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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022	L\$153.2433/US\$1.00	L\$154.8969/US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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P11

Cummings denies fake video

-Points finger at government

Mr. Cummings

P11

NPP, LPDP except to agreement penned with CDC

NPP Chairman James Biney LPDP Leader Alex Tyler

MTN MoMo

MoMo WAYSAY-WASA! BIGGER & BETTER!!

Dial *156#

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Continental News

UN Chief Calls for Action on Global Food, Climate Crises

UNITED NATIONS – U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed to leaders Tuesday to unite and take action to address the problems of a world “teeming with turmoil.” “We are in

crumbling. Inequalities are exploding. “And our planet is burning,” he cautioned.

“We need hope and more. We need action.” His immediate call was for easing the global food crisis. An essential element of that is addressing what he called the “global fertilizer

international markets, making it unaffordable for some small farmers, with the potential to dramatically decrease their harvests.

“Without action now, the global fertilizer shortage will quickly morph into a global food shortage,” Guterres said.

He called for the removal of “all remaining obstacles” to the export of Russian fertilizers and their ingredients, including ammonia.

“These products are not subject to sanctions – and we are making progress in eliminating indirect effects,” he emphasized.

While there are no Western sanctions on either Russian food or fertilizer exports, Moscow claims that there are. A deal signed in Istanbul on July 22 is helping to get millions of tons of Ukrainian grain to international markets and is working to build confidence among shippers, insurers and buyers of Russian grain and fertilizer so they will resume at pre-invasion levels.

Two giant screens in the assembly hall above the secretary-general showed a photo of the Brave

Commander, one of the ships that carried Ukrainian grain to the Horn of Africa. He said it represents multilateral diplomacy in action.

“Meanwhile nuclear saber-rattling and threats to the safety of nuclear plants are adding to global instability,” he said, alluding to the threatened Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine, as well as rhetoric and actions from North Korea and questions around Iran’s nuclear program. Guterres mentioned a litany of crises both new and entrenched from Ethiopia and the Sahel to Haiti, Syria and Myanmar that he said must be resolved.

In Afghanistan, he said human rights are “being trampled,” especially those of women and girls, who have seen their rights disappear under the Taliban. He warned of the dangerous divisions between the global West and the South and geopolitical tensions splitting between developed and developing countries. The world’s top diplomat urged making conflict prevention and peace-building a priority.

“In all we do, we must recognize that human rights are the path to resolving tensions, ending conflict and forging lasting peace,” he reminded leaders. All this conflict is leading to an unprecedented amount of humanitarian need. He said U.N. aid appeals are running a deficit of \$32 billion. VOA



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres addresses the 77th session of the General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York

rough seas; a winter of global discontent is on the horizon,” he said at the opening of the annual weeklong gathering of presidents, prime ministers and other officials at the U.N. General Assembly. “A cost-of-living crisis is raging. Trust is

market crunch.”

Since Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, it has imposed quotas on its exports of fertilizer. Russia is one of the world’s top exporters and the shortages it has created have led to steep price increases on

Somali Military Liberates Strategic Town in Central Region

MOGADISHU – Somalia’s national army said Tuesday it recaptured the small but strategic town of Booco in the country’s central Hiran region from al-Shabab militants. The military said local militia backed them up in this latest offensive against the Islamist militants, who state TV said have controlled the town for 13 years.

Somalia National Television (SNTV) reported that Army Chief Brigadier General Odawa Yusuf visited the Hiran region village of Yasoman on Tuesday, where troops also drove out militants with local support.

Hiran Governor Hiran Ali Jeyte Osman spoke to VOA by phone. He said Booco was an al-Shabab stronghold that was used as the region’s base for their so-called shadow court and to extort money from locals.

Osman said in the last two days the army took over the villages of Garisiyani, Booco and Nur-Fanah, as well as many other locations. He said he wants to tell the Somali

people that the al-Shabab fighters were cowards who can’t compete with the army. The offensive came just a day after Somalia’s government said the military forced al-Shabab out of 30 villages in clashes this month that killed more than 200 militants.

Somalia’s Defense Minister Abdulkadir Mohamed Nur praised local militias who backed the military in the fights against al-Shabab.

Somalia’s Information Ministry in a statement Monday

night acknowledged the army had received air support from the U.S. during the offensives in Hiran.

Somalia has been working to defeat the al-Shabab terrorist group for 15 years.

Last month, the group attacked an international hotel in the capital, Mogadishu, killing 20 people and wounding more than 100.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud responded to the deadly siege by announcing a “total war” against the militants. VOA



A handout photo taken June 10, 2016, and released by the African Union Mission in Somalia

Uganda Confirms Ebola Outbreak After Man Dies From Virus



Permanent Secretary of Uganda’s Ministry of Health Diana Atwine confirms a case of Ebola in the country

KAMPALA, UGANDA – Officials in Uganda have confirmed an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus. The country’s Ministry of Health says a young man died of the virus in central Uganda Monday, and several of his relatives who died earlier this month are also suspected to have had Ebola. The government has sent a rapid response team to the area to investigate. Uganda’s Ministry of Health officials say the suspected Ebola case was identified Saturday in a village in the central Mubende district. The ministry’s permanent secretary, Dr. Diana Atwine, says a 24-year-old man was admitted to a hospital for pneumonia and diarrhea.

But his symptoms also included those of the deadly virus – a dry cough, high fever, convulsions, blood-stained vomit and bleeding in the eyes. Speaking at a press conference Tuesday, Atwine said the clinical team and the

Uganda Virus Research Institute conducted tests for Ebola. “The results were released yesterday evening and they confirmed Ebola, the Sudan strain,” she said. “Unfortunately, that morning of 19th, the patient who had been confirmed with Ebola passed on.”

Atwine said six of the man’s relatives who died earlier this month – three adults and three children from the same family – also may have had Ebola.

The World Health Organization’s Uganda office says there are eight more people with suspected cases that are receiving care at a health facility. Uganda’s health ministry has yet to identify the source of the infection but suspects wildlife to human contact. A rapid response team was sent to Mubende to investigate, put in place control measures, and use rapid testing on contacts in the community. But the World Health Organization says vaccinating those who were in contact with the infected or someone linked to them, known as ring vaccination, will not be possible.

