program/Project Management and Administration 70%

The incumbent will play a key role within the DRG Office, helping to manage and administer multi-million-dollar economic governance programs. Specific duties will include the following:

1. Serve as the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) or the Alternate COR for the DRG Office's Good Governance Activity and/or other governance activities as assigned. In fulfilling this duty, the incumbent will work closely with the DRG Office's Good Governance Team Lead and the USAID/Liberia Office of Economic Growth to provide management leadership in the areas of domestic resource mobilization, decentralization, budget transparency, and other areas as delegated.
2. Conduct analysis and design work for future procurements in areas of good governance.
3. Ensure that activity components and subcomponents achieve their intended results and that implementing partners meet their deliverables and report performance quarterly and annually in accordance with USAID regulations.
4. Conduct assessments and site visits to monitor the program and implementing partner, stakeholder, and counterpart progress in the implementation of activities at the national and subnational levels.
5. Provide technical advice to implementing partners and other stakeholders as authorized and warranted.
6. Collaborate with GOL and civil society stakeholders, along with other development partners to ensure coordination of programs, particularly in the areas of domestic resource mobilization, decentralization, and public financial management.
7. Assist in management of financial matters related to program activities, such as providing administrative approvals of vouchers, planning and preparing for annual incremental funding amendments, and other financial administrative activities as needed, to ensure that fiscal needs of the recipient, the GOL, the U.S., and local contractors are met in a timely manner.
8. Advise on the development of the office program-funded budget as related to economic governance; work with technical advisors and senior management to determine funding needs and uses; provide close supervision of mortgages, pipelines, and funding requirements for the economic governance portfolio.
9. Prepare and submit the annual evaluation of contractor performance for inclusion in the central database that tracks contractor performance.
10. Help to manage the DRG Office's project design, procurement planning, implementation, and evaluation processes to ensure that all office procurement actions are properly identified, scheduled, developed, and implemented.

B. Technical Leadership in Strategic Planning, Program Implementation, Policy Development and Coordination 20%

As technical lead for economic governance, the incumbent will engage proactively with other USAID/Liberia technical offices and with external partners to provide technical input on matters related to public financial management, domestic resource mobilization and public sector reform in Liberia. Specific duties will include:

1. Liaise with relevant GOL ministries, agencies and commissions (e.g., Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Liberia Revenue Authority, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Civil Service Agency, Public Procurement and Concessions Commission, Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, and others), other international partners, and civil society organizations supporting public financial management, domestic revenue mobilization and civil service reform initiatives in Liberia, and represent USAID in discussions with these stakeholders. Serve as a resource person to Mission and Embassy personnel by answering technical questions and providing guidance related to economic governance.
2. Preparing briefing materials and written and oral status reports on the sector in general and with regards to specific USAID-funded programs in general as required and assigned. Prepare technical reports, trip reports, partner status reports, meeting summaries, and analysis of pertinent documents from implementing partners, the Government of Liberia, and other donors. Produce appropriate briefing papers for USAID leadership and official visitors (e.g., congressional delegations, senior-level USAID officials).
3. Prepare major documentation in support of the budgeting and programming of USAID resources for relevant programs. This will include preparing appropriate sections of the Congressional Budget Justification, the annual Operational Plan, the Performance Monitoring Plan, Portfolio Reviews, and semi-annual activity implementation reports, etc.
4. Represent USAID in relevant working groups, such as the Public Financial Management Donor Coordination Group, and in conferences, workshops, and other relevant fora on economic governance.
5. Undertake monitoring and evaluation functions for all assigned programs and activities.
6. Incorporate broader Mission cross-cutting priorities across the Good Governance portfolio as appropriate and feasible.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) 10%

Works with the Program Office on Mission-wide M&E-related assignments and supports the DRG Office in undertaking its assigned M&E tasks, such as developing, updating and revising the DRG Office portion of the Mission's Performance Monitoring Plan, as well as other M&E plans.

Provides performance management support and assists DRG team members in carrying out M&E functions such as the review of activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning plans, data quality assessments (DQAs), evaluations, etc.

Supports DRG Team members in ensuring that site visit reports are tracked and filed appropriately and serves as DRG's custodian of M&E-related documents on guidance and compliance.

Coordinates with AORs/CORs for the entry and certification of performance data in the Development Information Solution (DIS).

Supervision Controls: This position has no supervisory responsibilities.

Supervisory Relationship: Position supervised by the DRG Team Leader and/or her/his designee.