EDITORIAL

Beneath the recall of Ambassador George W. Pattern

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH Weah last week Thursday, 15 September took a decision that shock the entire country, particularly Liberia's diplomatic missions abroad with the recall of Ambassador George W. Pattern from Washington, D.C., the United States - Liberia's traditional partner.

PRESIDENT WEAH TOOK the decision just as he was headed to the United Nations General Assembly to address the 77th Session of that body. But critics say the President's action left a serious stress on staff at the country's diplomatic mission in Washington, though he immediately nominated another ambassador to the Mission.

IT IS THE TIMING of the action that has attracted public concern, which coincides with the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York and his presence there along with a high-level delegation when staff at the Liberian Mission are expected to be on their heels, busy moving back and forth to ensure the President's visit to the United States is well executed as planned without problem that has been greeted with the abrupt recall of Ambassador Pattern, who was posted to Washington, DC, since Mr. Weah's ascendancy to the Presidency in 2018.

PRESIDENT WEAH HAS 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 Executive Mansion in Monrovia says.

AMBASSADOR DOWANA is said to be a career diplomat who previously served at several postings, in London, New York, Washington, DC, Paris, and his current assignment as Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary to Kuwait.

HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT'S action taken in Washington, D.C. comes at a time diplomatic engagements between the Government of Liberia and the Government of America are stormy with the recent designation of three officials of the Weah administration by the U.S Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) under the Global Magnitsky Act for significant ongoing public corruption.

IT SEEMS THAT Ambassador Pattern did very little, if anything at all, as it is expected of an ambassador posted in such strategic country as the United States in forewarning President Weah about the sanctions that came like a tsunami on the government, taking the President totally off balance and striking three of his key officials.

BESIDES, SPECULATIONS ABOUND in Monrovia that more officials of the government are to be designated amid ongoing effort and lobby by the administration to improve relations with the United States and get the ears of President Joe Biden that President Weah desperately desires.

THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS uneasy with words of war between the government and the opposition over governance lapses and massive corruption, especially as Liberians gear up for elections next year in which President Weah is seeking a second term.

THEN PRESIDENT WEAH'S Minister of Foreign Affairs Dee Maxwell Kemayah, currently traveling with the President to the United States, carries a restricted visa that reportedly bars him from entering New York, for alleged sexual harassment. He has since denied the allegation. But Minister Kemayah had been previously posted to New York as Liberia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations where the alleged act was committed against a female staff at the Liberian Mission.

IT IS NOT clear whether President Weah would remove Foreign Minister Kemayah, who has clearly become an excess baggage for his government with Ambassador George Pattern, but analysts say it presents a unique opportunity and possibility to, once and for all, clean the face of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that engages with governments across the world on behalf of the Government of Liberia.

COMMENTARY

By Daron Acemoglu

The End of Real Social Networks

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



By Aideé Saucedo Dávila

A Faster Route to Greener Shipping

LONDON - Delegates from over 190 countries recently gathered in Lisbon for the United Nations Ocean Conference, the most important event on this issue this year. Opening the meeting, UN Secretary-General António Guterres urged governments "to raise their level of ambition for the recovery of ocean health."

Governments must heed that entreaty. Climate change has become a constant factor in the ocean's decline. Rising sea levels, coral reef degradation, and more severe coastal weather events suggest a bleak future for an ecosystem that spans almost three-quarters of our planet.

But if one thing was obvious in Lisbon, it is that a growing number of governments - from Fiji to the United States - are starting to crack down on a sector that relies exclusively on the dirtiest and most polluting fossil fuels: the international shipping industry. The Marshall Islands, the US, Kenya, and Denmark called for immediate action to achieve zero-emission shipping by 2050, while the UN secretary-general pressed the sector to "present credible plans" to achieve this goal.

Shipping is the most efficient mode of transport for most goods, moving around 80% of all traded products every year. It is here to stay. But global shipping emits more than one billion tons of carbon dioxide annually, equivalent to the emissions of 243 coal-fired power plants. Recent projections show that the problem could get even worse, with shipping emissions reaching 90-130% of 2008 levels by 2050 if we fail to act.

The International Maritime Organization, the specialized UN agency that regulates maritime transport, must play a key role in reducing shipping-related emissions and improving the industry's energy efficiency. The IMO is currently revising its 2018 climate strategy, which aims to reduce shipping emissions by at least 50% by mid-century. Encouragingly, a growing number of IMO member states favor aligning the sector with the 2050 zero-emissions target set by the 2015 Paris climate agreement. The US, the United Kingdom, and 12 other countries raised this issue at last year's UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, bringing more global attention to shipping than ever before - at least as far as UN climate summits go.

But setting a distant decarbonization deadline is not enough, given climate scientists' repeated warnings that global warming is on course to reach 1.5° Celsius, relative to pre-industrial levels, by 2037 - not 2050. The IMO must listen to the scientists and seek to secure an agreement among member states during the current negotiations to eliminate shipping emissions well before mid-century.

In addition, countries need to set gradually increasing emissions-reduction targets for key economic sectors, with modest goals for as early as 2025 followed by more ambitious objectives for 2030 and 2040. For example, researchers have suggested cutting shipping emissions by at least 34% by 2030 in order to reach zero by 2050.

A concrete, step-by-step decarbonization pathway at the global level will nudge countries to move the industry progressively away from hydrocarbons and toward clean and sustainable fuels. The European Union is already embarking on this path by proposing to include shipping emissions in its carbon market and by setting sustainability targets for marine fuels.

A truly ambitious IMO climate strategy could drive a wave of green innovation in the shipping industry. Firms would have to invest their multibillion-dollar profits in the development and uptake of clean fuels such as green hydrogen, green ammonia, and battery technologies, and in replacing their fossil-fuel-powered fleets with zero-emission vessels. Along the way, they should improve their fleets' energy and operational efficiency, which is one of the fastest ways to cut shipping's climate pollution.

For many people around the world, whether the world sets clear targets for clean shipping and manages to limit global warming to 1.5°C, rather than 2°C or higher, is an existential issue. Small island states already on the front line of the climate crisis are most at risk of a global temperature rise above these levels, as a recent report by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change highlighted. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C rather than 2°C can reduce sea-level rise this century by ten centimeters - meaning ten million fewer people will be at risk of coastal flooding.

The UN Ocean Conference declaration stated that the IMO must urgently align its climate ambition with the Paris agreement's global-warming targets and set "clear interim goals" to start reducing the shipping industry's greenhouse-gas emissions "as soon as possible." This is a welcome if long-overdue step. Governments and shipping firms, working with the IMO, must now translate this ambition into firm targets and concrete measures.



NATIONAL PATRIOTIC PARTY (NPP)

OLDEST CONGO TOWN, ADJACENT THE GERMAN EMBASSY

Monrovia, Liberia

Tel: 0886532123

0770662842



Office of the National Secretary General

September 16, 2022

Announcement

The National Patriotic Party (NPP) wishes to inform its Partisans, well-wishers, and the General Public of the convening of its 7th Biennial Convention, under the theme: **"Unity, Commitment, Trust and Reconciliation, the requirements for a genuine national partnership"**.

The Convention will be held from October 7-8, 2022, in Paynesville City Hall, Montserrado County.

Purpose of the convention:

1. To elect officers with 4 years tenure; which include:
 - a. National Chairman
 - b. All National Vice Chairpersons
 - c. National Treasurer
2. Review achievements, works, programs and formulating new policies;
3. Reviewing financial and audit reports;
4. Reviewing administrative matters and the state of affairs of the Party.

All concerned are therefore urged to observe and take note of the below mentioned itinerary:

DAY 1: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022

7:00A.M.-8:00AM	Arrival and Accreditation of Delegates
8:00AM-10:00AM	Grand Parade
10:00AM-12PM	Opening Session (Formality)
12PMM - 3NOON	General Assembly (Plenary Session, Reports)
3NOON-4:00PM	Lunch
4:00PM-6:00PM	Session Continues (Reports)

DAY 2: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022

7:00A.M.-8:00AM	Arrival of Accredited Delegates
9AM-11AM	Induction of Elections Committee
11AM-2PM	Election of Officers
2PM-3PM	Announcement of results
3PM-4PM	Lunch
4PM-4:30PM	Induction of elected officers
5PM-THE END	Priority issues, reporting & reading of resolution

Day 3: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2022

Departure

Thanks.

Signed: **Partisan Andrew Peters**
National Secretary General

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UN Women hold Regional Working Group Conference

Monrovia, 20 Sept. 2022 - The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace, and Security in West Africa and the Sahel (WGWYPS-WAS) got underway in Monrovia on Monday, 19th September with an array of government, United Nations, and Civil Society Organizations in attendance. Led by conference

peace in Liberia, without them, there won't be peace and stability". She applauded UNOWAS, UNWOMEN and partners for building the capacity of women and youth, grassroots activists with key skills to raise funds for critical peacebuilding projects. UNFPA Liberia Deputy Country Representative, Mr. Leonard Kamugisha officially opened

Mane Ahmed Gender Affairs Officer at UNOWAS. Ms. Mane indicated that participants are upbeat about the training as contained in the expectations they had shared prior to the commencement of the workshop. The first day was divided into nine sessions addressing different aspects of project building expectations and outcomes, reviewing of agenda, and setting the

topics.

During the highly interactive training, participants shared their project-building experiences and the constraints they faced in each of their respective countries. Meanwhile, conference delegates will, on 22 September, participate in the celebration of the International Day of Peace event at the Monrovia City Hall under the theme: "International Day of Living Together in Peace." This occasion will bring together officials of the Government of Liberia, the United Nations System in Liberia, UN Office in West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), and civil society organizations.

The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace, and Security in

West Africa and the Sahel (WGWYPS-WAS) ends on Friday 23rd September with a closing ceremony chaired by the Minister of Gender, Children & Social Protection.

Co-coordinated by UNOWAS and UN WOMEN, since 2009, the Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace, and Security in West Africa and the Sahel (WGWYPS-WAS) is an inclusive platform for experience sharing, analysis, and participatory evaluation of initiatives and efforts in the West African and Sahel region for the promotion and implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 2250 (2015) and subsequent resolutions on the involvement of women and youth in conflict prevention and peacebuilding mechanisms.



Conference Delegates in Monrovia

organizers and trainers, fifty-seven (57) Working Group members representing various West African countries are participating actively in the five-day sessions of the workshop. The meeting is also being followed online for those who were unable to attend in person. Speaking during the opening ceremony, the Deputy Minister of Gender, Children & Social Protection, Parleh Harris said that "women have been the backbone of

the training by emphasizing the importance of the Women, Youth, Peace, and Security agenda and commended the Working Group on its efforts to build internal capacities through this training program.

"The objectives of the training focus on Project Writing Techniques and Resource Mobilization, identifying key tools for project designing and understanding of the methods and strategies for winning projects," says Ms.

context for writing techniques. Others included the sharing of experiences in proposal writing and resource mobilization by participants as well as project planning and design, concept note writing, and proposal development techniques. The first day's deliberations ended with presentations on the tools and exercises to develop a competitive project, restitution in the plenary, and ensuring an understanding of the methods and strategies for winning projects, among other

Democracy Activity is made possible by the generous support of the American people through USAID. The project is implemented by Democracy International (DI) in collaboration with the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) and NAYMOTE - Partners for Democratic Development who together lead the youth component of the project. IREX is providing technical support to NAYMOTE to conduct the LEPLT for youth across Liberia.

With a first round of trainings already completed in eight counties, early feedback from participating youth indicates that the training is inspiring some youth to participate more actively in their communities:

"From the training held, I have been energized and stimulated to pursue my inner vision of participating in my county politics as a candidate! I will run as a representative in 2023" said Melvin Solomon Gertee, a participant of the LEPLT in Bong County. Another participant in the training quickly supported her colleague and expressed being inspired by the Training. "I am a female student at the Bong County Technical College (BCTC) and I have always loved to part take in politics. From this training...I will venture into student politics" said Mammie N. Moore.

The first round of the LEPLT has concluded in Nimba, Bong, Lofa, Sinoe, Grand Kru, Maryland, Grand Bassa, and Margibi Counties and will be rolled out in the remaining counties through the end of September, with additional rounds of training rolling out through Summer 2023. The six-Module training was developed by IREX in consultation with NAYMOTE, covering topics including Civic Responsibility, Electoral Process, Transformative Leadership, Political History of Liberia, Liberian Constitution and You, and Opportunities for Action.