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

1. **Education:** A Master's degree in economics, political science, international relations, law, or public policy and administration is required.
2. **Prior Work Experience:** Minimum of 5 years' professional experience in:
 1. Applied experience in at least 3 of the following economic governance subject areas: public financial management; domestic resource mobilization; adoption of information and communication technology in public sector reform, concessions management, fiscal and political decentralization; central bank reform; civil service reform; and anti-corruption.
 2. Experience in design and implementation of capacity building in the public sector and training programs.
 3. Progressive experience in project design and development.
 4. Professional knowledge of economic governance issues specifically, and development assistance issues and approaches in general.
 5. Demonstrated technical skills related to the design, management, and evaluation of development projects within Liberia.
3. **Work/Residency Permits:** Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia.
4. **Language Proficiency:** Level IV (fluent) spoken and written English proficiency is required. Excellent English language communication skills, both written and oral, including public speaking skills are essential, as is demonstrated ability to communicate effectively through oral presentations and briefings, written reporting and analysis, and information technology tools.

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

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

FACTOR #1: Experience in good governance and related programming.

In 500 words or less, describe your experience in project management or contract administration for USAID or other donor-funded programming in good governance, public financial management, tax policy and administration, concessions management, economic policy and regulatory reform, and/or civil service reform in Liberia. Experience can include providing input into project design and implementation; work planning; monitoring performance; coordinating with partners to adapt activities and plans in light of changing circumstances; communicating with partners to answer implementation questions; or tracking events and changes in the operating context that might impact implementation or results.

FACTOR #2: Relationship Management and Donor Coordination

In 500 words or less, describe your experience in developing and maintaining contacts with government and/or donor-community counterparts in good governance related programming. Experience should include knowledge sharing and coordination of activities.

3. 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

Factor #1 20 points

Factor #2 20 points

Interview Performance 60 points

Interview questions will revolve around the candidate's ability to:

- Describe their experience, knowledge, and qualifications related to good governance, public financial management, tax policy and administration, concessions management, economic policy and regulatory reform, and/or civil service reform in Liberia.
- Communicate Effectively

Total Possible Points 100 points

Total Possible Points 100 points

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line **VA-669-22-000017–Project Management Specialist (Economic Governance)** LiberiaHR@usaid.gov.

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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.

Français

La communauté internationale prend ses distances avec la vidéo malveillante

La communauté internationale a pris ses distances concernant une fausse vidéo qui circule sur les réseaux sociaux et qui fait croire que le régime Weah a l'intention de truquer les élections générales et présidentielle de 2023.

La fausse vidéo, qui fait le tour des médias sociaux et qui contient des affirmations erronées et incendiaires sur la situation du pays, semble avoir cité la communauté internationale.

Ainsi dans une déclaration, la communauté internationale au Libéria a déclaré que les déclarations contenues dans l'article n'ont aucun lien avec la communauté internationale au Libéria et qu'elle n'est au courant des allégations contenues dans cet article.

« Nous condamnons fermement toute tentative de lier la communauté internationale à ces allégations qui pourraient menacer et saper la sécurité nationale. Nous soulignons que les responsables doivent

être tenus responsables. Nous rappelons une fois de plus à tous les acteurs politiques et médiatiques leur responsabilité de s'abstenir de discours de haine, de désinformation et de violence, en particulier à l'approche des élections de 2023. La communauté internationale au Libéria souhaite réaffirmer son engagement continu en faveur de la paix et de la stabilité au Libéria », a dit une déclaration rendue publique par le coordonnateur résident des

Nations Unies au nom de la communauté internationale.

Samedi, le gouvernement libérien a annoncé que son attention avait été attirée par une vidéo malveillante diffusée sur les réseaux sociaux, qui fait des déclarations erronées et incendiaires sur la situation dans le pays.

« Bien que la récente intensification des activités politiques en vue des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Dans l'univers mystique des Masques chez le peuple Wê d'Afrique de l'ouest

En Côte d'Ivoire (au Liberia), le peuple Wê reste encore véritablement attaché à ses us et coutumes. Et le culte du "masque" fait partie de cette tradition. Il n'est pas seulement un produit artistique ou culturel, il est surtout un esprit qui est le médiateur entre les hommes et Guéla (Dieu).

Dans les régions du Cavally et du Guémon (Ouest), les populations ne lui donnent point la dénomination de masque comme cela est conçu

dans les carnivals et bals du monde occidental. On parle plutôt du Gla (diminutif du terme Guéla), des Kouï, Dji ou du Goloué, selon sa morphologie ou son rôle dans la société traditionnelle.