Notably, through targeted outreach and intentional efforts, NAYMOTE and IREX have aimed to

include diverse youth representatives in these important trainings, including from marginalized groups who typically miss out on similar training opportunities. "I am so happy to see people like myself attending this important training. People with disabilities have been left behind for too long. With this knowledge, we will keep advocating for our group representation," shared William C. Nyanneh who participated in the LEPLT in Grand Kru County.

Following the completion of the LEPLT, interested youth can apply to be matched with a mentor through the Terry Hall Memorial Mentorship initiative. These Mentors include Alumni from the IREX-implemented YALI/Mandela Washington Fellowship program, among other IREX and NAYMOTE youth leadership programs. The Mentorship will run for six-months and will enable participating youth to learn from Liberian professionals who will support them on their leadership journey as they transform their learning from the LEPLT into action within their communities.

The Elections and Democracy Activity (EDA) works with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the National Elections Commission (NEC), and the Government of Liberia (GOL) to cultivate accountable elected representatives who govern in the interest of their constituents by building a diverse and an inclusive cadre of representative leaders and active citizens who demand accountability.

To achieve this overarching goal, Democracy International implements this activity through three interrelated objectives: (1) increase leadership of marginalized groups in political processes, (2) improve civic knowledge and sense of civic duty and (3) advance self-reliance of the NEC and civil society organizations to independently manage and observe all stages of the electoral cycle.

Liberian youths build civic education skills and aspire to leadership positions

September 20, 2022, Monrovia - This past week, over 200 youth in eight counties participated in the Liberia Emerging Political Leaders Training (LEPLT), an initiative that will eventually engage 1000 youth across Liberia's 15 counties to enhance their knowledge, skills, and commitment to civic and political leadership in their communities in advance of the 2023 elections.

The Elections and Democracy Activity (EDA) is rolling out the LEPLT across Liberia with the goal of increasing knowledge among participating youth of their civic responsibility and the electoral process; increasing skills and interest among

participating youth to participate in the political process, including through running for elected office and leading civic activities in

their communities; and strengthening the potential of participating youth to serve as leaders in their community.

The Elections and





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

- SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-22-000017
- ISSUANCE DATE:** September 16, 2022
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** September 30, 2022, 11:59 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
- POSITION TITLE:** Project Management Specialist (Economic Governance)
- 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.
- PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** This contract will be for up to five years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.
- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia with possible travel as stated in the statement of duties.
- ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.
- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility access
- 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:

- 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.
- Conduct analysis and design work for future procurements in areas of good governance.
- 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.
- 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.
- Provide technical advice to implementing partners and other stakeholders as authorized and warranted.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Prepare and submit the annual evaluation of contractor performance for inclusion in the central database that tracks contractor performance.
- 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:

- 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- 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.
- Undertake monitoring and evaluation functions for all assigned programs and activities.
- 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

- Education:** A Master's degree in economics, political science, international relations, law, or public policy and administration is required.
- Prior Work Experience:** Minimum of 5 years' professional experience in:
 - 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.
 - Experience in design and implementation of capacity building in the public sector and training programs.
 - Progressive experience in project design and development.
 - Professional knowledge of economic governance issues specifically, and development assistance issues and approaches in general.
 - Demonstrated technical skills related to the design, management, and evaluation of development projects within Liberia.
- Work/Residency Permits:** Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia.
- 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.

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3. Basis of Rating

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Français

Cummings promet une gouvernance basée sur le mérite

Le leader politique de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP), M. Alexander B. Cummings, a déclaré que s'il est élu président du Libéria en 2023, il veillera à ce que la gouvernance du pays soit fondée sur le mérite.

« Nous voulons construire un Libéria où la gouvernance est basée sur le mérite. Et donc, peu nous importe que les candidats soient de l'ANC (Congrès national alternatif), de la CDC (Coalition pour le changement démocratique), de l'UP (Parti de l'unité) ou de n'importe quelle religion », a déclaré M. Cummings le lundi 19 septembre 2022.

Dans une déclaration qu'il a faite lors d'un programme d'octroi de bourses d'études et d'honneur de la Fondation Cummings Africa, M. Cummings a dit que les gens ne choisissent pas là où ils veulent naître, leurs tribus, leur religion ni leur couleur.

Donc l'origine d'une personne ne devrait constituer une raison d'avoir des avantages sur les autres.

« C'est ce que vous faites et les choix que vous faites qui devraient faire la différence. Nous nous en fichons parce que ces choses ne sont pas votre choix. C'est ce que vous faites de votre vie qui compte », a-t-il déclaré.

« Le Libéria ne changera pas parce que nous en parlons malgré tout, nous sommes bons à parler. Le Libéria ne

changera pas parce que nous sommes faciles à changer. Le Libéria ne changera que grâce au travail, aux sacrifices et aux efforts que nous aurons faits », a-t-il ajouté. Pendant ce temps, M. Cummings a profité de l'occasion pour encourager les Libériens à s'intéresser aux sciences car l'avenir du pays dépend de ces domaines. Il a exprimé son enthousiasme à soutenir les

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Les étudiants ivoiriens dans l'attente des réhabilitations des résidences universitaires

En Côte d'Ivoire, les autorités ont annoncé la revalorisation de plusieurs sites universitaires afin d'améliorer les conditions des étudiants. Elles prévoient ainsi la réhabilitation des résidences universitaires d'Abobo 1 et 2, de Port-Bouët 3, de Daloa, de Korhogo. De nouvelles résidences devraient être créées, notamment à l'université d'Abobo Adjamé, où les étudiants sont encore dubitatifs à la suite de ces annonces.