Le Gla

Un patriarche, originaire du village de Gohouo-Zagna (département de Bangolo), Tchiéklé Valentin, révèle que le Gla (Glaé, au pluriel) aurait été découvert, selon un récit des ancêtres, dans une forêt montagneuse. C'est ce qui justifie que chaque fois qu'une fête de

sortie des Glaé prend fin, "les sages annoncent que les esprits vont regagner leur logis forestier", ajoute-t-il.

Une assertion confirmée dans le livre du professeur des universités, Gnonsoa Angèle, intitulé "Le masque au cœur de la société wè", paru en 2007 à Frat Mat Éditions. Pour elle, les Wê sont monothéistes mais ils estiment qu'un humain ordinaire ne peut s'adresser au Grand Dieu invisible, sans avoir recours à un intermédiaire mystique.

« Comme chez les Chrétiens où l'on affirme que nul ne peut aller au Père sans passer par Jésus, nous aussi les Wê, estimons que pour parler à Dieu, il faut passer par des initiés, des esprits que sont les Glaé », fait savoir un ressortissant de la sous-préfecture de Zou, Oula Jacques.

M. Oula ajoute que pour certains traditionalistes avérés, les Glaé proviendraient des entrailles du sol ou de palmiers marécageux. Ce qui justifie leur accoutrement en feuilles de cette plante.

Selon les initiés rencontrés par l'AIP, les Glaé sont rangés

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Éditorial

Que deviennent les charges portées contre des responsables du LISGIS par la LACC

Il est devenu évident que l'affaire de corruption dont sont soupçonnés plusieurs hauts fonctionnaires de l'Institut libérien des statistiques et du service d'information géographique (LISGIS) est en train d'être classée, avec l'annonce du recensement en dépit des préoccupations relatives au manque de transparence.

La Commission anti-corruption du Libéria (LACC) avait inculpé plusieurs hauts cadres du LISGIS, dont le directeur Francis F. Wreh, M. Lawrence George, M. Wilmot Smith et M. Dominic Paye pour actes de corruption avant qu'elle ne soit dissoute par le président George Manneh Weah et le parlement.

Jeudi dernier, le directeur général adjoint pour l'information et la coordination de l'Institut libérien des statistiques et des services d'information géographique (LISGIS), Wilmot Smith, a annoncé que l'Institut est prêt pour le cinquième recensement national de la population et de l'habitat.

Mais la LACC avait dit à travers un rapport d'enquête que M. Francis F. Wreh, M. Lawrence George et M. Dominic Paye respectivement directeur général, directeur général adjoint pour l'administration, directeur général adjoint pour l'information et la coordination et contrôleur, ont sciemment et délibérément autorisé le retrait de 70 000 dollars américains du fonds du recensement au mois de juin de cette année.

Le président Weah a contesté le rapport au motif que les accusés n'ont jamais bénéficié d'une procédure régulière. Le président a ensuite saisi l'Assemblée législative à la hâte et annoncé la dissolution de l'ensemble de la LACC et de ses fonctionnaires, annulant ainsi l'acte d'accusation.

Au moment où nous écrivons, le public libérien ne sait pas combien d'argent a été reçu des gouvernements étrangers et des partenaires pour le recensement et le public ne sait pas non plus le montant réel mis à disposition pour le recensement. En tout cas nous ne sommes pas sûrs que le public saura, car tout l'exercice est caractérisé par le secret et un manque évident de transparence.

« M. Francis F. Wreh, M. Lawrence George, M. Wilmot Smith et M. Dominic Paye, dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions de directeur général, directeur général adjoint pour l'administration, directeur général adjoint pour l'information et la coordination, et Contrôleur du LISGIS, ont sciemment et volontairement retiré et augmenté les montants de 4 700 dollars américains et retiré 1 500 USD et 2 640 USD (8 840,00 USD) du compte du recensement et les ont versés dans leurs propres comptes en guise de rémunérations additionnelles pour des tâches pour lesquelles ils ont été embauchés par la loi, et pour lesquelles ils sont dûment payés des salaires mensuels. Leur agissement viole les lois libériennes suivantes : le sous-chapitre D du code pénal intitulé corruption et intimidation », avait documenté la LACC noir sur blanc.

Le rapport a été balayé du revers de la main par cette administration, et c'est comme d'habitude au LISGIS où le détournement de fonds publics est considéré comme une norme acceptable.