Devant l'amphithéâtre B, des étudiants en médecine révisent. Parmi eux : Trésor, originaire du centre du pays. Faute de moyens, cet étudiant en première année s'est résolu, comme tant d'autres, à dormir tous les soirs dans l'amphithéâtre : « Je viens dormir ici. Ici, les conditions sont un peu difficiles : la nourriture, se laver, dormir... On est obligés de faire avec. [Les nouveaux logements] permettront à chacun d'être bien confortable. »

Non loin, Franck, un autre étudiant, approuve la démarche du gouvernement. Mais il

s'interroge sur la manière dont les logements seront répartis, une fois construits. Cet étudiant en première année à l'école préparatoire des sciences de la santé craint un manque de transparence dans la répartition des logements : « C'est plus le problème du prix et de l'égalité des chances d'avoir des chambres. Je ne sais pas sur quels critères ils vont se baser. On est nombreux, ils ne vont pas compter tout le monde pour faire des chambres au bon nombre. Donc, il y en a qui ne vont pas en avoir. »

Des constructions qui débiteront en novembre

Pour Robert, la question ne se limite pas à un problème de logement. Selon cet étudiant, il faut également rénover les amphithéâtres. Et surtout, réguler le nombre d'étudiants : « Dans l'amphithéâtre, ils n'arrivent à suivre. Il y a 1 000 étudiants, c'est choquant. Il faut aussi améliorer les salles de travaux pratiques pour que l'on puisse mieux faire les pratiques puisque sans les pratiques, quand tu sors d'ici, tu ne peux rien faire. »

Selon le gouvernement, les

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

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

Cummings promet une

sciences qui représentent l'avenir du monde, ajoutant qu'il souhaite que le Libéria et les Libériens fassent partie de l'avenir du monde.

« Que les Libériens soient très fiers de cette réussite, mais cela ne s'arrête pas là car dans la vie, il faut continuer à pousser et à apprendre de nouvelles choses chaque jour », a-t-il déclaré.

Dans le même temps, Cummings a remercié l'équipe de panélistes pour avoir décerné des bourses d'études à des Libériens méritants.

Il s'est dit heureux que six des neuf récipiendaires soient des femmes.

« Il s'agit d'une bourse basée sur le mérite, donc ce n'est pas une aide financière. C'est quelque chose que vous gagnez parce que l'aide financière est basée sur les besoins financiers et tous les candidats qui postulent ont des besoins financiers », a expliqué Cummings.

Il a en outre dit que les récipiendaires ont pris part à un processus rigoureux, alors ils méritent la bourse.

Des dizaines de jeunes Libériens de différentes origines religieuses, politiques et tribales, tôt lundi ma-tin, dans le cadre d'un programme élaboré, ont reçu des bourses d'études d'un semestre de la Fondation Cummings Africa.

Elle leur offrira la possibilité de poursuivre des études supérieures dans diverses universités privées prestigieuses du pays.

La Cummings Africa Foundation (CAF) est une organisation à but non lucratif fondée par la famille Cummings.

Il a commencé à offrir des bourses complètes aux Libériens en 2017 et depuis lors, la CAF a fourni environ 120 000 dollars américains à

plus d'une centaine d'étudiants libériens, dont certains devraient quitter diverses universités en décembre.

La CAF croit et travaille à partir de la position que si chaque personne, dans chaque communauté, a les bonnes opportunités pour de meilleurs soins de santé, une éducation et la capacité de gagner un revenu significatif, elle peut atteindre son plein potentiel.

Cependant, depuis la création de la CAF en 2015, elle a investi plus de 5 millions de dollars américains dans la mise en œuvre de programmes d'éducation, de santé et d'entrepreneuriat.

La CAF a attribué lundi neuf bourses complètes à de futurs étudiants pour poursuivre des études supérieures dans les domaines des sciences, de la technologie, de l'ingénierie et des mathématiques (STEM) et de l'agriculture pour l'année universitaire 2022-2023.

Présentant le programme, Mme Teresa Cummings, épouse de M. Alexander B. Cummings et fondatrice de la CAF, a déclaré que l'institution est destinée à contribuer à l'amélioration des communautés et à transformer positivement la vie de nombreuses personnes, en déclenchant la perspective de possibilités pour tous.

Selon elle, la fondation soutient l'éducation et le développement humain au Libéria.

Elle a ajouté qu'ils ont fourni une aide financière et en nature à plusieurs projets philanthropiques dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la santé, de l'agriculture et de l'entrepreneuriat.

« Cela nous fait du bien de donner des fonds aux étudiants pour créer des opportunités parce que par-fois, les gens ont le savoir-faire, mais n'ont pas les fonds pour leurs opportunités », a-t-elle déclaré.

Les étudiants ivoiriens dans l'attente des

constructions de nouveaux logements vont démarrer en novembre. Et d'ici là, les autorités prévoient de débloquer 500 millions de

francs CFA pour allouer une aide financière à près de 2 600 étudiants. La rentrée dans l'enseignement supérieur est prévue le 3 octobre.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Daron Acemoglu

La fin des véritables réseaux sociaux

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cet argument implique qu'en alliant renforcement des réglementations et autres technologies nouvelles, il serait possible de surmonter les difficultés que soulèvent les réseaux sociaux. Les plateformes pourraient par exemple fournir davantage d'informations sur la provenance des articles, ou être dissuadées de booster algorithmiquement les contenus

susceptibles de se révéler incendiaires ou de contenir de la désinformation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Traduit de l'anglais par Martin Morel

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

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Is Professor Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe the "Servant and Transformation Leader" Liberia needs?

By S. Karweye

History is not made by people who remain silent when the people are suffering or those who agree with every leader in order not to lose any opportunity or suffer any discomfort or injury. History is made by people who have principles that they live by and are prepared to die for if need be." Gongloe

Liberians are eager and ready to decide the fate, the future of their country, and the next generations through the constitutional process in the 2023 general elections. It is inarguable that the inability of Liberians to unite irrespective of tribes and religion to pave the way for the emergence of credible leadership in Liberia has been identified as one of the major reasons for insecurity, unemployment, collapsed education and health care systems, and infrastructure deficit holding us to ransom. The argument currently is whether we re-elect the ruling Coalition of Democratic Change (CDC) candidate, President George Weah.

On Friday, September 16, 2022, the Liberia People's Party (LPP) elected Liberia's renowned human right lawyer, former President of the Liberia National Bar Association, and Associate Professor of Law at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, as the LPP presidential candidate for the 2023 general election. The party's delegates elected the human right lawyer as its flag bearer at its national convention in Gbarnga, Bong County. Before his emergence at the convention, the well-known human rights lawyer, accepted a petition by a group of Liberians on December 2021 to run for President. Taiwan Gongloe was born in Glehyee-Zorpea, Yarwein Mehnsnonoh District, Nimba County on 6 August 1956 political journey first began nearly 46 years ago when he joined the Movement for Justice in Africa (MOJA), a pan-African political organization which played a pivotal role in the struggle for social justice and democracy in Liberia in the 1970s. After the People's Redemption Council 1980 coup d'état, Dr. Amos Sawyer, Gongloe, and others founded the Liberian People's Party (LPP). The LPP was established in 1983, nearly 39 years ago, but was banned during the electioneering process by military dictator Master Sergeant Samuel Doe and his People's Redemption Council (PRC) brutal junta.