Nous ne pouvons que porter ces questions à l'attention du public pour rappeler que la façon dont notre processus de gouvernance actuelle laisse beaucoup à désirer, car la transparence et la responsabilité ont été intentionnellement jetées par la fenêtre.

Français

La communauté internationale prend

élections présidentielle et législatives soit compréhensible, aucune avidité du pouvoir ne peut justifier le fait qu'on veuille jouer avec notre sécurité », a déclaré le président par intérim du Cabinet, le ministre de la Justice Frank Musa Dean.

Selon le ministre, diffuser de fausses nouvelles avec une intention claire d'inciter à la violence et de créer de l'agitation au sein de la population est contraire à la loi; et par conséquent, toute personne qui est soupçonné de fomenter ou de parrainer des activités destinées à créer le chaos pourrait faire face à tout le poids de la loi.

La vidéo a non seulement qualifié notre système électoral d'enviable - qui a récemment acquis une grande renommée internationale - mais elle a également fait croire dangereusement que le gouvernement veut

introduire dans le pays des éléments néfastes pour créer la violence.

Ceci, a déclaré le ministre, est très faux et pourrait potentiellement nuire à la stabilité et à la réputation internationale du pays.

Le ministre de la Justice a donc saisi les partenaires internationaux du Libéria, dont les chefs des ambassades des États-Unis et de l'Union européenne, les appelant à condamner avec véhémence « le stratagème dangereux et incitant dont l'objectif est de saper la paix acquise au prix du sang des Libériens ».

Il a déclaré qu'il incombe à la communauté internationale de démentir cette menace rampante, car selon la vidéo en question c'est la communauté internationale qui a découvert le soit disant complot.

Le gouvernement a clairement indiqué qu'il ne négligerait aucun effort dans sa détermination à protéger la paix et la sécurité du pays.

Dans l'univers mystique des Masques

par catégories, en fonction de certains critères propres à leurs diverses fonctions dans la tradition.

Il y a le "Gla" sage. Effectivement, dans leur ouvrage publié aux Editions Universitaires de Côte d'Ivoire, Oula Maurice et Tiabas Houlaï Bernard, faisant une typologie, expliquent le rôle du "Gla" de la sagesse. MM. Oula et Tiabas font savoir que le "Gla" de la sagesse appelé autrement "Boyagla" est un esprit qui apparaît publiquement par quinquennat. C'est lui qui rappelle à la population qu'il faut un respect méticuleux de l'ordre hiérarchique dans la société Wè.

On note également l'existence du "Bléгла". Zakoui Blaise, homme ancré dans la tradition Wè au village de Louin (Bangolo), explique que le "Bléгла" est le Gla griot qui chante. Il a pour rôle d'annoncer et de révéler au public ce dont est capable le Gla guerrier. Il se fait accompagner d'un orchestre traditionnel constitué de chansonniers et d'un tambourinaire.

Quant aux "Glaé soldats", les gardiens de la tradition soutiennent que ce sont de vaillants guerriers qui jouent le rôle de brigadiers chez les Guéré et Wobé. Ils ont aussi la capacité de détruire les mauvais sorts et de concilier de grands belligérants. En langue locale, il leur est attribué la dénomination de "Té-Glaé".

L'on relève aussi des "Glaé" intimement liés à la

musique. Selon M. Zaokoui, on en distingue deux types, à savoir un groupe spécialisé dans maîtrise de chansons proverbiales et un autre qui se distingue par l'harmonie des pas de danses. Ces deux catégories de "Glaé" offrent la gaieté aux populations lors des rassemblements populaires.

Le traditionaliste Tchéklé Valentin explique que des enclos, sortent aussi des "Glaé" quémadeurs. Ce sont des comédiens qui profitent de leur fonction sociale de distracteur pour soutirer, sans violence, quelques piécettes à leurs admirateurs. A travers leurs vêtements, leurs paroles, leurs pas de danses, ces "Glaé" combinent le comique de situation, le comique de caractère, le comique de mots et le comique de gestes afin d'attirer l'attention du public.

La particularité du "Koui", du "Dji" et du "Golouai"

Dans leur ouvrage, Oulaté Maurice et Tiabas Houlaï Bernard révèlent que le "Koui" est le "masque" le plus grand dans l'ordre de commandement du cercle mystique des Wè parce qu'il est hyper puissant. « Quand ils sortent pendant les cérémonies exceptionnelles, par exemple les funérailles de chefs coutumiers, la population se cache dans les maisons car aucun néophyte n'a le droit de les voir au risque d'être victime d'une malédiction », renchérit le commissaire général du "Wè festival" de Bangolo, Ambroise Bionao.