Fast-forward to 2022 and Gongloe, now 66, is running to be Liberia's next president. He is among the scores of well-known faces in what is currently a crowded horse race. For any of these candidates, governing Africa's first independent country will be a daunting task. Gongloe argues that "government is the place to serve and not to steal."

In the 10 October 2023 presidential election, it is widely speculated that the race is between President George Weah and Former Vice President Joseph Boakai both being unpopular in different ways, the two men have the political and financial backing of the ruling All Coalition of Democratic Change (CDC) and the former ruling party, Unity Party (UP). In Liberia's big-money elections, the chance of a third party causing an upset against these behemoths is negligible. Nonetheless, Gongloe, backed by the Liberian People's Party is determined to spice up the tasteless political environment in Liberia. He argues that Liberia is in the "ICU" (Intensive Care Unit) and desperately needs change, starting from the top. According to him, "to get to a better Liberia, the Liberian people need an alternative leader who knows Liberian political history and has been a part of the struggle of the Liberian people for making Liberia a better place for all Liberians."

Gongloe insists that by contrast, his vision and experience could solve many of the country's challenges. These range from a faltering economy to weak infrastructure, food insecurity, massive

unemployment of the youth, insecurity in the country, etc. He argues "the Liberian people need an alternative leader who does not say one thing and does something different. The Liberian people need an alternative leader who will not lie to them. The Liberian people need a leader whose income and sources of income will be known to the people at all times." Carrying a homemade broom with him at public gatherings as a symbol of his intentions to sweep away corruption if he is elected as president, Gongloe stresses "the only way to achieve this is to elect a Liberian leader who has served the Liberian people without stealing their money. The election of a person who does not steal the government's money is important because, if the president does not steal his ministers, those who serve under the ministers will not steal." He warned, "Liberians must not see corruption as a way of life." He argues that transparency in law enforcement and court proceedings tends to promote peace and foreign investment in any country. He emphasized that "there will be no selective application of the law under a Gongloe administration because selective justice is no justice. There must be justice for all in Liberia for the attainment of sustainable peace, progress and prosperity." In tackling improving the socioeconomic condition, Gongloe intends to "redirect the economy of Liberia towards self-sufficiency in food production, engaging in import substitution and value-added export promotion as well as expanding economic activities in the rural parts of Liberia by granting tax incentives to rural-based manufacturing companies, with the objective of slowing down the current level of rural-urban migration and unemployment among the youth."

Aside from Dr. Togba Nah Tipoteh's unblemished record of activism that has spanned over 50 years, in my opinion, no Liberian alive has done more for the masses than Tiawan Gongloe when it comes to defending the voiceless; when we set aside individuals like Albert Porte, D. Tweh, Baccus Matthew, Bishop Michael Francis and others who are respected by all for the role they play in the Liberia society. People from opposition parties and the ruling party have acknowledged Gongloe's roles in the struggle for social justice and democracy and fight for human rights at different times.

Among all the candidates in the 2023 race, Gongloe is used to resisting exclusion and repression, both economic and political. As a social activist in the 70s and 80s and later human right activist in the 90s and 2000s, Tiawan Saye Gongloe has solidarized with different groups and people he considered to be oppressed, which has consistently happened for over 46 years on a stretch. Gongloe argues that "History is not made by people who remain silent when the people are suffering or those who agree with every leader in order not to lose any opportunity or suffer any discomfort or injury. History is made by people who have principles that they live by and are prepared to die for if need be." Gongloe as a student leader was jailed by the Tolbert administration during a student protest. On August 22, 1984, the University of Liberia students protested the arrest of Prof. Amos Sawyer. Before his arrest, Prof. Amos Sawyer had criticized then Head of State, Samuel Doe. Doe was affronted by what he called the "gross disrespect" accorded him by university administrators and students and ordered his minister of defense, Maj. Gen. Gray D. Allison, to the campus to stop the demonstrators. The wave of looting, flogging, and rape left the campus community stunned for years. As a Teacher Assistant, Gongloe was stripped naked and severely beaten by the soldiers after attempting to protect an elderly female staff of the University of Liberia during the soldiers' onslaught. He was hospitalized at the SD Cooper Hospital and was treated. After the raid, he was sacked from the University of Liberia by the military junta.

In 1997, Charles Taylor was elected as the 22nd President of Liberia. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, defended journalists, political activists, and the downtrodden during Charles Taylor's tyrannical rule. He was very outspoken about human rights violations and abuses by

the Liberian security forces under Charles Taylor. In March of 2002, Gongloe was arrested by Charles Taylor's regime in connection with a speech he had delivered in Guinea, wherein he had discussed the role of civil society in achieving peace in the Mano River Union. Gongloe was beaten severely throughout the night of his arrest and subjected to death threats. He was then taken to Cooper Hospital as a result of injuries sustained from the beatings. He suffered from loss of hearing in his left ear, a swollen and bloodied left eye, severe bruising all over his body, and intense internal pain. Gongloe was charged with no offense even though he was tortured and detained.

Tiawan Saye Gongloe is a transformational "public servant." He was the first Solicitor General since the independence of Liberia in 1847 to have appointed college-educated lawyers as county attorneys in all 15 counties of Liberia, thereby improving the protection of rights and prosecutorial powers of the Liberian government. As Minister of Labor, Gongloe issued Regulation Number 17, which increased work permit fees for non-Liberian residents from USD 400 to USD 1000, compelling foreign employers to hire more Liberians by reducing or getting rid of non-Liberian employees. Gongloe's most recent leadership role at the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) speaks for itself; he left the organization solvent, with over USD 100,000 in its coffers, which were raised over three years, even though the Bar was in severe debt when he took over. He even constructed the first floor of a three-story headquarters of the LNBA, currently under construction on the Robertsfield Highway in Margibi County.