Le "Dji" signifie "masque-panthère". Il exécute une danse particulière en imitant la démarche de la panthère.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Josep Borrell et Werner Hoyer

Décarboner nos économies est désormais un impératif stratégique

BRUXELLES - L'invasion de l'Ukraine par la Russie contraint l'Union européenne à accélérer sa politique énergétique et climatique. Le Kremlin se sert de plus en plus souvent de l'énergie pour peser politiquement. Il faut donc que nous le privions de ce moyen d'influence en réduisant drastiquement notre dépendance vis-à-vis des combustibles fossiles provenant de Russie.

Les motivations géopolitiques qui guident ce choix rejoignent la nécessité impérieuse de lutter contre le changement climatique. Le dernier rapport du Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat, qui porte sur les mesures d'atténuation, souligne l'urgence d'une telle réorientation. Les émissions mondiales de gaz à effet de serre doivent cesser d'augmenter au plus tard en 2025 si nous voulons éviter une élévation catastrophique des températures. La transition de l'ensemble de l'économie vers les énergies propres doit, en outre, prendre en compte ses inévitables conséquences socio-économiques; il faut que ce soit une «transition juste».

L'UE et la Banque européenne d'investissement (BEI) ont un rôle essentiel à jouer à cet égard. Les investissements dans les énergies renouvelables, l'efficacité énergétique et les technologies innovantes, telles que l'hydrogène vert, aident à faire face à l'agression russe, tout en contribuant à sauver la planète de sa dépendance vis-à-vis des énergies fossiles. Chaque euro dépensé en faveur de la transition énergétique dans l'Union est un euro qui ne tombera pas dans l'escarcelle d'un pouvoir autoritaire menant une guerre agressive. Chaque euro que nous dépensons dans des énergies propres nous rend plus libres de prendre nos propres décisions. Chaque euro que nous dépensons pour aider nos partenaires internationaux à accélérer leur stratégie de décarbonation est un euro investi dans la résilience et la lutte contre le changement climatique.

Depuis l'invasion russe du 24 février, l'UE accélère sa transition énergétique, dans le but d'aider l'Europe à mettre un terme au plus vite à sa dépendance à l'égard des combustibles fossiles russes. Cela ne se fera pas du jour au lendemain, mais jamais les incitations à agir de la sorte n'auront été aussi grandes. Il est possible de parvenir à l'indépendance énergétique en améliorant l'efficacité, en diversifiant nos sources d'approvisionnement et en faisant monter en puissance les énergies renouvelables. Un tel processus nécessite une mobilisation à tous les niveaux, depuis les instances supranationales jusqu'aux ménages et aux particuliers.

Deux écueils importants doivent être pris en compte. Premièrement, la quête de fournisseurs de remplacement pour notre approvisionnement en gaz naturel, aussi importante soit-elle à court terme, ne doit pas nous enfermer dans une nouvelle dépendance à long terme du fait de lourds investissements dans des infrastructures liées aux combustibles fossiles. Ce serait à la fois coûteux, catastrophique pour la planète et, en définitive, inutile, compte tenu des options plus sages des questions climatiques dont nous disposons.

Deuxièmement, nous ne devons pas remplacer un goulet d'étranglement par un autre en troquant notre dépendance excessive vis-à-vis des énergies fossiles contre une dépendance

excessive à l'égard des matières premières nécessaires à la transition écologique. Ces ressources sont elles aussi fortement concentrées dans une poignée de pays dont tous ne partagent pas les valeurs et les intérêts de l'UE. Le renforcement de l'autonomie stratégique et de la résilience de l'UE doit demeurer un objectif majeur de la transition.

L'Europe ne peut faire cavalier seul. Remporter la victoire contre le changement climatique et faire pièce à l'agression russe sont des défis de nature internationale qui exigent une réaction internationale. La guerre menée par le président russe Vladimir Poutine a eu pour effet de renforcer la motivation stratégique de tous les pays à réduire leurs importations de combustibles fossiles et à investir davantage dans des énergies respectueuses du climat.

C'est pourquoi la diplomatie climatique est au cœur de l'action extérieure de l'UE. Nous entendons encourager d'autres pays à relever leurs ambitions en matière de climat et consacrons des ressources importantes pour aider nos partenaires à se doter eux aussi d'une économie résiliente et neutre vis-à-vis du climat. Par l'intermédiaire du pacte vert pour l'Europe et de la nouvelle initiative «Global Gateway» de l'UE, les institutions et les États membres de l'UE mobilisent jusqu'à € 300 milliards (\$ 325 milliards) d'investissements dans des infrastructures vertes et numériques pour faire face aux crises en matière de climat, de biodiversité et d'énergie.

Qui plus est, la BEI a promis d'investir € 1 000 milliards dans l'action pour le climat et la viabilité environnementale d'ici à 2030. Par le truchement de sa nouvelle branche spécialisée dans le développement, BEI Monde, la banque s'emploie avec ses partenaires du monde entier à mobiliser des fonds en faveur de projets liés à l'efficacité énergétique, aux énergies renouvelables et aux réseaux électriques.

La contribution apportée par la BEI à un avenir énergétique propre s'inscrit dans le cadre de l'effort commun de l'UE au sein de l'«Equipe Europe». Il se décline en de nombreuses actions allant d'investissements dans l'énergie solaire au Sénégal au financement de crèches à faible consommation d'énergie en Arménie. La banque a aussi aidé à forger un «partenariat pour une transition énergétique juste» avec l'Afrique du Sud, fourni un appui à l'Alliance solaire internationale, basée en Inde, qui soutient le développement de l'énergie solaire dans 105 pays tropicaux, ou encore signé un programme intégré de gestion de l'eau et de prévention des inondations en Argentine.

L'UE est décidée à aider la communauté mondiale à mettre un terme à sa dépendance à l'égard des énergies fossiles. La guerre menée par la Russie contre l'Ukraine ne saurait retarder notre action pour le climat. Au contraire, l'augmentation des investissements verts nous confèrera une plus grande autonomie stratégique. La décarbonation de notre économie est désormais devenue un impératif géopolitique. Nous appelons nos partenaires des gouvernements du monde entier et des institutions financières internationales à se joindre à nous pour accélérer le financement des énergies propres. En visant la neutralité climatique, nous renforçons aussi la sécurité énergétique.

Josep Borrell est le haut représentant de l'Union pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité et vice-président de la Commission européenne. Werner Hoyer est président de la Banque européenne d'investissement.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Should President Weah get second term? *By Naneka Hoffman*

Amid prevailing economic hardship in the country, characterized by massive corruption, growing insecurity, joblessness, and lack of safe-drinking water, among others, The NEW DAWN solicits views of some citizens whether President George Manneh Weah's bid for second term is justifiable and he should be re-elected.

Citizens' reactions are mixed. Some think Mr. Weah has done relatively well and should be allowed to continue. But others disagreed, and argued that the Weah administration has poorly governed the country, so he should leave, as compiled below.



Joseph Yarsiah

"No, President Weah should not be given second term because the economic system in the country is very bad; lack of job, no improvement and I'm not seeing anything moving in the country. We need somebody that will lift the country now."



Sherman Gbey

"I don't support President Weah's second term bid because of change."

because since Mr. George Weah became President, there is no vocation jobs in the country; everything has just turned upside down. Today, our own currency we can't get small banknote (change) in the country. People are just crying all over the place because of change."

"For my point of view I will say No, Liberians should not give President Weah second term because there are so many reasons, but I will just outline three reasons: One is insecurity of citizens, rampant corruption in the government and the wellbeing of citizens in terms of safe drinking water and electricity; these are the three important reasons



Mohammed Siryon

from my view why President Weah should not be given second term."

"I support a second term for President Weah because of the learning development and things that he is carrying on in the country. Examples, roads connectivity and Education. In the line of Education at least he is trying, because he pays WASSCE fees for all high school students, and University of Liberia is



Augustine Zulu

tuition-free, so he is trying in all aspects."

"Yes, Liberians should give President Weah a second term because he is carrying on roads development and paying high school students' WASSCE fees."



Grace Barcon

Quarters of
The Blaye-Wesseh Family
Borough of New Kru Town, Bushrod Island, Monrovia Liberia

PRESS RELEASE

September 18, 2022

Atty. Philip N. Wesseh Passes Away

It is with deep sadness that the family of Atty. Philip N. Wesseh informed the general public that renowned journalist and Managing Editor of Inquirer Newspaper passed away on Wednesday morning after a protracted illness.

The family kindly requests anyone seeking to sympathize with the family should do so at his Duport Road residence. For directions, you can contact cell no. 0775513787/0886676154.

Details of the funeral arrangement will be announced in due course. However, the next family meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 2, 2022, at 2 pm at his Duport Road Residence.