Lastly, as a politician, he has been able to disrupt the entire political system and has been able to raise the consciousness of Liberians on the negative effects of corruption by carrying a broom and sweeping corruption. Gongloe is the only presidential candidate that has presented a 10 points agenda in tackling the health deficit, educational deficit, agriculture deficit, infrastructure deficit, corruption, unemployment, the deficit of public truth, etc. While many deem it fit to commend him for his unwavering efforts and the tenacity to change the narrative, we still have some Liberians who have either not gotten his message right or perhaps do not align with his approach and thought process. Notwithstanding, the point of convergence for all perspectives about his personality is that he is not a Liberian who has a space for Fear. Tiawan Saye Gongloe can simply fit to be a synonym for Courage in Liberia.

For us, what distinguishes Gongloe from other candidates is his audacity to promote strict adherence to the rule of law, fight for justice, tackle corruption by probing and retrieve every penny stolen by past and present governments, appointing not less than fifty percent of cabinet ministers to women, instigate a lifestyle audit for all public officials and redistribute national wealth in a manner that is beneficial to the majority of Liberians. He proposes to build a "new Liberia through a new system of governance that is decentralized, gender-sensitive, participatory, inclusive and accountable." His wanting to party lines to employ only those who in their lifetime, have demonstrated honesty and are capable is commendable. Gongloe says "the only way for Liberia to make progress, is to retire the CDC! CDC must be retired, declared redundant, and kicked out of office in 2023." We totally agree with him and are calling on all Liberians to join Gongloe on the train that will move Liberia from backwardness to forwardness. His records of service in both the public and private sectors over the past 44 years speak to integrity and honesty.

Truth be told, Tiawan Saye Gongloe has charted a remarkable journey from the boy from Glehyee-Zorpea, Yarwein Mehnsnonoh District, Nimba County to becoming a presidential candidate. And regardless of the number of votes he picks up on 10 October, he has already seasoned the 2023 presidential race with something a little different. He is a breath of fresh air. Indeed, a better Liberia is possible.

Cummings denies fake video

Opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) political leader Alexander B. Cummings has refuted claim that he produced a controversial video that circulates wild allegations against the government here.

“So, I did not produce the video. In fact, one could

Paynesville Tuesday, 20 September 2022, Mr. Cummings wondered what President George Manneh Weah and the Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean are doing about addressing the video rather than blame-shifting.

A recent controversial video circulating on social media in which an unnamed

The video also alleges Liberia’s low military capacity while it claims that pro-government militia forces are being sponsored with millions of dollars, among others. Another video is reportedly out while concerns about the first remains high here.

In his attempt to shift blames on the regime, Mr. Cummings argued that he does not own a recording studio, unlike President Weah who has some. He, therefore, asked the public to say which of them can potentially do a video “as quickly as they have done it?”

He argued that the government obtained the video quickly, saying he is pointing fingers at the regime potentially for allegedly producing two videos. “They seem too coincidental. The president is going to the United Nations, he’s got the issues of sanctions ... this one video comes up, and then quickly another one comes up then they’re blaming me,” Cummings lamented.

“So, it is untrue that I would produce any video. But the president and the government need to address the allegations in the video,” said Cummings. He challenged the government to deny the video, claiming

that “They haven’t done that, they just say Cummings produced the video.”

While Cummings denies producing the video, he however insisted that the allegation contained in it about some Burkinabe presence in Grand Gedeh forest is not new information. He said this information was a newspaper headline about Burkinabe in Grand Gedeh forest. “So my point is they need to address the issues ... this government just blames everything on everybody,” he said.

“Look, it is completely, completely untrue, Chris. And you know this points to the lack of leadership of our president and of this government,” said Mr. Cummings.

He argued that President

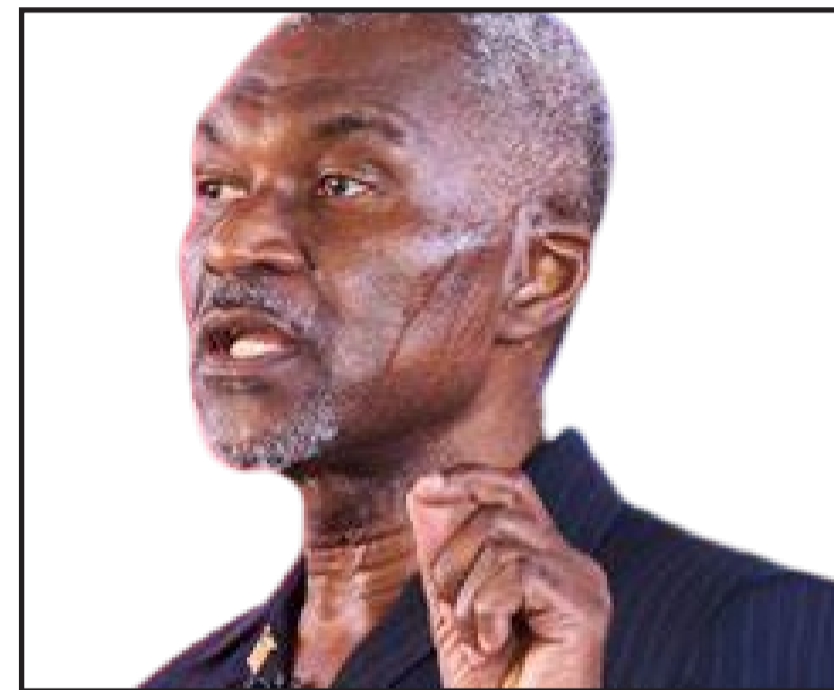
Weah has been president for five years, but his government blames everything on the old administration.

He contended that all the government does is shift blames and take no responsibility.

He argued that the CDC government has not addressed what was alleged in the video, but all it has done is to allege that he (Cummings) produced the video.

“But they have not addressed [it]; they have not denied ... the item of the video. They just say Alexander Cummings produced the video,” Mr. Cummings noted.

He called on President Weah to lead and address the issues in the video. He said all Liberia’s Justice Minister did was to ask the international community to get engaged with the world.



argue that the government, actually for propaganda reasons to distract from the reality, produced the video,” Mr. Cummings alleged.

Appearing on local broadcaster Truth FM in

foreign broadcaster appears to have reported a purported plan by the Liberian government to rig the 2023 presidential and legislative elections has raised eyebrows and received condemnation.

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NPP, LPDP except to agreement penned with CDC

The National Patriotic Party (NPP) and the Liberia People’s Democratic Party (LPDP) have clarified that a recent joint statement signed by leaders of the three constituent political parties, including the Congress for Democratic Change that formed the Coalition for Democratic Change was a declaration of intent, and not a final agreement.

The NPP and LPDP, two constituent parties of the Coalition, in a joint press statement said the reaffirmation document signed by the three constituent political parties is just an expression of their intent to work together in the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

On September 8, 2022, the LPDP, NPP and the Congress for Democratic Change signed a joint statement, reaffirming their commitment to work together during next year’s presidential and legislative elections.

However, there has been widespread misinformation, indicating the recent

reaffirmation document that their leaders signed is the final coalition agreement that will guide them to 2023.

According to the NPP and the LPDP, the reaffirmation set the basis for all three parties to, through their respective national conventions, as will be mandated by their respective national executive committees, draw up a formal framework document.

The joint statement said

the framework document will, among other things, spell out interests of the parties in the governance process of the country and procedure in selecting legislative candidates.

Both parties added that the agreement defined by the framework document will be signed by at least two-thirds of members of their respective national executive committees in line with constitutions of their respective parties, and guidelines and regulations of

the National Elections Commission governing formation of alliances, coalitions and mergers of political parties.

The NPP and LPDP joint press statement was signed by Andrew Peters and Eric Kpayea, Secretary Generals and approved by Senator James Biney and Mr. Moses Kollie, National Chairmen, respectively.

Five years since they took power after winning the presidency in 2017, all has not been rosy in the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change, as the NPP has suffered intra-party conflicts, while some members of the LPDP and CDC are dissatisfied about jobs distribution.

Recently, some members of the national youth congress and the constituent coordinators of the LPDP expressed dissatisfaction on the agreement that brought them into marriage, calling on their leaders, Moses Kollie and Alex Tyler to withdraw their signatures.

According to them, both Chairman Kollie and Political Leader Tyler should recall their signatures because they (youths and constituent coordinators) are not happy with the manner their party has been treated in terms of governance of the country.

They complained that there has been unfair distribution of

jobs in the government especially, political appointments.

Some time ago, some members of the NPP similarly expressed dissatisfaction about distribution of jobs in the coalition-run government.

Besides, the leadership of the NPP has been locked in a legal battle between its embattled chairman Senator James Birney and political leader, Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor.

But the case was resolved by the Supreme Court and the lower court gave the James Biney leadership 45 days to take the party to national convention and elect new corps of leadership, which has been scheduled for October.

The Congress for Democratic Change has had its own share of internal strife with reports of dissatisfaction among some members because of alleged failure of leaders to offer them jobs. Some aggrieved CDCians left the party because they have not benefitted from the revolution that they struggled for over the years.

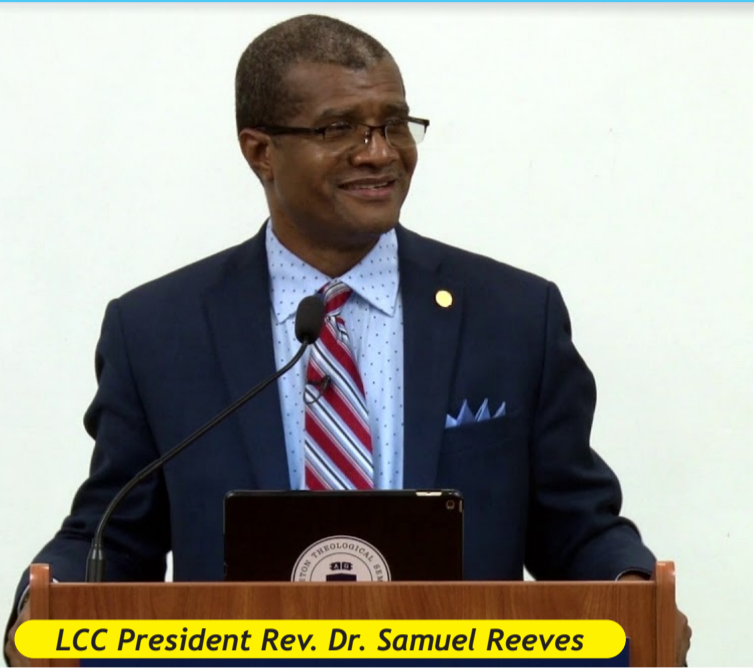
The trio in 2017 signed an agreement that subsequently gave birth to the now ruling Coalition for Democratic Change.

The tripartite agreement was expected to be reviewed by all three constituent political parties ahead of the 2023 elections. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



NPP Chairman James Biney and LPDP Leader Alex Tyler

LCC condemns trending video on social media



LCC President Rev. Dr. Samuel Reeves

The LCC urges all Liberians to stay away from violence in these critical times, ahead of general and presidential elections.

Reverend Doctor Reeves, who is also President of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, also warns Liberian political leaders, both ruling and opposition, to prevail on their supporters to desist from acts that have the predisposition to spill into violence. He encourages the Ministry of Justice to fast-track investigation into such an alarming video and bring to justice the source of the recording.

Meanwhile, the Council announces that it will begin several stakeholders' engagements next week with government, leaders of political parties, civil society organizations, traditional leaders and the entire religious community in the country.

Reverend Doctor Reeves says these engagements will focus on means through which the LCC can be of help in solidifying the peace ahead of 2023. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

The Liberia Council of Churches strongly condemns a recent video that was circulated on social media in which it was insinuated that President George Weah is planning to rig 2023 elections.

During the weekend, a purported video news claimed to be findings from an investigation conducted by the international community in Liberia went viral, alleging that President George Weah is training criminals from Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Jamaica and the Middle East in Grand Gedeh

County purposely to rig the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

But addressing a press conference in Monrovia, LCC President, Rev. Dr. Samuel Reeves, called on all Liberians regardless of religious, social, political, ethnic or economic affiliations to cherish the current peace in the country.

He said it is the LCC's sole responsibility is to seek peace, mediate dialogue and prevent chaos.

Dr. Reeves continues that the Council believes the security of the country is paramount and supersedes all vested interests.

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