Signed:

On behalf of the Family

W. Wesseh
Wlehynnonoh Mary Wesseh
Daughter of the Deceased

W. Sampson
Atty. Welma Blaye Sampson
Niece of the Deceased

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Diplomatic mess

By Lewis S Teh

President George Manneh Weah's critics say his decision to recall Liberia's Ambassador to Washington, George W. Pattern, suggests a messy crisis on Liberia's diplomatic front.

Central in the critics' argument is that an individual with low competence in the diplomatic cycle was appointed to face seasoned diplomats like U.S.

was heading to the United Nations General Assembly when he recalled Ambassador Pattern, allegedly leaving the diplomatic mission there under a serious stress.

While Amb. Pattern served on Liberia's mission to Washington, three Liberian officials were recently sanctioned by the U.S. Government for corruption.

The sanctioned officials - Nathaniel McGill, Bill Twehway and Cllr. Sayma Syrenius

diplomatic missions are facing stress under the Coalition for Democratic Change - led regime.

"Liberia's diplomatic missions [are] under serious stress especially with the way in which the government is recalling and immediately replacing ambassadors amidst the recent decision from Washington D.C. to sanction officials," said Mr. Wisner on Monday, 19 September 2022. In a live phone conversation with local broadcaster OK FM Monday, Mr. Wisner linked the diplomatic missions' alleged 'serious stress' to 'unnecessary actions taken by the government.' Wisner alleged that instead of the CDC government finding a seasoned ambassador or someone who is well schooled in the field of diplomacy to represent and make Liberia's case, it allegedly appointed an individual with low competence.

"I don't think where you have former U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Ms. Linda Thomas Greenfield at the UN is where you took someone of low competence," he said. He notes that just two days after President George Manneh Weah's visit to the United Nations General Assembly, the President recalled and replaced Liberia's Ambassador to the United States.

He further observes that this came in the midst of recent U.S. sanctions against three Liberian

officials, claiming that it suggests that there is a crisis on the diplomatic front.

On Thursday, 15 September 2022, the Executive Mansion here announced that President Weah had nominated Mr. Jeff Gongoer Dowana as Liberia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America with concurrent Non-Resident Accreditation to Canada and Mexico. The Mansion said Ambassador Dowana replaces Ambassador George W. Pattern who has been recalled.

It detailed that Ambassador Dowana holds a Master of Science Degree in Organizational Leadership from the NYACK College in New York. The new nominee had earlier earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Liberia. The Executive Mansion described him as a career diplomat who served at several postings, including in London, New York, Washington DC, Paris, and his current assignment as Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary to Kuwait. But Wisner argues that recalling Amb. Pattern does not augur well for Liberia, warning that it's something that has serious implications that the government may not know about.

In diplomacy, Wisner explains, symbolism counts a lot. At the level of the UN, he stresses that Liberia needs someone that will make the country's case "because as ambassador, you look at your

pedigree, among other things."

He states that for a country to go to the extent of recalling and immediately replacing its ambassador suggests that there is a problem. According to him, such problems could be ethical misconduct, or the ambassador might have gotten involved in activities that will require his replacement.

At the same time, Mr. Wisner frowns on the decision of President Weah to replace Liberia's Representative to the Mano River Union, Mrs. Medina Wesseh, through a press release.

She was serving as the Secretary General of the Mano River Union (MRU). He argues that the process of replacing Madam Wesseh was never followed and it was a serious diplomatic breach, noting that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs showed gross incompetence.

"Madam Wesseh is not just an employee of the government, once she ascends as Secretary General of the MRU. She definitely became a representative of the MRU despite being nominated by Liberia." Wisner, a strong member of the former ruling Unity Party, adds that if for any reason the government had a plan to replace Madam Wesseh, it should have followed the normal diplomatic process by sending a prior notice to the MRU head of state.

He said the MRU head of state will then convene a meeting, or a summit, to make such pronouncement.



Ambassador Linda Thomas Greenfield while Liberia struggled under the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) regime to gain the international community's confidence. More to that, critics have also raised concern that President Weah

Cephus - resigned recently after President Weah placed them on indefinite suspensions.

One of the critics, Mr. George Wisner, former National Investment Commission (NIC) Executive Director, says Liberia's

end here because [in] life, you have to keep pushing and keep learning new things every day," he said.

At the same time, Cummings extended thanks and appreciations to the team of panellists for awarding the scholarship to deserving Liberians. He said he was happy that six out of the nine recipients are females.

"This is a scholarship based on merit, therefore, it's not a financial aid. This is something you earn because financial aid [is] based on financial needs and all the applicants that apply have financial needs," Cummings explained.

He said the recipients came through a rigorous process and they have earned the scholarship.

Dozens of young Liberians from different religious, political and tribal background early Monday morning at an elaborate program received a merit scholarship of one semester from the Cummings Africa Foundation.

It will afford them the opportunity to pursue tertiary education at various prestigious private universities across the country. The Cummings Africa Foundation (CAF) is a non-profit organization founded by the Cummings family.

It began providing full scholarships to Liberians in 2017 and since then, CAF has provided approximately US \$120, 000 to more than hundred Liberian students some of whom are expected to be leaving various universities this

December. CAF believes and works from the position that if every person, in every community, is given the right opportunities for better healthcare, education, and the ability to earn a meaningful income, he or she can reach his or her full potential.

However, since CAF's creation in 2015, it has invested over US\$5 million implementing education, health and entrepreneurship programs. CAF on Monday awarded nine full scholarships to prospective students to pursue tertiary studies in the areas of sciences, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and agriculture for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Introducing the program, Mrs. Teresa Cummings, wife of Mr. Alexander B. Cummings and founder of the CAF, said the institution is intended to contribute to the betterment of communities and positively transform the lives of many, igniting the prospect of possibility for all. According to her, the foundation supports education, and human development in Liberia.

She added that they have provided financial and in-kind assistance to several philanthropic projects in the areas of education, health, agriculture and entrepreneurship.

"It feels good in our hearts to give funds for students to create opportunities because sometimes, people have the know how, will but don't have the funds to help create their opportunities," she said.

Cummings promises a government of merit system

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) political leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings says if he is elected Liberia's president in 2023, he will ensure that the country is built on a merit-based system.

"We want to build a Liberia where its based-on merit. And so, we don't care if applicants are from ANC (Alternative National Congress), CDC (Coalition for Democratic Change), UP (Unity Party) or any religion," said Mr Cummings on Monday, 19 September 2022. Making a special remark at the Cummings Africa Foundation scholarship award and honoring program, Mr. Cummings said people don't choose where they want to be born, their tribes, religion or color.

According to the Alternative National Congress (ANC) standard bearer, these things should not give anyone advantage or disadvantage because it's not their choice. Rather, he said it's what you do, and the

choices you make that should make a difference.

"We don't care because those things are not your choice. It's what you do with your life that matters," he said.

"Liberia will not change because we talk it despite, we are good at talking. Liberia will not change because we [are] easy to change. Liberia will change because of the work, sacrifices, and the effort we apply," he added.

Meanwhile, Mr. Cummings used the occasion to encourage Liberians to have interest in the sciences because the future of the country depends on those areas. He expressed excitement to support the sciences which represent the future of the world, adding that he wants Liberia and Liberians to be part of the future of the world.

"Liberians should be very proud because of this achievement, but it does not



NPP goes to convention October



Interim Leader John Gray Flanked by other officials

By Jonathan Browne
The National Patriotic Party (NPP) announces its 7th Biennial convention for October 7-8, 2022 in Paynesville, outside Monrovia.

The party says the pending convention will be held on the theme, "Unity, Commitment, Trust and Reconciliation, the requirements for a genuine national partnership." The aim of the convention is to elect officers that will serve for four years in the party and take it to elections thru the ruling Coalition for

Democratic Change that it is in coalition with.

Its current political leader is the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, Madam Jewel Howard Taylor. Ms Taylor is also former First Lady of Liberia. According to the NPP, offices to be contested for at the convention include National Chairman, National Vice Chairpersons, and National Treasurer, respectively.

Delegates are expected to review achievements, works, programs and formulate new policies; review financial and audit reports, including administrative matters and

the state of affairs of the party.

The National Patriotic Party is a grassroots political party that grew out of the defunct rebels National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) led by now jailed former President Charles Ghankay Taylor.

Mr. Taylor reportedly broke jail from America and launched a rebel incursion in Liberia on December 25, 1989 against slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe.

After several peace negotiations, West African leaders led by late Nigerian Head of State Gen. Sani Abacha, brokered a truce that led to elections in July 1997. Mr. Taylor disarmed the NPFL, contested for the presidency via the NPP and won.

But the regime was beleaguered by protracted rebel war that forced Taylor to resign and go in exile to Nigeria from where he was forcibly brought back in 2006 and taken to The Hague, tried and convicted of aiding and abetting RUF rebels in Sierra Leone.

He is serving a 50 years sentence in the United Kingdom.

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